

Ranjit Singh Baxi elected BIR President

Calls for Global Recycling Day

At the 2015 General Assembly of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) on May 19 in Dubai, the world recycling body elected its new President, Ranjit Singh Baxi, Managing Director, J&H Sales International, London. A long-standing member of the world recycling organisation, Baxi was approved by the General Assembly for a first two-year term, which can be extended once.

In 2011, Baxi was appointed Treasurer of BIR, prior to which he has served as President of the Paper Division (2007-2013). At present, he is the Honorary President of the Paper Division. In 2014 Baxi launched his book "Recycling our Future – A Global Strategy". He also speaks at international conferences and contributes regularly to many trade journals and publications. His company J & H Sales International is a leading exporter of recovered fibre to the Far East.

He has received many accolades including the Queen's Award for Enterprise (International Trade) in 2001 and he was voted 'Asian of The Year' in 2008. He was also awarded "The Propeller Award for Innovation" at the TVE Global Sustainability film awards 2013 hosted by Propeller TV, China.

In his opening address, Baxi appreciated his predecessor Björn Grufman's excellent work during the past four years, and thanked BIR for electing him as president adding "it is a privilege to lead a global organisation". He recalled the words of Mahatma Gandhi, who said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

"This, Gandhiji believed can only

be achieved if you lose yourself in the service of others. The goals and vision of BIR perfectly match with the words of Mahatma Gandhi. BIR has profiled itself as the sole truly international recycling federation. I am honoured to be serving its 800-plus member companies and national recycling federations in the coming years," he said.

The precursor of climate change is the reduction of carbon emissions and recycling does exactly that. Since 2000 the recycling industry has saved some 10 billion tonnes of carbon emissions, at a time when CO2 levels are rising having both economic and ecological effects, Baxi noted. Considering the contribution of the recycling industry in this area, he wondered why this industry is not part of climate change discussions, and stressed the fact that the contribution of the recycling industry finds no mention in the discussions.

"With your support I would like to change this as well. To achieve this I would like to work together with all the concerned bodies in promoting a Global Recycling Day. Together, we will make it happen."

He emphasised that recyclables must be provided with free passage globally with reduced trade barriers and minimum legislative controls. "We must also work together



in helping to enhance both the volumes and quality of recyclables and ensure that recycling is always kept at the forefront of all Climate change discussions," said Baxi.

Speaking to Waste & Recycling Middle East, the outgoing president Björn Grufman said, "The possibility that has been created in the world for the recycling industry is tremendous and BIR is an important vehicle for us to be represented in every corner of the globe. And I'm proud to be a part of an industry that is a future leading raw material supplier. I'm sure this will hold true because virgin material must be consumed in lesser quantities than at present, and to use recycled raw material means consuming less energy, generating less emissions, and the best of all is that virgin material is preserved."

Waste & Recycling Middle East extends warm congratulations to Ranjit Singh Baxi on his election as the new BIR President. We wish him success in all endeavours.