



PAKISTAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

(REGISTERED WITH THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN)

PHA Secretariat Report to the Executive Committee & Members on matters taken up during January, 2022 to June, 2022 and Association representation:

1. **January 11, 2022:** Association was approached by Balochistan Board of Investment & Trade (BBOIT) along with a research Consultant firm, M/s. EY Ford Rhodes, Lahore in order to map opportunities and potentials within different sectors of Balochistan including Tourism and Hospitality sector to assess the industry landscape, major impediments faced and the intervention necessary to promote tourism and hospitality sector in Province.

On behalf of Pakistan Hotels Association, its Chairman, Mr. Anwar Qureshi and Executive Committee Member, Mr. Mustansir Zakir participated in Zoom link meeting on January 11, 2022.

2. **January 24, 2021:** PHA Members consisting of Mr. Hameed Kidwai, Mr. Shakir Abu Bakar Bhura, Mr. Akhtar Bawany and Mr. Anwar Qureshi attended a Zoom Link meeting arranged by the Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan Ms. Sima Kamil and her team. The meeting was consequent to several meetings of above PHA members team with Deputy Governors and subsequently with Governor, SBP Mr. Baqir Raza. PHA requested in its proposal letter for subsidies on the interest rate on working capital was denied by the Finance Ministry, who advised SBP for meeting with PHA representatives to explore the possibility of designing a relief package for the hotel industry without involving any subsidies.

3. **January 27, 2022:** An awareness Webinar on Reduction in Custom Duties in the Tourism Sector as per the Finance Act 2021-2022 was arranged by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) in collaboration with the Tariff Policy Wing at Ministry of Commerce at 11.30 AM on Zoom link to apprise the relevant stakeholders about the custom duties concessions on Tourism and Hospitality related items. Keynote speakers were Ms. Serein Asad, Section Office Tariff – I, MOC and Mr. Muhammad Hamood Ur Rouf, Director, National Tariff Commission. PHA nominated Mr. Kamran Anwar Ghauri, Assistant Director Finance, Hospitality Division, Hashoo Group to participate in the Webinar. PHA also wrote letter to Ms. Serein Asad of MOC with list of Hotel Equipment, machinery and other items with details of HS Codes, Custom Duty, and other duties with a request to reduce the custom duty to 5% and additional custom duty and regulatory duty may be abolished and sales tax be reduced to 5%.

4. **January 27, 2022:** Sitting Chairman, Pakistan Hotels Association is a permanent member of Board of Directors of Sindh Tourism Development Corporation (STDC). The 6th Meeting of Board of Directors of STDC was held at Tourist Information Centre Building beside PITHM at Clifton Karachi attended by Mr. Mohammad Anwar Qureshi, Chairman PHA and Fouzia Azhar, Secretary General PHA.

5. **March 02, 2022:** The Executive Committee Meeting of PHA was held at Ramada Plaza Hotel attended by most of EC Members and via Zoom link also, whereby important agenda points of the meeting were discussed and finalized in detail.

6. **March 17, 2022:** Pakistan Observer Round Table Conference was at President House Islamabad attended by Association Members.





7. **March 18, 2022:** Chairman and Members of Pakistan Hotels Association were invited by Mr. Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Minister of State/Chairman Board of Investment and Ms. Fareena Mazhar, Secretary Board of Investment to the launch Ceremony of “ Asaan Karobar Program “ at Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad. Governor, State Bank of Pakistan launched the ceremony with President of Pakistan as Chief Guest. Event was attended by PHA Senior Vice Chairman, Barrister Mansoor Shah, PHA EC Members, Mr. Hameed Kidwai & Mr. Akram Farid.
8. **March 26, 2022:** PHA Chairman, Mr. Anwar Qureshi and Executive Committee Member, Mirza Mansoor Ahmed attended the 9th FPCCI Achievement Award Ceremony at FPCCI House, Clifton, Karachi.
9. **April 12, 2022:** PTDC Invitation for Online Meeting for Development of Pakistan National Tourism Competitive Index, a task assigned by the PM’s Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU). PTDC invited tourism industry stakeholders to develop a harmonized approach and framework for the proposed National Tourism Competitive Index for Pakistan to improve its overall ranking in the international Travel and Tourism Competitive Index. PHA Senior Vice Chairman, Barrister Mansoor Shah participated in the meeting representing Association.
10. **April 14, 2022:** PHA Chairman, Mr. Anwar Qureshi invited Executive Committee Members of Association at Ramada Plaza Hotel for mutual discussions on hospitality matters under existing circumstances followed by Iftar Dinner. Meeting was attended by Mr. Ather Bhutto, Mr. Mustansir Zakir, Mr. Rehan Faiz Pirzada, Mr. Zubair Surti, Mr. Zohaib Aslam, Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmed and Ms. Fouzia Azhar.
11. **June 24, 2022:** Mr. Hameed Kidwai, Executive Committee Member of PHA personally met Prime Minister of Pakistan in third week of June, 2022 and handed over him a Relief Package letter for Hospitality Industry of Pakistan addressed to Prime Minister, who instantly arranged the meeting with the Finance Minister to consider the request for a relief package sympathetically. Later on a meeting with Finance Minister, Mr. Miftah Ismail at Ministry of Finance Committee Room was held on June 24, 2022 attended by PHA delegation consisting of Mr. Hameed Kidwai, PHA EC Member, Barrister Mansoor Shah, PHA Senior Vice Chairman, Mr. Akhtar Bawany and Mr. Ameen Lakhani, both former EC Members of PHA. Meeting was focused on three agenda items, i.e. moratorium on loan repayment, project finance funds be converted to loan and exemption on ban of import of items, needed for hotel industry. Later on Association submitted its detailed list containing list of Hotel Equipment and SRO 598 – Ban on Import of Items - with items marked to hotels related items for exemption.
12. **June 29, 2022:** on behalf of Pakistan Hotels Association, its Secretary General attended the first meeting of FPCCI Standing Committee on Tourism & Culture 2022 held at A.B.A. Halem Room, FPCCI Head Office Karachi with an agenda to discuss the vision and mission of the Committee, discussions for proposals on Regulation of Tourism Industry in Pakistan and suggestions for upcoming World Tourism Day 2022 celebration.

It was agreed by all that there is a need as how to change the Pakistan economy into Tourism economy and identify tools to empower tourism to play its role. It was also decided to form a National Level Committee for this purpose due to Tourism is no more a federal subject after 18th Amendment in 2010. Therefore, a Whatsapp Group namely FPCCI Tourism & Culture was created involving all Committee Members and stakeholders of Tourism industry to share their views and suggestions for a better implementation.

Above is being submitted for Members perusal, information and necessary follow up please.

Fouzia Azhar
Secretary General