



# NICCT

The Netherlands India  
Chamber of Commerce & Trade

## Annual Report 2019-2020

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## 1. Preamble / Executive summary

This NICCT-Annual Social report covers NICCT’s activities between the previous General Council Meeting (GCM), which was held on the 23rd October 2019, and, the GCM held on 18th of June 2020.

This report is intended to give NICCT’s members, information about the growth and performance in the last period, while also providing highlights on NICCT’s business & event strategy, sustainable partnerships, and activities which NICCT conducted in the last period.

## 2. The Executive Board

Between 23rd October 2019 and 18th of June 2020, NICCT board meetings were held 12 times.

2019: November 4, December 3

2020: January 7, January 23, February 4, March 3, March 6, April 7, April 16, May 5, May 12 and June 2.

These board meetings were mainly focused on the subjects legal, members, finance, programs, co-operations, marketing & communications.

Apart from the formal Board Meetings, there have been numerous meetings with (potential) members, with colleagues from within the board to support hands-on activities such as own NICCT events, as well as partner/supported events and meetings with commercial & governmental organisations.

The board members during October 2019 - June 2020 are:

<b>MEMBER’S NAME</b>		<b>COMPANY NAME</b>
<b>Edith Nordmann</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>ACG International</b>
<b>Sudip Lahiri</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>HCL Technologies</b>
<b>Rajiv Mehra</b>	<b>Executive VP, Program / Events / NICCT India</b>	<b>Mehra Holding</b>
<b>Vidhya Sampath</b>	<b>VP Programs and Liaison to Advisory Board</b>	<b>Tata Consultancy Services</b>
<b>Namita Krul</b>	<b>Vice President Finance</b>	<b>Meri Body</b>
<b>Elbert Waller</b>	<b>Vice President Networking</b>	<b>KPMG Meijburg &amp; Co</b>
<b>Jelke Schippers</b>	<b>Board member and Smartshore</b>	<b>Smartshore</b>

### 3. Patron member reference

HCL Technologies, a leading Global tech company, is a patron member of The Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce & Trade (NICCT), and is using the platform to bring in world-class talent and resources and to add value to the business growth for the Netherlands market, leveraging its local partner ecosystem. HCL is in the Board of NICCT and, is working together as one team to continuously adopt innovation in technology for many years, and will continue to do so for the next-gen world, building up the IT roadmap for the future”, says Sudip Lahiri - SVP & Head Financial Services Europe HCL Technologies and Vice Chairman NICCT.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS, [www.tcs.com](http://www.tcs.com)) is an IT services, consulting and business solutions organisation that has been partnering with many of the world’s largest businesses in their transformation journeys for the last fifty years. TCS offers a consulting-led, cognitive powered, integrated portfolio of business, technology and engineering services and solutions. This is delivered through its unique Location Independent Agile delivery model, recognized as a benchmark of excellence in software development.

Tata Consultancy Services established its European headquarters in Amsterdam in 1992, and has close to 3,000 employees working in the Netherlands and over 10,000 working from outside the Netherlands for Dutch customers, which include some of the country’s leading and most respected companies. TCS strongly believes global challenges need global solutions. They are continually engaging with their employees, clients, partners, public institutions, start-ups, academia and community organisations across the world to step-up and rise to the occasion. Nurturing local talent thus also remains a prime area of focus, with the GROW@TCS trainee program that equips the workforce of tomorrow with the capabilities to anticipate future challenges.

As part of the Tata Group, one of TCS’ core values is to give back to the community. To promote a healthy lifestyle, they are the title sponsor of the TCS Amsterdam Marathon, and multiple other large running events across the globe. Over 2,500 TCS employees, customers and business partners run the TCS Amsterdam Marathon each year to raise money for VUmc Cancer Center Amsterdam.

