

## Press release

### **Partha Chatterjee to address India MSME Summit**

**New Delhi, January 17:** Shri Partha Chatterjee, Minister-in-charge, Department of Commerce and Industries, IT, Public Enterprises and Industrial Reconstruction, Government of West Bengal will address the 4<sup>th</sup> India MSME Summit to be held in Kolkata on January 19, 2012 at Hotel Hindusthan International.

The summit is being organised by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME), New Delhi in collaboration with the Federation of Small & Medium Industries (FOSMI), West Bengal. This is the first time that the summit, a flagship annual event of FISME, is being organised in eastern India. The theme of the summit is 'Revival of Industries in WB- Preparing the Ground'.

“The MSME sector is backbone of Indian economy and we believe any attempt at reviving the industrial fortunes of West Bengal, once the most industrialised state in India, must also begin with a sharp focus on the MSME sector,” said Mr V.K. Agarwal, President of FISME, India’s largest organisation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), while explaining the reasons behind selecting the theme for this year’s summit.

Following the global economic meltdown of September, 2008, FISME took up the task of organising annual MSME summits with the aim of creating a credible platform for dialogue among MSMEs and all MSME stakeholders including policy makers in government, academicians, economists and institutional leaders. Three such annual summits have already been organised in the past – the first in New Delhi in 2009, the second in New Delhi in 2010 and the third in Bangalore in 2011.

This year’s Summit will comprise three sessions-Developing Hard & Soft Infrastructure in MSME Clusters, New Age Financing Options for Fast Growing MSMEs and New Opportunities for MSMEs:Public Procurement and Railways. The objective is to provide key inputs to the new government of West Bengal under the dynamic leadership of Smt Mamata Bannerjee for preparing strategies for industrial revival. Around 300 MSME’s from eastern India states such as West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and the seven sisters of north eastern India will participate in the summit.

Some of the other speakers who will participate in the Summit include Dr Manfred Haebig, Director, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Shri Sriram Ramchandran, Planning Commission, Government of India, Paul V. Jensen, Director, European Business Technology Centre in India and many other luminaries from both the public and private sectors in India.

## **About FISME**

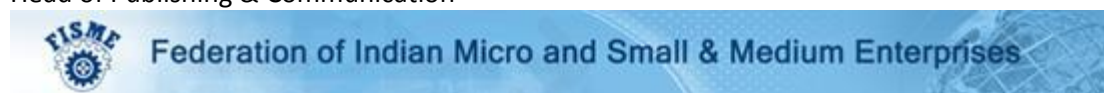
The Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME), traces its origin to 1967 when the National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs (NAYE) was established to promote small industries. In the post-liberalisation era, NAYE along with eight state level associations formed FISME in 1995 to lead Indian SMEs into the refurbished economic environment.

FISME is the progressive face of Indian MSMEs and is regarded as such by the Government of India. FISME is a member of the National MSME Board formed under the MSME Act 2006. FISME is well represented in and consulted by SME policy making set-up of the country and also works in close cooperation with major multilateral and bilateral bodies in India such as UNIDO, ILO, UNCTAD, DFID, GTZ etc. Currently, under the multilateral project Strategies and Preparedness for Trade and Globalization in India supported by UNCTAD, DFID and Ministry of Commerce & Industry, FISME, as a Tier-I partner, is leading 22 provincial SME bodies in 18 states.

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