

Standards and skills for logistics

Presentations

Presentation 1: Mr. Thomas Sim (Chairman, Training & Development, Singapore Logistics Academy) mentioned that logistics industry globally is evolving due to economic development. He suggested that logistics industry faces a lot of disruptions because of technology and which can be converted into opportunities. Talking about Singapore he informed that knowledge and skills required for tomorrow have been identified for the logistics industry and training is imparted for 4 levels starting from the entry level worker to the managerial level. He further mentioned that there are a lot of new technologies such as big data, block chain, internet of things, cloud based platform and mobile apps. Therefore, apart from developing the currently relevant skill set, we need to be ready for the skill set that will be required tomorrow.

Presentation 2: Mr. Nick Vyas (Centre for Global Supply Chain Management, USC Marshall) talked about the need and opportunities for standardization in logistics industry. He mentioned 4 key dimensions which should be focused upon - physical flow, information flow, policy and skills. In standardization of physical flow, one of the major events occurred in 1955 with the introduction of the concept of Containerization ("The Box"). However, standardization of data and information flow is completely lacking in the current environment. Mr. Vyas suggested that skills should be globally oriented and not just locally focused. He stressed on developing system level thinking despite the modular training to help develop an overall understanding. Also, he emphasized on the need of inspiring and influential leadership since tomorrow's logistics will be about removing friction between different components of the supply chain.

Presentation 3: Mr. Allwyn Crasto (Founder Member, ICC – Nicer Globe and Head, Transportation and Distribution Safety, South Asia, BASF India Ltd) talked about various challenges faced by the chemicals industry in transportation of hazardous goods. Lack of awareness is one of the biggest challenges, and personnel are not trained to deal with emergency situations as the notion of hazardous chemicals is limited to inflammables. He emphasized the need for developing strict transportation standards for such chemicals on global lines since the current Motor Vehicle Act is inadequate and restricted only to labelling of vehicles. He also focused on the need of training the drivers, fire safety personnel and emergency first responders on how to deal with mishaps and accidents.

Addresses & Panel Discussion

Members:

Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Ms. Veena Ish, Member (Admin), National Highways Authority of India

Mr. Ashutosh Bajpai, Vice President – Operations, DHL

Mr. Sandeep Agrawal, Vice President – North, Ashok Leyland

Mr. K.V. Mahidhar, Head, CII Institute of Logistics

Capt. Ramanujam, CEO, Logistics Sector Skill Council

The Panel discussed the need for training, assessing and certifying personnel before putting them in the market since no education system exists for this. The industry does have individual system as per their requirement, however no integrated system exists. The Hon'ble Minister stated that the issues facing the country include capacity building, integration of informal sector and lack of use of IT and ICT even though India is major producer of such products. On the possibility of job losses due to automation and robotics, Shri Rudy noted that this issue needs to be addressed and at a higher end of spectrum such as mid-management such skills are required. Therefore, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has developed 56 qualification frameworks which are a part of training based curriculum. All the qualification packs are validated by the industry to make people industry ready. The panel also talked about need for development of soft skills for employability.

Answering some of the queries raised during the session, the Panel mentioned that the Government is working very closely with the industry and educational institutes on this. CII Institute of logistics has taken several steps to address this issue. Qualification packs have been developed for 8 sub-sectors in logistics, while 2 more are under progress. These packs are vetted by industry. In future, this will percolate to school level with the use of software packages to generate interest among the students. Packages for Supply Chain Management, Warehouse Management and Transportation Network have been planned.