To give a platform to new ideas that are worth sharing, TCS partnered with TEDxAmsterdam. “We engage with with organisations such as The Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce & Trade to support the

NL-India business corridor and The Hague Security Delta to work toward making the Netherlands a center of innovation and business excellence” says Vidhya Sampath – Director External Affairs & Public Policy Europe – Vice President Programs & Liaison to the Advisory Board.

KPMG Meijburg & Co is committed to play an active role in defragmenting the investment and trade promotion in the Netherlands – India Corridor. Our Patron membership of NICCT enables us to team up with other major players in this endeavor, including NLinBusiness and public sector representatives, says Elbert Waller – Director – KPMG Meijburg & Co.

## 4. Programs

In October 2019-May 2020 NICCT organized various programs (on our own and in partnership) to promote business relations within the Indo-Dutch business corridor. NICCT conducted multi-faceted events such as:

- Seminars
- Networking events
- Round table sessions

NICCT could not realize her events without the great support of our partners within the Indo Dutch Business Corridor. NICCT would specially like to thank Tata Consultancy Services for their strong support during the NICCT New Year’s Reception.

Our partners between October 2019 and May 2020 were amongst others:

- Brabantse Ontwikkelings Maatschappij (BOM)
- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- Embassy of India in The Netherlands
- Export Sociëteit Limburg
- KPMG Meijburg
- NLinBusiness
- Tata Consultancy Services

A summary of the activities within NICCT from October 2019 until May 2020 is presented below.

## ***NICCT Youth – Setting up a Business***

When: 10 December 2019  
Where: Amstelveen  
Supported by: KPMG Meijburg & Co

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NICCT Youth hosted an event targeted at young (potential) start-ups. The seminar was led by NICCT Youth members - Amrit Singh and Ritika Mehra on the topic “How to setup your (home) business”.

The event was free for all and was hosted by KPMG Meijburg & Co. There were 25 attendees for the event who were all looking for guidance how to start their business. The seminar was a step by step guide on which measures and actions to take when starting a business in the Netherlands.

It was a very well received event with a predominately female attendance.



## *New Year's Reception*

When: 28 January 2020  
Where: Symphony Towers Building - Amsterdam  
Supported by: Tata Consultancy Services

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On the 28th of January 2020, NICCT (with the strong support of Tata Consultancy Services) held its New Year's Reception in the Symphony Building in Amsterdam, in the middle of the economic and very buzzing international heart of Amsterdam.

The venue was filled to the max seating capacity of 120 pax. H.E. Mr. Venu Rajamony (Ambassador of India), Mr. Alphons Stoelinga (former Ambassador of The Netherlands to India), Mr. Bob Gogel (CEO WorldStrides) and Mr. Josu Devasia (Country Head Tata Consultancy Services) addressed the participants.

H.E. Mr. Rajamony mainly spoke about the history of the Indo-Dutch business relations dating from the past, how the past relations effect the current relations and how the future will look like. H.E.' presentation emphasized that India and The Netherlands have strong economic ties for centuries and emphasized that India & The Netherlands share a cultural and intellectual resilience which has outlasted the challenges of change.

Mr. Stoelinga had a very interesting dialogue with Mrs. Sampath (Vice President NICCT Programs – Director External Affairs & Public Policy Europe at Tata Consultancy Services) about his time as an ambassador in India and his views upon India being the country of the future.

Mr. Gogel (CEO of WorldStrides) emphasized as well the importance of building a good relation & a respectable reputation, customizing your products, development of multi-year strategies.



## ***Round Table doing Business with India***

When: 13 February 2020  
Where: Van der Valk – Eindhoven  
Supported by: Brabants Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij, Export Sociëteit Limburg, NLinBusiness

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The first Round table of the year 2020 took place on the 13th of February. It was organized by NICCT together with the partners Brabantse Ontwikkelings Maatschappij (BOM), Export Sociëteit Limburg and NLinBusiness. The round table session was moderated by Jelke Schippers (board member of NICCT). Mr. Eric F. Niehe (former Ambassador of the Netherlands to India & honorary member of NICCT) and Mr. Rob van Nes (One Million Hockey Legs) were addressing the 24 participants to the Round Table. All Participants actively contributed to the Round Table. In-depth discussions could take place during the round table as all participants received prior to the Round Table an inventory. The program was very well received after which the attendees could engage with each other during the network reception.



