

Interview Article with Shri Awibhavan Dhakaria (Head – Liebherr Aerospace and Transportation)



On 25th November 2022, Shri Awibhavan Dhakaria Head – Liebherr Aerospace and Transportation delivered an address as a distinguished speaker on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends on the 7th International Economics Conference 2022-23, the Dimensions had the honour to interview him to capture insights from his experience.

The interaction was as follows:

Dimensions Team: “So our first question is with reference to the Make in India project, which we discussed in the auditorium. So, as this program is going on from government of India, we observe still India is lagging.”

Mr Dhakaria: “India is focusing on a clear roadmap for the Make in India project and prioritizing long-term plans for sustainability. The country is also working towards developing technology and the green economy, and success will come as the ecosystem becomes more competitive.”

Dimensions Team: “How does the concept of sustainability or being green as a business influence your research and development or your product development in general?”

Mr Dhakaria: “Emphasized the importance of investing in R&D for sustainable products and processes to be prepared for future demands. He also mentioned that India is taking initiatives to promote sustainable development, such as the government's Technology Development Fund and Make in India campaign. However, he also acknowledged that there is a long way to go, and it will take time to establish a sustainable ecosystem in the country. In terms of the alignment between restabilizing a business and being sustainable, Mr Dhakaria suggested that having in-house capabilities can reduce the impact of external factors, making it easier to bounce back and achieve stability.”

Dimension Team: “What are the initiatives you are taking at Lieber for sustainable development?”

Mr Dhakaria: “Lieber is implementing initiatives towards sustainability such as developing green air conditioning systems for trains and aligning their R&D towards eco-friendly aircraft with battery or hydrogen technology. They are also implementing compliance standards such as Reach and planning for long-term sustainability.”

Dimensions Team: “Have you noticed increased cost because you have adopted all these new R and D principles?”

Mr. Dhakaria: “States that Lieber invests 13% of its profit in R&D and it is the main strength of the company. However, he does not directly address whether or not there has been an increase in costs due to the adoption of new R&D principles.”

Dimensions Team: “What do companies such as yours expect from fresh graduates from this generation?”

Mr Dhakaria: “Fresh graduates should have a teamwork mindset and dedication towards contributing to the company.”

Dimensions Team: “What advice would you give to graduates or young people who are just starting out in their corporate life? What advice would you like to give from your experience?”

Mr Dhakaria: “My advice to graduates is to read newspapers daily to stay informed about current events, think beyond the present, and anticipate future trends. Inculcate honesty and hard work to mold oneself into a goodleader.”