



# INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION (IORA) INNOVATION EXPOSITION

FICCI

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**Draft Concept Note**  
**Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**  
**Innovation Exposition**  
*“Crafting a Blueprint for Shared and Sustainable Growth through Innovation”*  
*28-29 September, 2017 at New Delhi*

**I. Executive Summary**

This document highlights the need to foster innovation and technology collaboration amongst member states of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and sets the context for organizing first of its kind ‘IORA Innovation Exposition’ in New Delhi in the month of September 2017.

FICCI jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India proposes to organize an ‘IORA Innovation Exposition’ with the prime aim of bringing together key stakeholders and actors from the innovation ecosystem from member states of IORA to deliberate on the best practices and policies that foster innovation led entrepreneurship in the region. These stakeholders would primarily be government officials responsible for designing innovation policies, private sector/industry representatives, head of incubation centres, angel investors, venture capitalists, innovators, innovation leaders from the academia, start-ups and entrepreneurs. Being the host country, India would invite several successful entrepreneurs from across the country to showcase their innovative models which have been scaled to generate significant development impact.

The proposed format of the exposition is of an interactive roundtable where representatives from each member state shall speak (or present) their view points during the thematic sessions spread over two days. FICCI shall also organize B2B/B2G meetings on the sidelines of the main exposition with an objective of facilitating meaningful dialogue and business amongst the participants. Innovators/Start-ups shall also be provided space for poster presentations.

To ensure valuable output from deliberations over two days, the exposition will have a sharp focus on certain identified sectors that are of interest to all IORA member states and which hold high potential for innovation. The proposed sectors include maritime safety and security, disaster risk management, science and technology, renewable energy and affordable healthcare.

## II. Background

Technology and innovation play a critical role in defining the way we live today. New inventions and innovations have made the world an ever dynamic place and before we get accustomed using a technology, the next best thing is already out in the market. Innovation involves engaging in a constant process of thinking creatively, differently and insightfully to develop solutions that could generate economic and social value.

Innovation is the driving force that continually creates new competitive advantages and opportunities for profit and growth. Innovation can be viewed either as introducing new products and services as a solution to world's traditional problems and challenges or as new policy innovations. Innovation significantly improves productivity. In this fast changing world and industrial age, productivity defines the competitive advantage of an economy. It signifies the additional value addition to GDP by industry even when the output level remains the same. Innovation doesn't necessarily mean 'high technology' requiring intensive capital and human development inputs but it can be innovative solutions to development challenges. Developing research and investing in innovation are an essential means for SME growth.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the inter-governmental forum linking 21 Member States bordering the Indian Ocean and its 7 Dialogue Partners realizes the importance of innovation especially in the context of SMEs for inclusive and sustainable growth. IORA has reiterated that entrepreneurship and innovation are key drivers of economic growth and it is strongly felt that in today's global economy, sharing and assimilation of new and appropriate technologies by countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) will enable the Member States to become more competitive, strengthen regional economic integration and accelerate sustainable socio-economic growth.

The theme of second IORA Economic and Business Conference (EBC-II) held during 11-13 April 2016 in Dubai, UAE was "*SMEs and Innovation Investing in a Sustainable and Inclusive future*" to support and streamline the development of SMEs through the creation of environments conducive to business with improved access to innovation, finance and markets.

It is in this context the IORA Secretariat in partnership with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) proposes to organize 'The IORA Innovation Exposition' for the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member countries. The exposition will be a two-day event to be held during 28-29 September, 2017 in New Delhi. The IORA Innovation Exposition is in line with IORA's vision to facilitate regional cooperation including trade and investment and

to promote sustainable economic cooperation for the development of the countries of the Indian Ocean Rim. The exposition will result in sharing expertise, capacity for mutual benefit of the IOR countries.

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### III. Objectives

The key objectives of the innovation exposition are:

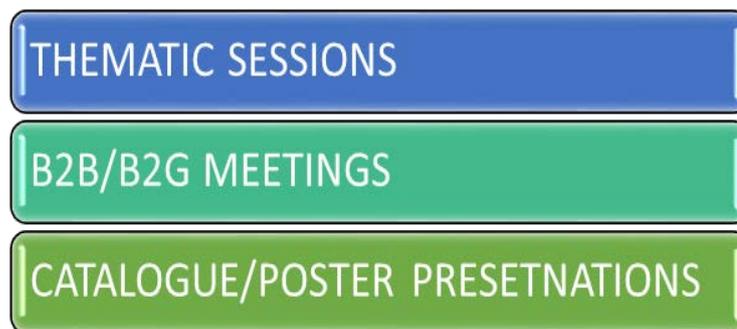
- ***Explore cross-country partnership opportunities:*** The exposition will focus on fostering cross country partnerships amongst IORA member states in the area of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship by providing a platform for interaction and exchange of ideas and solutions.
- ***Advance progressive policy framework and regulatory environment*** that would enhance the innovation activity and help achieve IORA member states a higher ranking in the global innovation index.
- ***Sharing best practices on innovation:*** The exposition will enable member states to share best practices on innovation that had a positive impact on scaling innovation activity in their respective countries. The exposition will also provide a platform for participants to discuss and deliberate on global trends in technology, innovation, financing mechanisms, etc. that are critical to the innovation ecosystem.
- ***Cross-Fertilization of ideas from the workshop on empowering women through entrepreneurship held on 27th September, 2017:*** The proposed innovation expo will provide a platform to women entrepreneurs from the preceding day's workshop to interact with the key stakeholders present at the IORA Innovation Exposition. One of the key outcomes would be leveraging learnings from the women's workshop and subsequently exploring collaboration

opportunities at the exposition to make both the events complimentary in terms of benefits to the participants.