## ***Tax seminar around the India Budget 2020***

When: 26 February 2020  
Where: Amsterdam  
In co-operation with: Ernst & Young

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Ernst & Young and NICCT teamed together for a seminar on the India Budget 2020 and the implications it has for the business in the Indo-Dutch business corridor and the world.

Ernst & Young guests and NICCT members were invited to a session in the EY Office in Amsterdam, on 26 February 2020 to discuss the new opportunities emanating out of the recent tax and regulatory reforms and the expected Budget 2020 announcements.

Amit Jain (EY Leader Global Desk EMEIA and India Desk) and Ronak Sethi (EY India Desk) from London were present to share their perspective & have one-on-one meetings with the participants.

Edith Nordmann discussed the Indian 2020 budget from the Dutch entrepreneurial perspective explaining where the biggest opportunities are and which approach should be avoided in order to create the best chances for Dutch companies doing business in India successfully.

The seminar was well attended, relevant questions were asked by the participants, valuable connections, introductions and in-depth discussions took place during the networking reception.



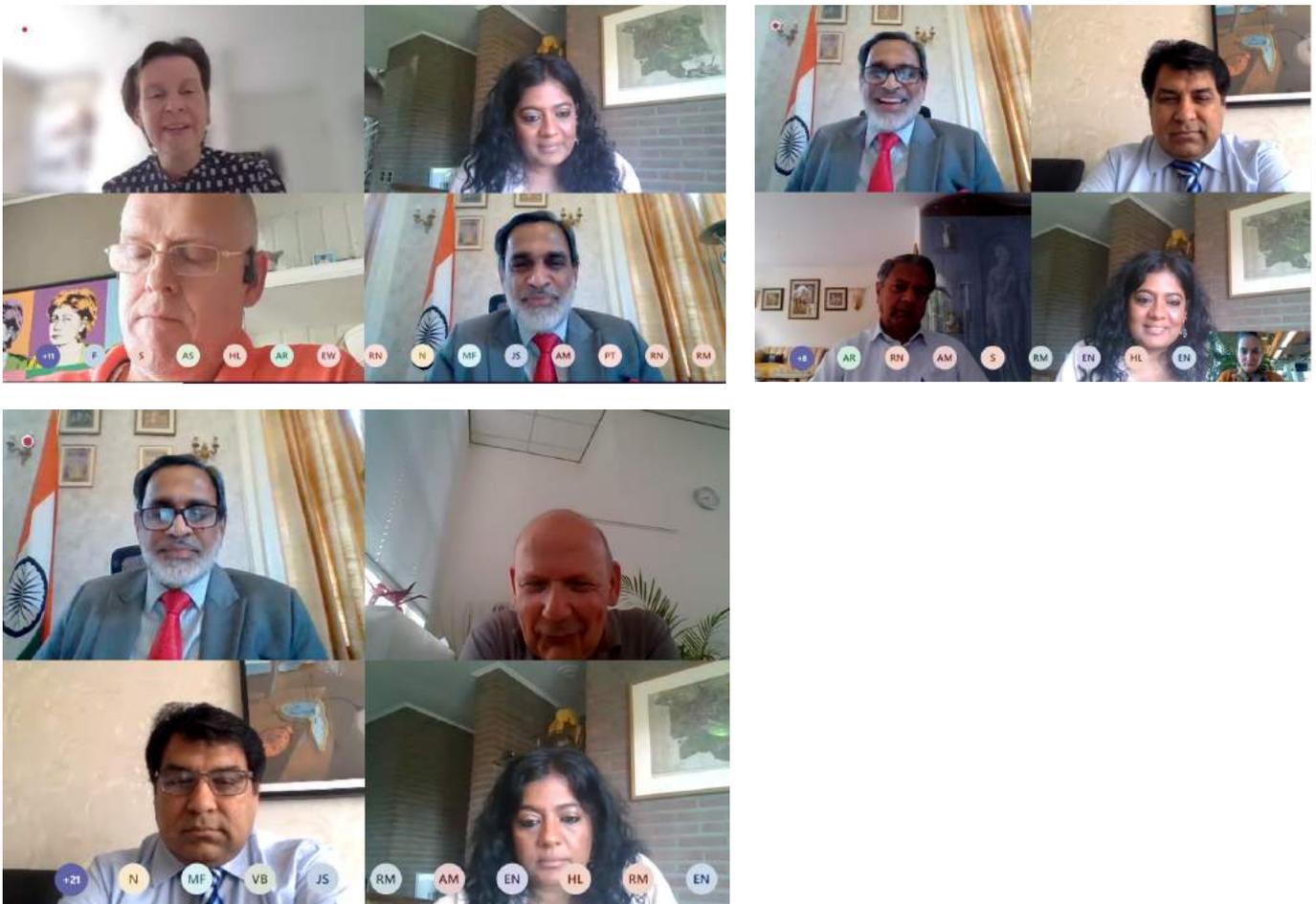
## ***NICCT Online - In Exclusive Conversations with H.E. Mr. Venu Rajamony***

