



# NEWS

1615 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20062  
Tel: 202-463-5679  
Fax: 202-463-3173  
[usibc@uschamber.com](mailto:usibc@uschamber.com)

**Contact:**  
Kimberly Byrnes  
[kbyrnes@uschamber.com](mailto:kbyrnes@uschamber.com)  
(202) 463-3148

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **U.S. Industry Affirms Commitment to India in ICT Sector: USIBC**

**December 15, 2011 – New Delhi** – The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) today concluded a 5-day mission to New Delhi to participate in the U.S.-India Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Dialogue, holding bilateral discussions with key Government of India officials.

Chaired by Ambassador Phillip Verveer of the U.S. Department of State and Secretary R. Chandrashekar of the Indian Ministry for Information Technology, the ICT Dialogue is a crucial industry-government vehicle for addressing a range of issues regarding information technology, media and broadcasting, and telecommunications.

USIBC led one of its largest delegations ever, representing 20 of the top IT and telecom companies operating in India, to participate in the Dialogue. The meetings provided a unique opportunity to identify barriers to doing business in these sectors and develop specific recommendations and action items for both governments to address obstacles to trade and investment.

One of the top priorities of the Government of India currently is to increase ICT manufacturing and drive high-tech innovation. In meetings with Government of India officials, USIBC reaffirmed its commitment to help India to develop non-discriminatory policies based on global standards and best practices that will encourage the in-flow of investment to India and incentivize companies to develop local manufacturing.

“The robust participation from U.S. industry in the ICT Dialogue year after year demonstrates our unwavering commitment to work with the Indian Government to further growth in the ICT sector and bring the latest technologies to the country,” Robert Pepper, Vice President of Global Technology Policy at Cisco, said. “U.S. industry looks forward to deeper collaboration with the

Government of India to ensure that growth in the ICT sector continues to be one of India's true success stories.”

In partnership with the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) and the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), USIBC members held four days of consultations with key Government of India officials to discuss a range of issues including local manufacturing, innovation, standards and testing certification, telecommunications infrastructure security, e-waste and environmental protection, tax policy, and incentives for technology companies to invest and grow in India. All of these issues are crucial to the strength and competitiveness of India in the global economy and to the long-term health of U.S. companies.

The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) was formed in 1975 at the request of the United States and Indian governments to advance two-way trade and deepen commercial ties. Today, USIBC is the premier business advocacy association comprised of nearly 400 of America's and India's top companies dedicated to greater two-way trade and investment. Harold "Terry" McGraw III, Chairman, President, and CEO of The McGraw-Hill Companies serves as USIBC's Chairman.

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