- **Networking platform:** The exposition will provide a networking platform to the key stakeholders from IORA member states. One of the key highlights would be significant participation from the Indian private sector (both leading industries as well as SMEs) who will share their experiences of leveraging innovation for developing companies as well as for providing service delivery at the last mile.

#### IV. Program Components

The key components of the two day exposition will be:



The components are detailed below:

Domain	Activities
<b>Thematic Sessions</b>	<p>Thematic sessions will be organized over two days with key stakeholders from the innovation ecosystem from the IORA member states. Interested IORA member states will be invited to make a presentation/deliver a talk in the session of their interest. Each session will have one moderator and 4-5 other speakers/presenters.</p> <p>FICCI proposes the following thematic sessions:</p> <p><b>Day 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 09:30 AM – 11:00 AM Inaugural Session</li> <li>• 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM</li> </ul>

	<p>Tea/Coffee Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM – 01:00 PM Session 1: <b><i>Distinct roles of government and private sector in promoting innovation &amp; entrepreneurship as drivers of growth: Sharing the IORA member state experiences</i></b></li> <li>• 01:00 PM – 02:00 PM Networking Lunch</li> <li>• 02:00 PM – 03:30 PM Session 2: <b><i>Academia as a cradle of innovation: How an academia led innovation model can prove to be a game-changer</i></b></li> <li>• 03:30 PM – 04:00 PM Tea/Coffee Break</li> <li>• 04:00 PM – 05: 30 PM Session 3: <b><i>Women entrepreneurship: Creating a domino effect to bring more women in the workforce</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Day 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:00 AM- 10:30 AM Session 4: <b><i>Promoting international cooperation among IORA member states for enhancing innovation in the region</i></b></li> <li>• 11:30 AM-12:00 PM Tea/Coffee Break</li> <li>• 12:00 P.M.-01:30 PM Valedictory Session</li> <li>• 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Networking Lunch</li> </ul>
<p><b>B2B/B2G Meetings (Parallel Session/ Alternatively, these can be organized on Day 2 post lunch )</b></p>	<p>Concurrent to the above program, <b>B2B/B2G meetings</b> (in smaller groups) will be organized amongst participants to connect, collaborate and create new partnerships in addition to scaling existing ones. For this, FICCI shall circulate the country wise participant list (of all member states) in advance with all participants.</p> <p>An online module will also be created wherein the participants can pre-register interest on whom they want to meet on one to one basis and FICCI shall facilitate the meetings. Accordingly, B2B meeting schedule shall be generated for every IORA delegate</p>

	based on the request submitted by them. The meeting schedule will be shared with all the IORA Delegates in advance.
<b>Catalogue/Poster Presentation (Parallel/Ongoing)</b>	The participating innovators/startups will also be provided space for poster presentations to explain their innovative solutions that are providing solutions to global challenges.

## V. Exposition Outcomes

The key expected outcomes of the expo are:

- **Regional Business Incubator and Technology Park:** FICCI proposes establishing a world class 'Regional Business Incubator and Technology Park' in one of the IORA member states. The proposed incubator and park shall support and nurture innovative startups from IORA member states by providing them all the necessary infrastructure/mentoring to ideate, incubate and accelerate. The Incubator will also work closely with universities to harness synergies between the government, private sector and academic players in the innovation ecosystem. It is proposed that this point may be included in the Business Forum agenda for further discussion among Member States.
- **Cross-Fertilization of ideas from the workshop on empowering women through entrepreneurship held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2017:** The proposed innovation expo will provide a platform to women entrepreneurs from the preceding day's workshop to interact with the key stakeholders present at the IORA Innovation Exposition. One of the key outcomes would be leveraging learnings from the women's workshop and subsequently exploring collaboration opportunities at the exposition to make both the events complimentary in terms of benefits to the participants. It is proposed that this point may be included in the Business Forum agenda for further discussion among Member States
- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** It is proposed to include an element in the IORA Business Forum on 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship' to take forward the agenda of fostering innovation driven entrepreneurship in IORA region as well as to design collaborative models amongst IORA member states. It is proposed that this point may also be included in the Business Forum agenda for further discussion among Member States.

## VI. Timeline

Activity	August'17				September'17			
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalisation of venue for the exposition</li> <li>• Booking of the venue</li> </ul>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach out to IORA Member States</li> <li>• Reach out to Indian stakeholders</li> </ul>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop draft agenda, background note, design brochures and communication collaterals</li> </ul>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop final program agenda</li> <li>• Identify speakers</li> <li>• Identify members for participation from IORA Member States</li> <li>• Send out mailers to speakers and government officials</li> </ul>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration of delegates</li> </ul>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant follow-ups through calls and mails to get confirmations</li> <li>• Logistic arrangement for the main exposition</li> </ul>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise the exposition</li> </ul>								