



PAKISTAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION¹

(REGISTERED WITH THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN)

PHA Secretariat Report to the Executive Committee on matters taken up during April, 2018 to June, 2018 and Association representation:

1. April 11, 2018: The First Meeting of FPCCI Standing Committee on Hotels 2018 was held at FPCCI Head Office, Clifton, Karachi, which was called on by Mr. Mohammad Anwar Qureshi, Chairman FPCCI Standing Committee on Hotels 2018, attended by Mr. Zubair Baweja, Senior Vice Chairman of Committee, Mr. Zubair Surti, Chairman, Pakistan Hotels Association, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Chairman Baig Group, Mr. Abdul Sami Khan, Chairman, FPCCI Standing Committee on Petroleum Products 2018 along with many other Members of Standing Committee on Hotels, mostly from PHA Member hotels.

The core issues of Hospitality Industry were taken up as agenda of meeting to redress these issues, i.e. (1) Revival of SRO 575 for import of Hotel Equipments at concessionary rates, which is only available in Gwadar area and it needs to be available for entire country keeping in view the CPEC activities resulting need of more hotels of international standards in the country (2) Allotment of land for hotel projects at government rates to the existing and new hotel operators. (3) Implementation of Sindh Hotels and Restaurants Act 2018 for which PHA proposed amendments have already been submitted, prepared in consultation with distinguished and experienced hoteliers having vast experience of hotel industry. Committee demanded that PHA proposed amendments for Act should be given due consideration and FPCCI to play its role immediately. (4) Tourism events hosted by the government and other tourism boards should have due nomination from PHA for all such kind of Tourism Boards for a true representation of hotel industry and (5) FBR to consider rationalization of taxes for hotel industry as industry is under great burden of taxes at federal, provincial, local, excise.

Press Release was issued and published in news papers and Minutes of the Meeting were duly circulated amongst participants for their follow up on above.

2. April 24, 2018: A meeting of PHA Members was held with the Officials of Exchange Policy Department, State Bank of Pakistan to discuss issues of members hotels pertaining to foreign exchange remittances on account of management, franchise and royalty fees etc, import of equipments with a limited value, commission payments of website booking agents / engines within one month's time and other related matters. Major Hotels reps attended the meeting and highlighted the issue of extension in time period for the validity of agreements for royalty, management and franchise fees and SBP expressed that it's a matter of policy review and within next three months, timeline of applicants' information is going to be electronically handled.

3. **May 14, 2018:** M/s. Sui Southern Gas Company Limited vide its Petition requested Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to increase Gas Price by Rs. 109.03 per MMBTU with effect from July 01, 2018 and OGRA in this regard published a Notice of Hearing invited all consumers / stakeholders / affected persons to furnish their comments within 15 days for a public hearing at Karachi on May 14, 2018. Matter was taken up from PHA forum as this increase in gas price is going to impact all the hotels, PHA on behalf of its members, requested FPCCI to take up this matter on priority basis for proper representation to furnish industry concern / comments and represent Industry through their legal experts in hearing to ensure its members reservation. Members Hotels of PHA also attended the hearing and after next OGRA Hearing on May 16, 2018 at Quetta, situation would be clear with regard to increase in Gas price as above.

4. **May 17, 2018:** The Introductory Workshop of Sector Skill Council Hospitality was held on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at Karachi Marriott Hotel called on by its President, Ms. Ayesha Khan for introduction of SSC-H, presentation and interaction session. This was with reference to a Memorandum of Understanding signed on December 05, 2017 between The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and Pakistan Hotels Association (PHA) and Pakistan Food Association (PFA) both representing the Hospitality Sector for the effective engagement of Hospitality Sector for the promotion of TVET sector in Pakistan.

Workshop was attended by Chairman, Secretary General, Members of PHA, PFA Representatives, NAVTTTC rep., academia and other concerned people followed by Iftar Dinner. The proposals were discussed and agreed during the event and a detailed suggestion to NAVTTTC be submitted by the President, SSC-H.

5. **May 28, 2018:** A meeting was held with Mr. Ghulam Akbar Laghari, Secretary Culture, Tourism & Antiquities Department, Government of Sindh with reference to draft Sindh Hotels & Restaurants Act, 2018 for which, PHA has already submitted its proposed amendments for incorporation in draft Act, prepared in consultation with experienced hoteliers to make it an effective documents to encourage hotel industry and promote tourism in the country. Chairman and Secretary General PHA attended this meeting and were informed by Mr. Laghari that draft Act after incorporating PHA's proposed amendments, would be sent to Law Department and would be taken up in 3 to 4 months time due to interim government take over for upcoming elections in July, 2018 and once new cabinet is formed after elections, this matter would then be presented in the cabinet for its review and approval to get it approved from Sindh Assembly. He assured his cooperation in this regard and we look forward Sindh Hotels & Restaurants Act through new Assembly legislation.

6. **June 04, 2018:** After establishment of Sindh Food Authority in March, 2018 under Food Authority Act, 2016 with the prerequisite of Hotels and Restaurants to be registered and licensed with the Sindh Food Authority. Based on the requirement, a



detailed meeting of PHA Members (mostly F&B and Food Quality personnel) was held on June 04, 2018 with the Director Operations, Sindh Food Authority to discuss the agenda of Re-validation / Issuance of license by SFA under Sindh Food Authority Act, 2016 and discuss SOPs / Check List for inspection on food hygiene. It was also mutually decided that member hotels to apply SFA along with copies of the current KMC licenses through PHA to revalidate / avail new licenses.

During the meeting, other related matters with regard to SOPs, PHA nominated member for inclusion in SFA Technical Committee and later on be part of Board and Scientific Team, no involvement of media and unnecessary coverage, sample collection and SFA inspection team only with Director Operation's permission letter be allowed in hotels etc.

It was also decided that awareness / training sessions of hotel staff in coordination with SGS Pakistan be arranged on Pest Management, food safety and contamination, equipment handling hygiene, HACCP introduction, personal hygiene and waste disposal/cleaning and sanitation etc.

Above is being submitted for Members perusal, information and necessary follow up please.

Thanks and regards

Fouzia Azhar
Secretary General