

ICN Annual Conference, New Delhi, 2018

21-23 March 2018

ICN's Annual Conference commenced this morning in New Delhi, India. Over 500 people from the competition community worldwide have gathered in Delhi to present the year's work product and discuss further cooperation. Non-governmental advisors, and other interested international organisations join in the various plenary panels and break-out sessions on competition law and policy. 73 countries and 84 jurisdictions are represented at the conference. Every year the host of the ICN Annual Conference has a significant impact on the atmosphere of the conference. This year's conference is hosted by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), and ICN members have been treated to an excellently organised event.

The opening speeches were given by the Honourable Minister for Law, Justice and Corporate Affairs, P.P. Chaudhary, CCI Chairman Devender Kumar Sikri and ICN Chairman Andreas Mundt. All three speakers emphasised the role of competition in the modern day economy, placing an emphasis on competition in the digital world. Fairness and effectiveness and the balance between due process and swift and effective enforcement are clear themes at this year's ICN.

Plenary sessions at the first day of the conference today, dealt with the CCI's own special project, focused on the problems caused by cartels, as well as a plenary on "Advocacy in Good and Bad Times", and a plenary on agency effectiveness. This final plenary in the afternoon was entitled "Perspectives from the Bench: Litigating Competition Cases", with four judges as well as former judges/commissioners emanating from four different continents.

Also on this first day of ICN's annual conference, prizes were awarded to the winners of the ICN Advocacy Working Group and World Bank Awards. Winners included members from the following jurisdictions, namely: Brazil, Chile, Kenya, Malawi, Russia and United Kingdom. A main event today was the presentation of ICN's work products of 2017-2018. Vice-chairman Chris Fonteijn presented the ICN's new website. This year ICN addressed topics such as investigative process, vertical mergers, enforcement cooperation, innovation, advocacy strategy, market studies, vertical restraints, ex officio investigations, the role of economics, and leniency. You will find all work products on the conference website under "conference materials". See <http://ICN2018delhi.in>