

Dialogue on Industrial Energy Fostered in 'Sustainable Energy Conclave'

Chandigarh, March 1, 2019: Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized a conference, 'Sustainable Energy Conclave' on March 1, 2019 at Taj Hotel, Chandigarh.

The program, organized under **FICCI North India Sustainable Development Forum**, was an initiative to foster a dialogue around viability of current industrial energy pattern and its sustainability for future. It aimed at engaging the industry members and subject matter experts across domains in the process of exploring sustainable energy-efficient innovations which can help in mitigating the risks related to heavy dependence on unclean, fossil-based resources. Various representatives from industry, government and development agencies, policy think-tanks, research and academia participated in the program.

Mr. Vaibhav Gupta, Senior Programme Lead, CEEW opened the session by revealing that industries spend about 22% of their total cost on meeting energy-requirement. He further focused on three main drivers- structural change, energy mix and energy efficiency, and suggested policy measures to reduce industrial energy emission, such as cluster-development, capacity building of associations, expansion of national gas pipeline network and the need to go beyond PAT (Perform, Achieve and Trade).

Col Sumeet Malhan, CTOO, PRESPL emphasized the significance of waste-to-energy technologies with his presentation on biomass. Similarly, **Mr. Vikas Verma**, Head of State Office, UNDP; **Er. Balkar Singh**, AGM, PEDDA; **Mr. Debendra Dalai, IFS**, Director-cum-CEO, CREST; **Mr. Kshitij R. Pillai**, Project Officer, Chandigarh Smart City Limited and **Mr. Navneet Malhotra** Head-Operations, Max Specialty Films Limited discussed the learnings from their energy-efficiency projects with the participants.

Mr. Abhishek Sabharwal, Industry Principal, Infosys Ltd captured the interest of the audience by drawing their attention to the role of Industry 4.0 technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT) and automation for energy saving in commercial buildings. Amongst other speakers who explored energy-efficient technologies to enable industries reduce their energy requirement or enhance operations were **Dr. Ashok Sharma**, Chief Executive, Cleantech International Foundation, **Mr. Vivek Verma**, Managing Director, Spray Engineering Devices and **Mr. Sudhir Gupta**, Head Manufacturing, CLAAS India.

The highlight of the program was enthusiastic involvement of Chitkara University, IIT Ropar, PEC, UIET-Panjab University, CCET and other leading academic institutes. **Dr. Asad H. Sahir, Ph.D, Assistant Professor, IIT Ropar** promoted the academia and industry interface for

achieving the common goal of energy-requirement optimization. **Dr. Madhu Chitkara, Vice-Chancellor, Chitkara University** further urged the industries to utilize student human-resource for realizing economies in research and other projects. She added, *“Neither industry nor academia can succeed alone, they need to collaborate.”* Other academicians unequivocally supported the idea.

Mr. GB Singh, Regional Head, FICCI thanked the audience for their active participation in the program. The initiative was widely appreciated by the attendees. The inputs/suggestions received herein would be taken forward by FICCI via initiatives under the forum.