

**Roundtable on
Adaptation to Climate Change for Industries and Industrial Parks in Gujarat**
29 November 2011, Ahmedabad

To share experiences and initiate discussion on climate change adaptation, the German International Cooperation (GIZ) and FICCI Gujarat State Council organised a Roundtable on **“Adaptation to Climate Change in Industries and Industrial Parks of Gujarat”**. The event is a part of the Advisory Services in Environment Management Programme of the ongoing Indo-German Development Cooperation. The event is also part of the German year in India being celebrated as a part of the 60 years of Indo-German cooperation. The programme was supported by the Gujarat Cleaner Development Centre (GCPC), the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) and Adelphi, a research organisation from Germany. The Round Table had participants from the industry, industrial associations, governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as think tanks and experts from various disciplines.

Dr. Dieter Mutz, Director, GIZ, ASEM Programme, in his address in the Inaugural Session, stressed the need for climate change adaptation in industries and industrial areas and highlighted the cooperation activities of GIZ in Gujarat. Mr. Sunil Parekh, Executive Council Member & Chairperson of FICCI Gujarat State Council Health Committee stressed that climate change adaptation measures that are to be taken by industries should not only be on voluntarily basis, but that such measures are essential for their own business sustainability. He mentioned that the adaptation cannot be coped up by the efforts of the industry alone and hence support and facilitation is needed from government. Mr Bharat Jain, Member Secretary of the Gujarat Cleaner Production Centre (GCPC) highlighted the pioneering efforts of Gujarat in implementing environment management measures including cleaner production, He said that many businesses are already taking action to mitigate climate change by reducing their carbon footprints, but that so far not so much has been done by for adaptation by the enterprises to address the expected climate change impacts. He said that from the pilot work taken up by GCPC in a few industries in Naroda Industrial Estate, under the guidance of GIZ’s experts, they have identified specific vulnerabilities in the industries and identified potentials for addressing climate change impacts. His team made presentation of the case studies from Naroda Industrial Estate.





Mr. Ronjon Chakrabarti an environmental engineer from Adelphi, a research organisation from Germany, explained the science of Climate Change and the vulnerabilities to businesses, both direct and indirect. He explained that climate change impacts could be directly through increased floods, extreme weather events and change of temperatures, as well as indirectly through the effects of direct events on business operation, e.g. due to reduced resources, input materials and market demand. Ms. Cosima Strasser, an economist from Adelphi explained the tool that is available for the businesses to assess their vulnerability, to identify priority measures and accordingly to integrate climate change adaptation considerations into their further development.

Prof. Ashwani Kumar and his team from Centre for Environmental Planning & Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad explained the pilot study taken up by them, with the support of GIZ, for vulnerability assessment for the Naroda Industrial Estate as a whole and to identify the potential solutions for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan. He explained that the vulnerabilities in industrial areas are to be assessed keeping a comprehensive view point on vulnerability parameters including land use pattern, hazards from floods, erosion and other extreme weather conditions, environment, industry profile as well socio-economic aspects . He said that once finalised, the methodology developed for the pilot study could be used for other industrial areas in Gujarat as well as for other parts of the country.

Mr. Ray Jibhai Patel, President of the Naroda Industries Association made a presentation on the achievements for improved environmental management in the industrial estate and said that further infrastructure strengthening efforts that they are already taking or planning to take up in their industrial estate could be oriented towards climate change adaptation. He said that, as for the individual MSMEs, due to smaller size they have to be made aware and supported in identifying vulnerabilities and solutions. Mr Shailesh Patwari, Chairman of the Naroda Enviro Private Ltd., the company that looks after effluent treatment and waste management services in the Naroda Industrial Estate highlighted various measures taken up in Naroda Industrial Estate.

A panel of experts from various fields discussed whether climate change affects businesses in Gujarat and deliberated upon the actions, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in planning and implementing climate change adaptation measures. Prof. N. Varandani, Head of the Department of Environmental Engineering of the L.D. College of Engineering of the Gujarat University said that the businesses will undoubtedly be affected from climate change, especially from water scarcity and hence due adaptative measures have to be taken up. Dr. C.B. Upasani, Director of the Jyoti Om Chemical Research Center Pvt. Ltd., Ankleshwar highlighted some of the practical measures that can be implemented. Mr. Raghu Babu, Senior Technical Advisor from GIZ who has moderated the deliberations of the panellists and the views of the participants, said that it has clearly come out that there are risks associated with climate change impacts for business continuity, while also there are newer business opportunities arising due to demands for new products, processes and services, as well as due schemes and programmes from government for adapting to climate change. He said several solutions exist for implementation and different stakeholders have to come together in the endeavour. He said that key players include the industries themselves, the industrial estate managers, press/media, researches & technical experts, and services providers that could work on public private partnership and other viable business models.

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