

## METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP EXPO

**New Delhi, March 3, 2010: Dr M Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development,** at the inaugural session of “Methane to Markets Partnership Expo” jointly organised by FICCI and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) stressed on the point that the private sector participation and collaborative efforts between urban local bodies and the private sector is the key to effective solid waste management in Indian urban centres. He also added that the M2M partnership should leverage the concept of regional landfills in India to address the existing impediments in employing waste land filling techniques in the country.

**Mr Deepak Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** said that, M2M partnership can bridge the existing gaps such as lack of awareness, infrastructure, and data in the way of methane management and mitigation in the Indian waste sector.

During the meeting, **Mr Alok Perti, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal,** emphasized on the fact that India generates 460 million tonnes of coal annually of which 80 % is through open cast mining. Thus, India has huge potential for methane mitigation in the coal sector. However, lack of modern technologies and technical know how leaves the potential sector untapped. The M2M initiative can help address this lacuna and show the way forward.

**Mr D N Narsimha Raju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,** also added that M2M has provided knowledge and expertise in the oil and gas sector and can continue to enhance knowledge dissemination and capacity building.

**Mr Blair Parks Hall, Minister-Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, Embassy of United States of America** pointed out that “M2M is an on the ground initiative and is independent of the developments in the ongoing climate change negotiations and debate. He further added that clean technologies, generation of clean energy, green buildings and carbon sequestration through forestry are some of the areas where US and India can associate and collaborate to effectively address the challenge of climate change and foster energy security. He also said that waste water and sanitation could be the potential future areas of intervention under the M2M partnership.

**Mr. Y K Modi, Past President, FICCI and CEO, GEECL,** at the inaugural of “**Methane to Markets Partnership Expo**”, urged the M2M partnership to deepen their involvement through pre feasibility studies and demonstration projects to address methane emissions from the four M2M focus sectors landfills, agriculture, coal and, oil and natural gas .

He urged the Government of India for better coordination between the concerned ministries and departments and provides greater support and thrust to M2M based projects in the country. He reiterated that M2M will continue to play a crucial role in catalyzing methane abatement projects and linking them to markets to make them economically feasible and attractive.

M2M expo could facilitate exchange of successful policies being implemented across the world to mitigate greenhouse gases and could lead to the development of an effective roadmap to address climate change. FICCI with its wide reach and impact can provide the last mile connectivity to implement M2M in India to its full potential. Coal and MSW sectors need to be fully exploited for an effective implementation of M2M in India.

In the context of the in progress international climate change negotiations, Mr Modi urged the Indian government to strive towards an equitable solution based on per capita emissions principle. The ongoing international dialogue on this issue should further deepen and strengthen the market based mechanisms which would provide the tools and incentives needed by industry to sustain GHG mitigation actions.

India has 136 CDM projects registered with the UNFCCC's Executive Board that avoid, capture or utilise methane. These projects have a total potential of reducing approximately 26 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, which is 6% of the global total potential from CDM registered projects. These projects are from municipal solid waste, landfill, industrial wastewater, agricultural residue, manure management, and oil and natural gas sectors. Infact about a month ago, India's first Landfill Gas to Energy project at Gorai landfill under the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai got registered.

A survey conducted by FICCI among 22 Municipal Corporations to assess the state of Municipal Solid Waste Management in Indian cities and potential for landfill gas-to-energy projects highlights the potential of some of these cities for implementing landfill gas-to-energy projects. The most common method employed by Municipal Corporations for disposal is dumping of collected waste at open dumpsites. 50% of surveyed cities generate more than 550 tonnes per day of solid waste. In Vadodara, Jaipur, Pune, Surat, Kanpur, Ahmedabad and Delhi, more than 80-90% of the collected waste is sent to dumpsites. Only 5 out of 22 cities have conducted a feasibility study on methane emissions – Delhi, Ahmedabad, Surat, Greater Mumbai and Jamshedpur. Therefore there is clear opportunity for M2M to facilitate pre-feasibility studies and capacity building for municipal corporations.

**Ms Dina Kruger, Director, Climate Change Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency** stated that 170 projects being implemented under the M2M partnership in partner countries with more than 80 technology transfer and capacity building initiatives till date.

**Mr Wochong Um, Deputy Director General, Asian Development Bank**,acknowledged that financing is critical to the sustenance of GHG mitigation projects. ADB will support activities aimed at removing barriers for clean technology implementation and support initiatives towards policy and institutional Strengthening. In this direction, ADB is operating two major carbon funds namely the Asia Pacific Carbon Fund for projects up to 2012 and the Future Carbon Fund for projects up to 2020.

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