

# NEWS



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **USIBC Felicitates U.S. State Department and Indian HRD Minister, Honorable Kapil Sibal, in Advance of U.S.-India Higher Education Summit**

**Washington, DC, October 12, 2011** – Citing that the U.S.-India knowledge partnership – indeed, our very future – depends on deepening collaborations across all aspects of the education sector, the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) today hosted the opening ceremonies for the first ever U.S.-India Higher Education Summit. India’s Union Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns addressed over 300 leaders and senior representatives from some of America’s and India’s top companies and academic institutions.

The conclave assembled leaders from the business sector and academia to consider the imperative of deeper U.S.-India collaboration in education. USIBC President Ron Somers stated, “Against the backdrop of a fragile global economic recovery, and as the world becomes ever-more competitive, the knowledge partnership between the United States and India will become central to assuring that American as well as Indian companies remain globally competitive. This competitive edge will only be possible to achieve if the human capacity of our societies is properly equipped to take on the challenges of tomorrow. Looking to the long future, we stand a very good chance as partners in building a capable, high quality global workforce that can shape the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” The U.S.-India Higher Education Summit, a priority of Prime Minister Singh and President Obama announced last November in New Delhi, is an important step in establishing a formal platform to bring closer the academic institutions from both countries to facilitate greater collaboration.”USIBC through its 400 member-companies stands committed in supporting this important initiative,” said Somers.

To cap today's evening reception at the newly opened U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, USIBC felicitated a new tie-up between Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). These prestigious institutions announced a new joint Center for Sustainable Growth and Talent Development that will provide expert support for India's National Skill Development Strategy. The Center will focus on applied research through the India Talent Observatory and cooperative education and training (ET) programs including student exchange, development of dual degree programs, and short courses for continuing and executive education. Additionally, this joint endeavor will focus on capacity building to enhance the governance and capabilities of India's ET institutions through Research Fellowships for new and prospective Indian faculty, administrators, and Higher Education policymakers.

Through its Education Initiative, USIBC is committed to being at the forefront of strengthening education collaboration between the world's two largest free-market democracies. USIBC's Education Initiative recognizes the imperative to leverage India's great demographic dividend. More than 220 million students between the ages of 6 and 18 require better access to K-12 education, vocational education and training, and institutes of higher learning. Working with academia, industry, and NGOs to strengthen institutional linkages is one of USIBC's highest priorities.

The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) was founded in 1975 at the request of the governments of India and the U.S. to deepen trade and strengthen commercial ties. USIBC is the premier business advocacy organization representing nearly 400 of America's top companies investing in India, joined by India's finest global companies. The U.S.-India Business Council serves its membership from offices in Washington, New York, New Delhi, and California. Guided by a prestigious board of directors, USIBC's current chair is Harold "Terry" McGraw III, Chairman, President and CEO of The McGraw-Hill Companies.

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