Yusuff Ali receives UK's prestigious Queen's Award

London

Chairman of Lulu Group Yusuff Ali MA received this year's Queen's Award for his contribution towards boosting international trade.

Lord Lieutenant John Crabtree, the Queen's special representative, handed over the award to Yusuff Ali during a glittering ceremony held at the Birmingham Council House.

Later in the day Queen Elizabeth hosted a royal reception for the winners at Buckingham Palace and had close interaction with the chosen few award winners.

The Queen's Award is announced every year on the birthday of Queen Elizabeth and is awarded for meritorious contribution in the fields of innovation, international trade and employment generation which results in tangible growth of UK's economy. The award ceremony was attended by Anne Underwood, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Christine Hamilton, Under Secretary of Trade Ministry, Khalid Mehmood, MP and a host of prominent businessmen and trade officials.

Yusuff Ali MA, CMD of Lulu Group, interacting with Queen Elizabeth during the Royal reception hosted for the Queen's Award 2017 winners, at the Buckingham Palace

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- Yusuff Ali MA

Elaborating about the Award, John Crabtree said, "Y International UK Pvt Ltd. part of Lulu Group, has played a tremendous role in further boosting UK's position as an investor friendly destination. They have not only opened up a huge market for the British products worldwide through their operations here but also have contributed significantly in providing job and training opportunities."

During his acceptance speech Yusuff Ali said: "I am extremely honoured and proud to receive the prestigious Queen's Award this year. This great recognition will surely help us further strengthen our plans to expand business interests in UK and continue with our innovations and contributions to the dynamic economy of UK. The fact that we have grown and expanded our operations in such a short span of time is a testament of the pro-development economic policies of UK and we are fully committed to playing our role in further boosting the trade while focusing on key aspects such as highest quality, human resources and excellent corporate governance."

Y International UK Pvt Ltd, with its huge state-of- the-art operations in Birmingham, sources and exports a wide range of world-class food products to over 136 hypermarkets and supermarkets of Lulu Group across the ME, Africa, India and Far East countries.

The group which has already invested close to US$550 million till now in the UK including The East India Company and London Scotland Yard, will be investing another US$ 52 million in setting up an advanced food processing zone in Birmingham, the work for which will begin next month, informed Yusuff Ali.

UC Berkeley to create "window" into brain that helps understand its function

The University of California, Berkeley, has been awarded 21.6 million U.S. dollars over four years to create a "window" into the brain that can help monitor and activate thousands to millions of individual neurons using light.

Cortical modem

Researchers involved with the project, the public university in Northern California said Thursday, refer to the device as a cortical modem: a way of "reading" from and "writing" to the brain, like the input-output activity of internet modems.

Goal

The researchers' goal is to read from a million individual neurons and simultaneously stimulate 1,000 of them with single-cell accuracy. This would be a first step toward replacing a damaged eye with a device that directly talks to the visual part of the cerebral cortex, or relaying touch sensation from an artificial limb to the touch part of the cortex to help an amputee control an artificial limb.

Ultimate goal

The team of neuroscientists, engineers and computer scientists ultimately hopes to build a device for use in humans, and the goal during the four-year funding period is to create a prototype to read and write to the brains of model organisms, including zebrafish larvae, which are transparent, and mice, where neural activity and behaviour can be monitored and controlled simultaneously via a transparent window in the skull.

Procedure

To communicate with the brain, the team will first insert a gene into neurons that makes fluorescent proteins, which flash when the cell fires an action potential, and then a second gene that makes a light-activated "optogenetic" protein, which stimulates neurons in response to a pulse of light. To read from and write to these neurons, a two-tiered device is required.