

### Davos 2010

by Ashwani Singh



### My fifth Davos - A happier event than in 2009

Speaking at a CII-BCG breakfast meeting in Davos on 28 January 2010, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, stated that Asia's GDP will become a significant contributor to the world GDP in a span of few years. Dr Ahluwalia cautioned that with Asia's growing control over the world economy some of the industrialized world was making "noises" of protectionism. "One of the key challenges that Asia would face would be the role it would play to control and lead the rules of the game" he added. There was a big shift in the last twelve months in the role played by Asia in rebuilding the Global Economy. While the world contracted, the Asian economies grew. However Asia was not yet ready to take over the world leadership in directing the global economy and is still looking at the U.S. and Europe to play the lead roles.

Speaking the next day at a breakfast session jointly hosted by the CII and Jubilant Organosys entitled "Innovation through collaboration in the Era of Networked Pharma", Dr Ahluwalia informed the participants that India was committed to putting a strong system on IP protection and compliance. An Innovation Group has been set up under the aegis of the Planning Commission to focus on areas that needed support from Government. India has a unique comparative advantage in the business of innovations particularly in the pharmaceutical industry. An independent legal system, IP standards which are in place and enforced, and a large talent pool are a few of the reasons for India's and, offering tremendous opportunities to entrepreneurs particularly in the areas of research, collaboration and outsourcing.

As usual, the week ended with the CII reception at the Central Sport Hotel, followed by the Bollywood Nite at the Davos Cabana Club, hosted by the CII and WIPRO. Overall, the mood was more upbeat than in January 2009, with a larger attendance at the events and a more boisterous party at the Cabana Club! I must admit that it's quite an experience to finish the evening chanting the chorus lines of "Om shanti Om" or "Rang de Basanti" complete with the "ding-a-ling-a-ling" along with the likes of Vijay Mallya and Azim Premiji. [Click here for some of the photos.](#)