When: 1st May 2020  
 Where: Online  
 Supported by: Embassy of India in The Netherlands

Due to COVID-19, NICCT has developed a new initiative: NICCT Online - Exclusive Conversations with industry leaders. Exclusive Online Conversations give you the opportunity to ask questions directly and get feedback on the developments within the Indo Dutch Business Corridor from captains of industry and prominent leaders in various fields.

As part of the NICCT Online initiative, NICCT & the Embassy of India produced the first exclusive online web interaction with H.E. Mr. Venu Rajamony of the Embassy of India on Friday 1st May from 17.00hrs until 18.15hrs.

The session was well attended and the interaction between the members and the Embassy was very fruitful.



## ***NICCT Online Debate on “COVID-19 Crisis: Impact and Learnings with Entrepreneurs”***

When: 7 May 2020

Where: Online

On the 7th of May 2020 a debate was scheduled on “COVID-19 Crisis: Impact and Learnings with Entrepreneurs”.

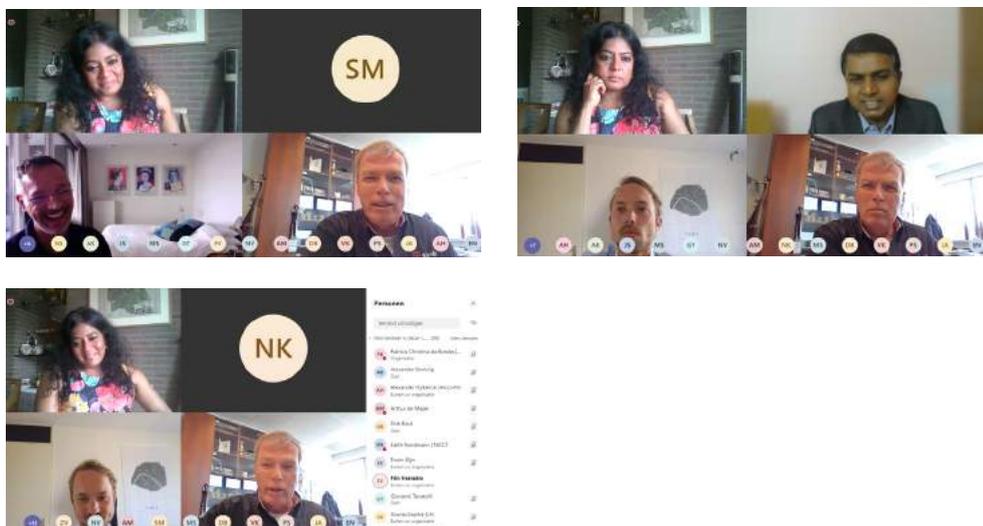
In this debate, experts Flin Veenstra (business developer at NLinBusiness), Mr. S. Manoj (Associate Director International Tax & Regulatory Practise at KPMG India) and Mr. Paul Oosterlaken (CEO at Kiremko) joined an interactive discussion on the impact, best practices and practical learnings on dealing with the COVID-19 crisis. The debate was moderated by Vidhya Sampath, VP and Board member NICCT.

