

India's Working Age Population to Go Up By 220 Million By 2030; to Pose Big Job Creation Challenge to Government: Subir Gokarn

NEW DELHI, December 5, 2009. India will add a staggering 220 million people to its working age population by 2030 and their absorption into the job market will pose a daunting challenge to policy makers as they try to align the forces of globalization with the overarching objective of inclusive growth, **Dr Subir Gokarn, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India**, said here today.

Addressing the valedictory session of the **ICC Regional CEO Forum**, Dr. Gokarn said that to cash in on the advantages of globalization and ensure that these percolate to the masses, the domestic policy makers would have to ensure flexible labour markets, arm the people with appropriate skills, develop infrastructure to facilitate the flow of investments, ensure mature capital markets to deal with resource flows and create safety nets to deal with the vulnerability of the people to external shocks.

Dr. Gokarn said that India record on the imperatives to deal with the inclusive growth in a globalizing world was mixed. Infrastructure has not kept pace with the requirement, skill generation has lagged and safety nets have not been adequate, he observed.

He said that the demographics in the South Asian and East Asian region will play out in such a manner that China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam will create an overwhelmingly large number of job seekers. This along with the likely shift from labour intensive activities to automation and relocation of industries to low wage destination would put a huge pressure on national governments to raise their level of preparedness to meet the looming challenges.