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19th June 2024

To
Smt. Vinaya K.S
Chief Environmental Engineer,
Regional Office,
Kerala Pollution Control Board,
Trivandrum

Dear Sir,

Sub: Support for Environment Clearance for Phases 2 and 3 of Vizhinjam International Seaport-reg.

As the commercial operation of the first phase of the Vizhinjam International Seaport is only a few days away, we are pleased to note the State Government's proactive steps to secure Environmental Clearance for the second and third Phases of the Project. These phases include crucial developments such as the extension of the breakwater and yard reclamation.

We submit the following points to enlighten and consideration of the Public Hearing Panel: -

- a) **Strategic Location:** Positioned close to major international shipping routes, it reduces transit time and fuel costs for vessels, enhancing global trade connectivity. As this is only a Mother Port in the country.
- b) **Transshipment Hub:** Designed to handle large container ships with a natural draught of 20-24 meters, it aims to become a major Transshipment Hub in the Capital Region, reducing dependency on foreign Ports like Colombo, Singapore, and Dubai.
- c) **Economic Boost:** The Port is expected to stimulate local and regional economies by attracting investment, generating employment, and promoting related industries such as logistics and warehousing.
- d) **Infrastructure Development:** It drives infrastructure improvements, including better road, rail, and air connectivity, benefiting the broader Capital Region.

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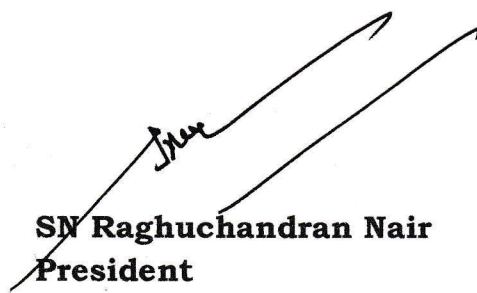
- e) **Reduced Congestion:** By providing the only Port of call for Mothership and transhipping the containers to smaller feeder vessels reduce time and money to the other Indian Ports, streamlining logistics and supply chain operations.
- f) **Tourism Enhancement:** Proximity to tourist destinations like Kovalam beach can boost tourism, creating additional revenue streams.
- g) **Energy Efficiency:** Modern facilities and technologies at the Port are designed to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact.
- h) **National Security:** Enhances Maritime Security and India's strategic presence in the Indian Ocean.
- i) **Cost-Effective Trade:** Lowers the cost of importing and exporting goods due to its strategic location and modern handling facilities, making trade more cost-effective.
- j) **Global Competitiveness:** Increases India's competitiveness in global trade by providing State-of-the-Art Port facilities that can attract more International Shipping lines.

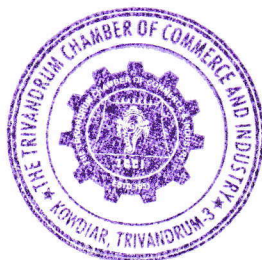
In light of these substantial benefits, we fully support the initiatives for the environment clearance process for the second and third Phases. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board's Public Hearing today at Vizhinjam is a critical first step, and we hope it will pave the way for the timely completion of this pivotal Project.

We look forward to continued progress and the successful realization of the Vizhinjam International Seaport's full potential.

Yours sincerely,

For TCCI


SN Raghuchandran Nair
President




Abraham Thomas (Joji)
Secretary