Kiremko is a leading Dutch manufacturer of processing lines for the potato processing industry since 1965. Kiremko innovates, designs, manufactures and installs advanced processing lines worldwide, including India & China. These lines process potatoes into French fries, potato chips, potato flakes, pellet snacks, fresh cut and pre-cooked potato products.

Mr. S. Manoj (Associate Director International Tax & Regulatory of KPMG India) has more than 13 years of professional experience in advising corporates on tax & regulatory matters. Manoj focused on the government measures and strategies of relevance to entrepreneurs.

Flin Veenstra works as a business developer at NLinBusiness. NLinBusiness supports Dutch companies striving for international expansion. Flin Veenstra presented a summary of a survey of entrepreneurs and their insights on the COVID-19 impact.

The debate was attended by as well members as non-members of NICCT. All participants were given the opportunity to submit their questions prior to the debate. Fruitful discussions took place during the debate. Post the debate, NICCT received several compliments regarding the in-depth discussions.



## ***NICCT Online - Play for the title “NICCT Mastermind Impact and Learnings with Entrepreneurs”***

When: 5th of June 2020

Where: Online

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On Friday the 5th of June NICCT organized the first ever NICCT Online Friday Afternoon Quiz in the Indo-Dutch business corridor. This quiz was being held to have old fashioned fun together in a modern way. The quiz was well attended and a prize was given to the first Mastermind!

## 5. Members

In the term 2018 as well as 2019, NICCT executed a re-assessment of the membership commitments.

In 2019, NICCT had 81 members, 3 patron members and 5 youth members. There was a slight increase in memberships. During the term 2019 some new members were welcomed. Unfortunately some of the membership cancellations were originating from bankruptcy, withdrawal of business' from India, assignments to new jobs or expelling of membership.

We are happy to inform you that NICCT received 4 new members in the first quarter of 2020 as well as a new patron member.

NICCT has 4 patron members in the term 23.10.2019-18.6.2020:

1. AutoFacets (NINtec) (on 1.1.2020)
2. HCL Technologies
3. Meijburg & Co
4. Tata Consultancy Services Netherlands

NICCT has two honorary members: Mr. Ram L. Lakhina (founder & chairman emeritus NICCT), Mr. Eric Niehe.

## 6. Financial Statement NICCT

Comments by the VP Finance

In 2019, we had 81 members, 3 patron members and 5 youth members. This indicates a slight increase in memberships. 85% of our members fulfilled their obligation with the first quarter of the New Year. In contrast to the previous years NICCT has a very small percentage of doubtful debtors. For 2020 we are glad to welcome Auto Facets as a new patron member. Our efforts to enhance long term relations with various organisations including Start-ups, SME's and Multinationals continue to be our focal point.

## 7. Partners

NICCT strongly believes that working together with various organizations in the Netherlands as well as in India enhances the cooperation, improves the mutual trade spirit and stimulates cooperation between the trade partners. On top of that it optimizes the service for our members.

## 8. Thanks

NICCT is grateful to all our members, patron members and partners for their continued support and for the confidence that is placed in NICCT.

The board wishes to place on record its gratitude to all members, patrons members and partners for their contribution to the NICCT.

For questions or comments, please contact the secretariat:

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