

Finland to share its best practices and success stories

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New Delhi , FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) , the women business wing of apex trade body FICCI will be working together with Finland and sharing best practices to bring in more diversity in corporate boards especially in India for both social and economic empowerment of women. India has very less women on corporate boards."In Finland 72 per cent women are working and about 27 per cent women are on the corporate board of listed companies and this was achieved gradually . Finnish companies realized that increasing corporate board diversity will help empowering women as well as bring in gender parity" said Ms Nina Vaskunlahti, Ambassador of Finland to India speaking at an interactive seminar on "Women in Business leadership - India & Finland" organised jointly by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) , in collaboration with the Embassy of Finland in New Delhi today "The corporate governance code made it mandatory in Finland to include both genders must in the company board .This helped in empowering women and hanging the outdated concept that men are best leaders" she said. "This is a precious opportunity to have an exchange on challenges and good practices related to the inclusion of women in working life and leadership. It has become evident that actors such as chambers of commerce and businesses can play a key role in influencing attitudes and measures related to women's career development. Collaborating across borders can be instrumental in reaching our common goals." Said Ms Nina Vaskunlahti, Ambassador of Finland to India speaking on the occasion . "Both India & Finland have worked towards accelerating women participation in the process of economic development by promoting entrepreneurship & professional excellence. FLO would be delighted to explore the possibilities of working jointly towards the common goal of women empowerment. We could also use the common modalities such as capacity building & skill development programmes for women." Said Ms Pinky Reddy , President, FICCI Ladies Organisation speaking on the occasion The session brought together entrepreneurs and business leaders for an exclusive session, with the objective of expediting the processes for creating and enhancing the role of women in working life and in business leadership in both nations and beyond. "Women executives can be promoted more efficiently through the active measures taken by the business sector than by legislated quotas. For this purpose, Finland Chamber of Commerce has launched a mentoring scheme to smooth the way for skilled women into business leadership positions. This Women Leaders Program showed clearly that the business sector can take the lead in promoting women business leaders. Our program can serve as an inspiration for other countries as well!" Leena Linnainmaa, Deputy Chief Executive, Finland Chamber of Commerce, stated, "India's trade in goods with Finland crossed \$ One billion and is in Finland's favour. Trade in services is also growing and has crossed US\$1 billion with many Indian IT companies positioned in Finland." said Ms Reddy. During the year 2017 Indian exports to Finland were worth Euro 340 million and Imports from Finland were worth Euro 532 million . The total trade was worth about Euro 872 million. During first six months of current year 2018 Jan-July India exported goods worth Euro 209 million an Finland exported goods worth Euro 338 million. Those present on the occasion included ms Leena Linnainmaa, Deputy chief executive, Finland Chamber of commerce, ms Harjinder Kaur, Sr Vice President, FLO, Ms Archana, Garodia Gupta, Past president FLO Ms Anna roy, Advisor NITI Aayog,

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