

5th EU – INDIA COAL WORKING GROUP MEETING – WORKSHOP

CONCLUSIONS, OVIEDO 13 APRIL 2010

- 1 The General Director for Energy of the Government of Asturias followed by the Indian and EU co-chairs of the working group opened the event and welcomed the participants. All three noted the importance of coal in the energy mix and the need to sustainably develop and utilise the coal resources.
- 1 The Commission and the Indian side presented the recent developments in their respective energy policies and in particular those related to coal including market data and project initiatives.
- 1 Hunosa (Spain) and RAG Mining (Germany) showed their experiences in underground steep seam coal mining. Approximately 87% of Indian coal production is from open cast mines, but the Government and mining companies intend to increase the share of underground mining.
- 1 While participants acknowledged that the optimal steep seam mining method depends on the mine conditions, methods developed in Spain and Germany are expected to be relevant in Indian sites. The Indian delegation noted that the technical visits to the Spanish mines on the 14 and 15 April will help them understand the Spanish conditions before they decide on concrete future steps. They noted the interest in assessing the potential application of various technologies to the Indian conditions and in finding partners for these activities.
- 1 Following a presentation by the Silesian University of Technology on the potential benefits in particular the environmental ones of UCG, participants agreed that progress still needs to be made on technology development, environmental impacts and regulation.
- 1 The Indian delegation indicated that the CIL (Coal India Ltd) is interested in developing UCG projects and invited technology providers to contact them with technology solutions. It was also noted that the CIL has already received six offers to an Expression of Interest floated recently. Indian side suggested to carry out a study on UCG at Behraband mine of SECL in India, for which the Indian side agreed to submit a proposal for consideration.
- 1 Research on the whole value chain is covered by the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS). In addition research on clean coal technologies (CCT) and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is eligible for funding under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7). These financing tools are also open to third country participation as long as they partner with European organisations. The Indian delegation showed interest in this area and the European Commission agreed to find out the conditions under which third parties are covered. Additionally, funds for projects in the areas of energy and environment are likely to be available for India through Development Cooperation Instrument in 2011-2013. The Commission noted that meeting Millennium Development Goals and poverty alleviation objectives guides the disbursement of these funds. The Commission will be looking to EU-India policy dialogues, including the one on coal issues, to generate ideas for possible projects in areas of common interest.
- 1 Following the study on classification & beneficiation of LVHRC coal in two Indian coal fields, Coal India Ltd has decided to invest in three coal washeries in BCCL. Two washeries

have been tendered and one is in the pipeline. The Indian delegation would welcome funding for a laboratory scale plant proposed in the study to test the washing characteristics of various coals. The Indian delegation agreed to submit a note explaining how the results from the study have been used in the recent tenders together with an outline of a project idea for such plant (scope, budget, etc).

- 1 The Commission and the Indian side presented Mine Health & Safety in their respective regions. Participants agreed to continue the discussions during the study visits of the 14 April which includes a meeting with the Mine rescue brigade of Hunosa. The Indian side noted the interest in learning about advances in recent mine rescue technologies for application in Indian mines.
- 1 Participants are invited to submit additional areas for future cooperation.. Participants noted that the upcoming two site visits are expected to identify further needs.

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