



ALL INDIA RRB OFFICERS' FEDERATION

(AFFILIATED TO AIBOC)

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Circular # 20:2014

10th March 2014

All Affiliates/ Members
(Please re-circulate)

10TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF AIBOC TAKES OFF

We reproduce hereunder the text of All India Bank Officers' Conference Circular No. 24, dated 3rd March, 2014.

QUOTE

The 10th triennial conference of AIBOC got off to a flying start at Trivandrum on 8th March 2014. By 5 p.m. Asaan Square, Thiruvanthapuram, the starting point of the rally, wore a festive look. It was an India in microcosm reflecting our unity amidst diversity. Delegates, observers from across the length and breadth of the country and activists from all parts of Kerala thronged the venue. AIBOC flags fluttered and slogans ranted the air to the accompaniment of traditional 'Chenda Melam' of Kerala. The rally from Asaan Square to Nishagandhi Auditorium, venue of the inaugural session, was indeed a true reflection of the strength, vitality and dynamism of our organisation and our readiness to face the challenges looming large. Leading from the front were Com. Harshavardhan Madabhushi, Com. Harvinder Singh, President and General Secretary-AIBOC, respectively, and other leading lights of the organisation, past and present.

INAUGURAL SESSION

The inaugural session started at 6.30 pm with a chorus injecting an atmosphere of revolutionary zeal at the very beginning. Seated on the dais were Com. Harshavardhan M., and Com. Harvinder Singh, President & General Secretary, respectively, Com. A.K. Padmanabhan, President CITU, Adv. Smt. Chandrika, Worshipful Thiruvananthapuram Mayor, Com. S.R.Sengupta, founder President of AIBOC and an array of past Presidents and General Secretaries of the organisation.

The meeting started with a welcome address by Com. P.V.Mohanan, President AIBOC Kerala State. He thanked the leadership for the honour given to the State Unit in giving an opportunity to host the conference and highlighted the grave situation prevailing in the banking industry.

Smt. Chandrika, in her patron's address, welcomed the delegates to Thiruvananthapuram. She made special mention of the significance of the day and called for speedy disposal of cases involving violence against women to bring timely justice. She added that once upon a time India was a paradise among the countries of the world and the challenge now is to bring back the paradise lost.



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Com. A.K. Padmanabhan inaugurated the conference by lighting the traditional lamp along with other dignitaries, present on the stage. He in his illuminating and educative speech, studded with facts and figures, gave an over view of the challenges facing the Indian working class. He congratulated the employees of the banking sector for forging unity under the umbrella of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) and called it a unique achievement. He appreciated the role played by AIBOC in participating in action programmes of Centre Trade Unions. He lamented that like all commemorative days, The International Women's day also has been commercialised and how commercialisation has foisted indecent culture on people of India. He cited defending of women's rights as a major task before Indian Trade Unions. While appreciating the wage revision as primary demand, he hailed the role played by trade unions in the banking industry in defending public sector banking. Alluding to the over enthusiasm shown by the government in giving banking license to corporates he wondered what would happen to country's economy if private sector is given free hand in banking. He narrated the experience of the Centre Trade Unions in pursuing the demands and the utter insensitivity displayed by the UPA government during negotiations. He decried the delay in ratifying the ILO core conventions 87 and 98 by India. He ridiculed the 'New Pension scheme' as 'No Pension Scheme'. He highlighted the need for defending the democratic system within the country as powerful individuals cannot be a substitute for democracy and reminded the audience how civil rights were suspended during emergency period. He felt that people should assert for pro people policies. He exhorted the audience to keep the powder dry no matter who comes to power after election and expressed the hope that AIBOC, during its tenth triennial conference, would deliberate on these issues and declared the conference as inaugurated.

Com. Harvinder Singh in his brief but pointed speech drew a picture of the emerging scenario. He acknowledged the stellar role played by founding fathers of the organisation and highlighted the democratic foundation laid by them for the functioning of AIBOC. He cited the 10th Triennial conference being held in time as reflective of the democratic ethos still guiding our organisation. He pointed out that we are facing multipronged attacks on various fronts like wage revision, Banking law amendment, privatisation and opening up of banking sector to foreign capital which is putting our existence in danger. Deliberate attempts are on to tarnish the image of Public Sector Banks and policies are being tailored to force the Public Sector banks' employees to join private banks. He reiterated that NPA problems of the banks are created by wrong policies and exhorted all to give viewpoints of AIBOC a wider publicity so that the message reaches the common man. He profusely thanked the Kerala State Unit for taking up the challenge of hosting the triennial conference at a very short notice and hailed the wonderful arrangements made.



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In his presidential address, Com. Harshavardhan M. described the conference as a land mark and mile stone for all the time to come. He reminded that we are at a political turning point in view of the impending elections. He explained why we call ourselves an apolitical organisation and explained that it did not mean not taking interest in politics. We may not support any political party but we are clear on how to play our role. He made pointed reference to the current turbulent times in the banking industry. He added that the nation has failed to redeem the pledge taken at the time of independence and termed the policies being pursued by the government as anti-constitutional. He cautioned against the issuing of license for new private banks and drew attention to what happened to Global Trust Bank and how it was merged with Oriental Bank of Commerce. He assured the members that the leaders are aware of their hopes and aspirations and expressed hopes in reaching a decent and legitimate wage revision successfully. He congratulated the Kerala State Unit for hosting the Triennial conference and concluded the speech by expressing the firm belief that AIBOC will emerge stronger in the days to come.

The State Unit had conducted essay competition for students and bank employees in connection with the conduct of the Triennial conference. The names of winners were announced and prizes were distributed to them.

The meeting ended with a befitting vote of thanks by Com Abraham Shaji John, General Secretary AIBOC, Kerala State Unit.

The session was followed by a demonstration of 'Kalari Payattu' the traditional martial art of Kerala.

Comrades, it was a wonderful beginning. We are charged up for the delegate session tomorrow. The inaugural session will remain etched in our memory for a long time to come for the magnificent arena provided and the grandeur of the proceedings.

Long Live Our Unity!

UNQUOTE

With greetings,

(S.K. Bhattacharjee)
GENERAL SECRETARY