

**INTERVIEW WITH BRIG. S.S.A. QASIM, HONORARY SECRETARY
CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT***

INTERVIEWER

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Market Forces interviewed Brigadier S.S.A. Qasim Hon. FCILT, Honorary Secretary of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Pakistan, to gain an insight into the role of CILT as a significant career partner for its members; and to ask him to inform us about cost, benefits, and eligibility for membership, especially in the context of Pakistan.

Market Forces: Would you kindly elaborate on the history and heritage of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Pakistan?

Brig. Qasim: The Institute of Transport was established in 1919. The Royal Charter, which was conferred in the UK in 1926, added prestige and a guarantee of professional standards to the Institute. It functioned initially in the UK as The Chartered Institute of Transport (CIT), a learned body for transport professionals. The Institute gradually spread its wings around the world, as many independent nations sprung up, out of the British Empire, and CIT (UK) evolved into an international organization called CIT (International), with the parent, CIT (UK), being only one of the National Councils.

In 2001, CIT (International) merged with The Institute of Logistics (UK), and consequently the scope and influence of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, has been considerably enhanced. As of now, it has a presence in more than thirty countries around the world, and is a full-fledged international organization. From Canada to Australia, from the UAE to Hong Kong, the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport serves the interests of more than thirty thousand members. The International Council of the CILT undertakes to provide the necessary support and required services worldwide, to closely match the needs of members within each country. The network of CILT consists of eleven National Councils, and twenty National Sections and Representative Offices. The details of the network can be seen at Exhibit 1. *

CILT Pakistan has a prominent position in this network. It has the status of a National Council with current membership of over 1100 transport and logistics professionals from different modes of transport - sea, air, rail, road, and inter-modal transport. The President of Pakistan is the patron of the Institute. CILT Pakistan has its headquarters at Karachi with five main sections, based at Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi/ Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta. Furthermore,

*The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) is a worldwide organization. With over thirty thousand members in more than thirty national sections, the CILT spans the globe. It is a significant career partner for those engaged in the field of logistics and transport.

CILT Pakistan is a professional organization, which is non-political and non-profit-making.

Market Forces: What are the benefits of CILT membership?

Brig. Qasim: The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport is an organization that one can join as an individual, irrespective of employment status.

CILT is able to provide members with a new type of career continuity. It is an organization that provides personal support to all members as they progress through their working life, in good times, and in bad. Flexible support is provided that responds to the specific requirements of the individual members at every stage of their career.

The services of CILT include:

Education—Education is provided through structured qualifications courses, seminars, academic links, and ongoing continuing professional development support.

Information—Information is provided through journals and magazines, events and visits, conferences, lectures, library facilities, and networking.

Partnership—Partnership is institutionalised with industry, with government, with academics, with other relevant institutes, with service providers. This is a vital service for members.

CILT Pakistan is dedicated to the promotion of education in the field of logistics & transport. It was one of the first professional bodies in Pakistan to introduce formal education in this field. In 1984, it started a graduate diploma course in transport, in conjunction with the University of Karachi. Subsequently in 1996 it started a masters course in Transport Management at the University of Karachi. For the last two years CILT is conducting a course for freight forwarders, in response to demands from the industry, and it thus that it makes a significant contribution to exports and imports of the country. CILT Pakistan's latest venture in the field of education is the MBA program with specialization in Transport and Logistics, organized jointly with the Karachi Institute of Economics and Technology (PAF-KIET), an HEC accredited degree awarding institution in the private sector, commencing Spring 2006.

Market Forces: What are the other main functions of CILT Pakistan?

Brig. Qasim: CILT Pakistan regularly organizes seminars, conferences, and lectures on significant issues facing the country, in which leading professionals are involved. Based on the proceedings of these events, recommendations are prepared by the Institute and submitted to the relevant authorities for consideration and implementation.

The latest headline news is the International Conference of March 14-15, 2006, organized by CILT Pakistan, to consider the response to the devastating earthquake of October 8, 2005, and other natural disasters, especially by the transport sector.

Market Forces: What other benefits do CILT members enjoy?

Brig. Qasim: Some of the specific benefits of membership of CILT Pakistan are:

- CILT membership is recognized as equivalent to university degree in transport at the international level.
- CILT members are preferred for jobs in transport and logistics sectors.
- PIA offers 50 % concession for international travel on its network to CILT members.
- Pakistan Railways offers 50% concession for travel in air-conditioned sleeper coach.
- Opportunities for networking with transport and logistics professionals.
- All categories of members are provided, as a part of their subscription, a biannual periodical published by CILT Pakistan, called Pakistan Transport and Logistics News, and CILT World, a quarterly publication of CILT International. Both are high quality professional magazines.

Market Forces: What are the categories of membership and what are the requirements for each?

Brig. Qasim: The categories of membership, their respective entry requirements and rates of subscription are given below:

1. **Affiliate:** This is the starting grade of membership and includes students. Educational qualification required for entry is Intermediate, provided that the candidate is either engaged in or intends to engage in the field of transport and logistics. Members in this category are, however, not entitled to writing any letters after their names. The admission fee is Rs. 1200, and the annual subscription is Rs. 500.
2. **Member (MILT):** Educational qualification required for entry is a university degree, CILT Certificate in Logistics and Transport, or Diploma in Transport, provided the candidate also has at least three years' experience in logistics and or transport or equivalent. The admission fee in this category is Rs. 1600 and the annual subscription is Rs. 800.
3. **Chartered Member (CMILT):** This grade represents the core of the professional membership of the Institute. The chartered member must be a graduate or holder of CILT Advanced Diploma or MBA with specialization in Logistics and Transport; and have a minimum of five years' experience in the field of transport and or logistics, or equivalent. The admission fee in this category is Rs. 1800 and the annual subscription is Rs. 1000.

4. **Chartered Fellow (FCILT):** This is the highest grade of membership. Only those candidates who have achieved a high level of eminence in the transport and logistics discipline, or those chartered members who have ten years' standing or fifteen years' experience in transport and logistics are eligible for this grade. Direct election as Fellow is exceptional, and is considered only for heads of transport and logistics organizations in Grade 21 and 22 or equivalent. The admission fee in this category is Rs. 2000 and the annual subscription is Rs. 1200.

Market Forces: Would you like to inform us about the library and research facilities available to members of CILT?

Brig. Qasim: Extensive library facilities are indeed available from CILT National Council in the UK. In addition, CILT Pakistan and KIET have local library facilities. At present the library facilities are only available to country members. International access is, however, being developed.

Market Forces: What are the knowledge standards for corporate membership of CILT?

Brig. Qasim: The International Council of the CILT has agreed to a common set of knowledge standards for Chartered Membership. These shared standards form the basis for the different CILT qualifications, which are offered in different parts of the world. Traditionally, the UK territorial body offered the professional qualifying examinations for the CILT. These qualifications are currently being adapted to better meet the needs of the CILT membership around the world. Individual National Councils are now increasingly offering their local qualifications.

EXHIBIT ONE NETWORK OF CILT

COUNCILS

- Australia
- China
- Hong Kong
- India
- Ireland
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- North America
- Pakistan
- Singapore
- UK

SECTIONS

- Bangladesh
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Uganda
- UAE
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES

- Botswana
- Egypt
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Saudi Arabia