

FICCI Quality Forum (FQF) and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in association with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) organised the Indian Life Cycle Assessment and Management Conference (ILCM) from August 22-23, 2012 in New Delhi.

The objective of ILCM 2012 was to share technical knowledge and expertise on the use of life cycle assessment as a tool to understand and manage the impact of production and consumption activities in our societies, more specifically in terms of their environmental burden. Knowledge on Life Cycle Assessment and Management (LCA/M) can enhance efficiency and global competitiveness of Indian industry.

The conference showcased the work of numerous Indian and international experts on LCA/M. S G Choudhary, Chief Technology and Sustainability Officer, TATA Chemicals; Nimish Shah, Leader Safety & EAC, Hindustan Unilever; Dr. Matthias Finkbeiner, Chairman,

ISO TC 207 on LCA; Dr. Sonia Valdivia, Programme Officer, UNEP; M J Goedkoop, MD, Pre Consultants; Dr. Martin Baitz, Director, PE International and Dr. Guido Sonnemann, Professor, University of Bordeaux were among the key speakers at the conference.

The issues that emerged from ILCM 2012 are:

- » **Need for efficient knowledge dissemination and capacity building:** Implementation of life cycle management on a mass scale is at a nascent stage. There is a call for standardised guidelines and programmes to enable the policy makers and industry to enforce sustainable business practices.
- » **Dynamic governance framework and pioneering thought process:** The Government has a pioneering role to play in order to employ the effectiveness of life cycle thinking in India. FICCI can act as a catalyst in bringing about greater awareness and establish a knowledge base on the subject. Designing an Indian roadmap

on life cycle management is an immediate prerequisite to streamline the process.

- » **Allocation of resources and information exchange:** There is a need to think, plan and act cohesively keeping the degree of expertise and information in mind. There is lack of information and knowledge exchange in LCA in India. ILCM will be the rallying point among the government and industry and public and private sector.
- » **Creation of a common platform 'India LCA Alliance':** FQF has taken the initiative to create a one-stop forum 'India LCA Alliance' for exchange of information, best practice and solutions. The aim is to amass the available information, expertise, experience, facilitate resources exchange with virtuosos of the field and foster technical know-how among the stakeholders for accomplishment of sustainable lifestyle in India. ☺

For joining the India LCA Alliance, write to us at ilcm@ficci.com

Sharing technical knowledge and expertise on the use of life cycle assessment



L to R: Dr. Sanjeevan Bajaj, CEO, FICCI Quality Forum; Nimish Shah, Leader Safety & EAC, Hindustan Unilever; R V Kanoria, President, FICCI; Dr. Arbind Prasad, Director General, FICCI and Dr. Sonia Valdivia, Programme Officer, UNEP.