



INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Press Release

India MineTech 2018 A Seminar on Mining Technology

Kolkata, 18th January 2018: Mining industry has faced volatility in commodity prices in the recent time with prices of several minerals showing a continued downward trend. Despite the underperformance of the Indian mining industry during the last couple of years, the long-term potential of the sector remains intact. Industry experts estimate the sector's revenue to increase to over \$35 billion in the next few years. To realise this investment, it will be crucial to focus on achieving economies of scale, strengthening operational management, and deploying advanced technology solutions.

Role of mining technology in the given context of economic challenges are likely to be compounded by the fact that mineral resources are geo-technically more complex, and companies have to pursue opportunities in new mining territories. Grades of mineral ores have been falling, henceforth improvements in technology will become key success factors for business. Globally, the use of advanced technology solutions has helped achieve greater efficiencies in terms of increased production, better resource management, enhanced safety, reduction of carbon emission and conservation of natural resources for the next generation.

The Indian Government has also begun to lay greater emphasis on improving mining practices through the use of technology. The New Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Bill calls for the deployment of advanced techniques in areas of exploration, drilling, excavation, loading, beneficiation, etc.

In India, the focus is to establish solutions in the core mining production processes of surface mining, underground mining, strategic resource development, resource and reserves estimation, ore body knowledge and mine planning.

Even with these positive developments, there is a significant technology gap in the Indian mining sector as compared to global standards, both in terms of availability and usage. High tax rates and poor equipment financing support are the major challenges. Inadequate after-sales services and an underdeveloped market for used equipment are other areas of concern. In spite of the adversities, there lies a huge scope for the technology providers to come forward and meet this huge challenge of exploration in the mining technology in India.

Against this background, **Indian Chamber of Commerce** organized the **India MineTech 2018- A Seminar on Mining Technology on 18th January 2018 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Kolkata.**

On this occasion, **CUTS International** prepared a Knowledge Document which highlights the overview of Sustainable Mining in India. The report was released in presence of dignitaries during the Inaugural Session.

Mr P S Bhattacharyya, Former Chairman Coal India Ltd thanked and praised Indian Chamber of Commerce for organising this initiative .In his speech he said that today coal mining is facing more complex challenges both from policy perspective and economic perspective as well. It is not possible to eradicate coal from the system in near future.1300 MT of coal production is expected in years to come as against 800 MT today. However, there is a competition from renewable energy which coal has to deal with. There has been tremendous advancement that had taken place in renewable sector over the years. The most advantages renewable energy has over coal based power is that raw material cost is absolutely 0, whereas coal is depleting asset and the cost of extraction is very high. Power cost in renewable is much lesser that coal based plants.

He also mentioned that the existing thermal power is operating far below the capacity and the lot of inefficient power plant will shut down in years to come. If coal demand is sustained for next 6-7 years then it is important to maintain PLF operating above 65% for next 10 years and also it is important to create affordable power .

Even if the coal is made sustained for next 6-7 years there will be a threat from renewable energy always. Therefore, Mr Bhattacharya suggested that nation has to think of alternative uses of coal like coal can be used for feedstock, raw material for fertilizers, ammonia etc which are imported in huge scale.

Needless to say that coal mining to be done in a environmental friendly way, socially friendly way. Coal and coal based power is burdened with so many structural issues that needs to be addressed through collaboration among service providers ,technology providers, policy makers to make the sector sustainable.

Mr. Mukaya Simubali, Executive Director (Asia), AAC Mining Executors Ltd Group briefed about the company profile , their origin and their mode of operation.He said that whatever technology provided by AAC mining they take into consideration how their people are protected, how safety is ensured and how environment is protected. He also said sustainability is very important in mining operations. He also thanked ICC for organizing this conference.

Mr Avijit Ghosh, Chairman & Managing Director, Heavy Engineering Corp. Ltd said that mining sounds very hazardous. He also said that it is very difficult to develop hard rock mines. According to him, mining plans play an important role in developing mines. It is important to make the mining sustainable by developing proper plans. He suggested that when mine is developed it is not desirable to throw low grade ore because they will be in use in future as new technology is developed for treating low grade ore.Selection of equipment is very important to operate the big open cast mines.

Mr. S.R. Kisku, Additional Director General, Geological Survey of India spoke about the 5 missions of GSI. One of the most important and extensive is the exploration of minerals. He said that eastern region is very rich in mineral deposit. GSI have been operation in Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal and Chattisgarh. Eastern region is full of hard and soft rocks. He also talked about various stages of survey from aerial survey, geological survey, geophysical survey, geochemical, petrochemical survey etc. GSI is into varieties of exploration. He also mentioned that GSI had handed over number of blocks to DGM, MECL and other agencies in which to Bihar 22 blocks had been given, to Orissa 22 blocks, Jharkhand 15 blocks and to West Bengal 07 blocks had been handed over.

The conference had participation from organizations of coal, mining and mining equipments, CMDs, senior officials from the sectors, media and participation of 120 delegates.

