



INTERVIEW



Mr. Chandy John
Chief Executive – Chandy John

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PackagingConnections: What is your educational background? How did you get involved in the Packaging industry?

Mr. Chandy John: I am a graduate Mechanical Engineer. I got introduced to the Packaging Industry, when I joined National Tobacco Co., of India Ltd., in 1961 as a Maintenance Engineer to look after the maintenance of their Cigarette Making Machines, Cigarette Packaging Machines and their Offset Printing Presses. Subsequently, I joined Brooke Bond India Ltd., in 1963 and retired in 1995, during which period I was engaged in virtually every technical aspect of Packaging and Gravure Printing cum Bag Making Machines. After retirement, I have been involved in design of various kinds of machines, including Chewing Tobacco Packing Machines. I am right now involved in the design and development of Chewing Tobacco Packet Parceling Machines, which the target of parceling 600 Chewing Tobacco Packets per minute. I am also involved

in the design and development of various machines involved in the packaging of Surgical Gloves. All these machines will be the first and only one of its kind in the world.

PackagingConnections: Your key activities at work? What is the most rewarding part of your work?

Mr. Chandy John: My key activities are conceptualising and designing the machines. The most rewarding part of my work is seeing my client satisfied beyond his expectations.

PackagingConnections: What unexpected costs and headaches have you had to deal with?

Mr. Chandy John: The main headaches are to find workable and acceptable solutions to complicated and difficult to solve design problems.



PackagingConnections: Your key achievements?

Mr. Chandy John: While I have several major achievements in fields not related to Packaging, my key achievement in the field of Packaging during my service with Brooke Bond was the development of a concept for producing what is perhaps the cheapest Sachet Packing System in the world. My key achievement in the field of Packaging after my service with Brooke Bond was the design of an automatic Chewing Tobacco Packing Machine, which is an only-one-of-its-kind machine in the world. My subsequent achievements are the execution of contracts to design/develop an ultra-high-speed Chewing Tobacco Packet Parceling Machine to parcel 600 Chewing Tobacco Packets per minute and to design/develop a combination of machines to strip from the Former, inspect for quality, cuff, code print, wrap, pack and finally carton Surgical Gloves at the total rate of 120 (60 pairs) per minute.

Packaging Connections: What is one thing about the industry that you would change?

Mr. Chandy John: Encourage and support design/development of new and original machines that caters to the indigenous needs of our country.

Packaging Connections: What are your views on the status of the packaging industry in India? What is the way forward?

Mr. Chandy John: India has been heavily leaning on technology from the advanced countries. We need to innovate and introduce solutions that specifically cater to the needs of the local industries.

Packaging Connections: Could you share with us your key plans for the future?

Mr. Chandy John: My work on the design/development of the ultra-high-speed Chewing Tobacco Packet Parceling Machine to parcel 600 Chewing Tobacco Packets per minute and my work to design/develop a combination of machines to strip from the Former, inspect for quality, cuff, code print, wrap, pack and finally carton Surgical Gloves at the total rate of 120 (60 pairs) per minute will keep me substantially occupied during the immediate future. I also have other plans to design/develop new machines for use in fields other than Packaging.

Packaging Connections: What has been your biggest challenge? How did you overcome?

Mr. Chandy John: The biggest challenge is the lack of creative application of mind in most fields of industry in India.

Packaging Connections: What are three important tenets that you work by when beginning a new packaging project?

Mr. Chandy John: The most important tenet that I work by in any project is that the solution I offer must meet the true needs of any client. The second important tenet is that the solution I offer must be simple enough to be handled by an average person. The third important tenet the solution I offer must be well within the financial limits of acceptance by the client.

Packaging Connections: Your packaging dream?

Mr. Chandy John: To initiate an Institute on the same lines as the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, where totally new and original machines can be designed and developed to meet the special indigenous requirements of our country.

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