

Need for radical transformation of business to meet Sustainable Development Goals!



L to R: Dr. Sanjeevan Bajaj, CEO, FICCI Quality Forum; Dr. Arbind Prasad, Director General, FICCI; A K Pavadia, Joint Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises; Jaco Cilliers, Country Director – India, UNDP and Dr. Llorenç Mila I Canals, Programme Officer, UNEP

FICCI Quality Forum (FQF) organised the fourth edition of Indian Conference on Life Cycle Management (ILCM 2015) on September 14-15, 2015 in New Delhi. ILCM is a flagship initiative of FICCI aimed at creating national awareness on relevance of life cycle thinking for sustainability in business. The conference has been endorsed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and UNEP SETAC Life Cycle Initiative for all four consecutive editions.

A. K. Pavadia, Additional Secretary & Adviser, Inter State Council Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs, inaugurated ILCM 2015 with an interesting insight for radical transformation of business with Life Cycle Thinking/Management (LCT/M). He mentioned that it is essential to encourage and propagate LCT and to equip top management with the understanding that LCM in the long term would allow business sustainability and

positively impact the social, economic and environmental goals of an organisation.

Dr. Arbind Prasad, Director General, FICCI, highlighted FICCI's pioneering role in building capacity on Life Cycle Assessment & Management. In line with its commitment, FICCI has already issued internal guidelines to all divisions for bringing in the Life Cycle perspective into its policy/business recommendations for government and industry, taking into account multiple impacts (environmental, social and economic) of FICCI recommendations from a cradle-to-grave perspective; be it in relation to policy development, information dissemination, technology choices, or product/process design.

In his special address Country Director – India, United Nations Development, Jaco Cilliers, said that United Nations was entering a new framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period 2016-2030 and LCT would

play a critical role in it. However, for sustainable development to become a success, it was essential to maintain peace and harmony amongst people, prosperity, planet and partnerships.

Attended by over 70 delegates from 10 countries, ILCM 2015 showcased new ideas, case studies and best practices for business sustainability and strategies focusing on environment, social and economic impacts.

The conference featured a special panel discussion on 'Life Cycle Costing and Public Procurement Policy' with panelists from Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance – Government of India; Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), UNEP and FICCI. The panel discussion revealed that the General Financial Rules do contain references to procurement of environment friendly products but there is lack of awareness among procurers on how such procurement process can be handled. It further highlighted the need for training not only on sustainable public procurement but on basic procurement as well.

A special session on 'Overview of Environmental Standards-Indian Perspective' was conducted by the Bureau of Indian Standards for reaching out and inviting Indian industry to participate in standards formulation and review activities.

The event concluded with a Consultative Meet on 'Readiness for creating Indian LCA database' to develop a common understanding among multiple stakeholders on benefits of developing Indian datasets, and defining the key steps, actors to be involved for this activity over the next two to five years. ■

Interested in knowing more about how Life Cycle Thinking can benefit your business?
Drop a mail to FICCI Quality Forum at ceo.fqf@ficci.com