

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India organizes the first "Indo-US Jewelry Business Development Conference"

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Mumbai Oct 1 2007: GJEPC, the apex promotion body for India's leading Gem & Jewelry manufacturers hosted the first "Indo-US Jewelry Business Development Conference" for leading U.S Jewelry Retailers in Mumbai at the Renaissance from Oct. 1-3, 2007. This unique platform will enable 21 leading Indian Jewellery manufacturers and 15 U.S. Jewelry Retailers to have one on one conversation that deals with core business issues.

Foremost U.S. Jewelry Retailers, Senior Business Development Executives and Directors of Merchandise are invited for this blue-ribbon jewelry business development meet.

This specialized event organized by GJEPC will help showcase the extraordinary jewelry manufacturing and designing capacities that now exist in India . This Conference is so much more than just a usual Buyer Seller meet that gives a chance to look at top of the line jewelry manufactured by Indian manufacturers. For those with the foresight to attend, it is an opportunity for the best in the business to come together, learn about common needs and issues and then find innovative business solutions that will enable them to be ever more competitive in the crowded retail market.

"Post the discussions at the *2007 - Mines-to-Market International Diamond Conference* and IIJS 2007 in Mumbai, it was evident that India needs to actively explore novel ways to add value to the jewelry industry," said **Sanjay Kothari, Chairman GJEPC** . He added,"With the growth of jewelry production at SEEPZ and the new diamond bourse nearing completion, we were determined to find new ways to work with the largest and most prestigious retailers of U.S. "

Mr Kothari further added that , "US has long been India's largest trading partner in gems and jewellery - about 19 percent by value (55 percent by volume) of US diamond imports and 27 percent of its jewellery imports are supplied by India. The total exports to the USA for the period January 2007 to August 2007 is USD 3510". He further added "Indian jewelry manufacturers, with their state-of-the art factories, trained work force and pro-business import/export laws, now have the prerequisite desire, skills and infrastructure to be more than the world's leading source of value-priced jewelry."

The first two days will be a series of panel discussions and seminars on industry issues facing American and Indian jewelry businesses, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) initiatives, joint venture opportunities and Indian banking & finance options for North American businesses.

Retailers and Indian Exporters are paired-up during this "Best-of-the Best" conference, based on a screening process that pre-identifies common interests, skills, abilities and perceived needs. Retailers will also have the chance to tour manufacturing facilities and have on-site meetings with the principals of the factories.

The event, organized by the GJEPC in collaboration with R&B Partners, LLP promises to mix Business with Pleasure. The meet that begins in Mumbai on October 1 st will then move on the fourth day to tour the colorful Agra market and see a magical sunrise at the Taj Mahal, one of

the "Seven Wonders of the World" before returning to North America via New Delhi.

***About the GJEPC:** GJEPC represents and promotes the activities of Indian gems and jewelry manufacturers and exporters. These duties include hosting of several annual exhibitions across the world, the most prominent being "India International Jewellery Show" ("IJS"), running training centers, conducting research studies, to create and promote a pool of skilled, professional manpower that caters to the emerging businesses in the Indian gems and jewelry industry.*

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