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Goan diaspora in Kuwait explores business opportunities in their homeland

A large number of the Goan Diaspora has settled in the country of Kuwait for decades. Unfortunately, due to the circumstances surrounding COVID 19, most of them are considering returning back to Goa for financial stability and also trying to rebuild their lives. However, being in a distant land for several years they are not in a position to understand the development of the Goan economy, and hence are confused about the right sectors they could look to participate in, for building a sustainable livelihood back in Goa. In order to gather a more realistic picture of the different options available to them on their return to Goa, the Goans in Kuwait organized a webinar titled "What's Plan B - Returning to Goa". Mr. Cyril Desouza, Assistant Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center (WTC) Goa, was invited to participate in the webinar and explain to the returning Goans as to how they could avail of the services provided by WTC Goa, especially in seeking global market connections. In his speech Mr. Cyril Desouza explained ways through which the participants could take their footprints across the globe, with the help of WTC's network of 300 plus WTCs in over 90 countries, connecting thousands of businesses. He spoke about the opportunities in trade and education, and informed the participants about the two upcoming virtual training courses scheduled by the World Trade Center Mumbai Institute for early September 2020, namely, the Work Shop on 'Business Plan Preparation' from September 3-5, 2020 and the 'Post Graduate Diploma in Foreign Trade' commencing September 14, 2020. "These courses will be immensely beneficial to the returning Goans, to get a better understanding of starting and operating their businesses more professionally as well as step into international markets" explained Mr. Desouza. He also mentioned that 'Team WTC' acts as a platform for offering ready advice on different sectors that have been identified to be of utmost importance for the economy of Goa. Further, Mr. Desouza spoke about an exhibition titled 'World Trade Expo' which is hosted by WTC Mumbai annually, and he urged everyone to participate in the same, as this expo has representation from numerous consulates, embassies and multinationals from various countries, giving a chance to local Indian businesses to interact with experts from world over and plan their business. He also spoke about membership benefits offered by WTC Goa and concluded his speech by listing out different sectors that carry great potential for the Goan economy, like farming and agriculture and new age sectors like IT, automation, entertainment and education Independent Coach Raymond D'Souza, spoke about the different occupational roles that the returning Goans could consider such as Employees, Self Employed Professionals, Enterprise Owners or as Investors. He guided the participants on the skill sets required to succeed in any of these careers that they may opt for, once back in Goa. Mr. Suhas Mallya, Executive Director, Emco Goa Private Limited, in his speech pointed out the prerequisites of running a successful business. He guided the participants on the required regulatory compliances and informed them about the Government schemes available to them. The Agro sector has immense potential in the economic development of Goa and since most returning Goans would have ancestral land that they could take to cultivation as a viable option, Mr. Nestor Rangel, who holds a Bachelor of Engineering (B. E) degree in Electronics shared his journey of successfully running a career in the agro sector by introducing mechanized farming. Mr Rangel also spoke on the need for diversifying into sectors like dairy farming, animal husbandry, etc. to take full advantage of the economic benefits that this sector offers. Q & A session was also conducted during the webinar.

The webinar was held on August 29, 2020