

Strategic Seminar on India

New York, 12-13 October 2006

Assessing India's Prospects

Thursday 12 October	
19:00-21:30	<p>Dinner and session one</p> <p><i>Introduction: India at the tipping point</i></p> <p><i>A tour de table</i></p> <p>Over dinner, the members of the top management of the company raise the issues and questions on their mind relating to the place and role India could have in the company's global strategy and the challenges they see in establishing the company in India</p> <p>A dialogue between the company's top executives and Indian experts</p>
Friday 13 October	
9:00-10:15	<p>Session two</p> <p><i>India's economic outlook</i></p> <p>Assessing the present and medium-term picture: Is the present growth rate sustainable or even susceptible to get higher? What are the scenarios? Prospects for further reform and liberalization; what chances for the structural impediments to high-sustainable growth to be tackled? Will India be able to play catch up with respect to FDI?</p>
10:30-11:45	<p>Session three</p> <p><i>Navigating the Indian business scene</i></p> <p>Assessing the specificities of doing business in and with India? What role for foreign investment and technology in India's economic strategy? Acceptance of foreign economic presence; Assessment of the reliability and predictability of the Indian business environment; a focus on the sector(s) of priority relevance to the company.</p>



13:15-14:30	<p>Session four</p> <p><i>How Does India Operate Today?</i></p> <p>How does the economic and political decision-making process work in India today? What is the real margin of maneuver of the government in the present political context? Is there any change to be expected? Who are the real players and what are the forces at play? How is the relationship between Delhi and the states evolving and what does this evolution mean for foreign investors in terms of who decides what and how?</p>
14:45-16:00	<p>Session five</p> <p><i>The re-shaping of the Indian economy and society: Looking at India 10 years down the road</i></p> <p>What kinds of forces have started to emerge after 15 years of halting economic reform? How do they impact on the policy making process? The Indian middle-class: How much of a reality and how much does it weigh economically and politically? What do the forces unleashed by the domestic liberalization and the growing exposure to globalization mean for India's economic, social and political trajectory in the coming years?</p>
16:15-17:15	<p>Session six</p> <p><i>China and India: An opportunities/risks comparative assessment</i></p> <p>Will India be ever able to close the gap with China? Is it truly a question of the tortoise and the hare? What are the key characteristics that will orient the economic and social course of these two countries over the next few years? What are the respective prospects in these two countries? What are the implications for foreign business?</p>
17:15-17:30	<p><i>Defining some key implications for the company</i></p>