

Climate Action through Sustainable Consumption and Production in Asia and Europe

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During the 2015 SWITCH-Asia Networking Event, held in Delhi from 4-6 November, the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions co-hosted two thematic sessions on the link of climate change and sustainable consumption and production. The session, which was introduced by Dr. Patrick Schroeder (Switch-Asia), highlighted the multitude of actions which are being taken by non-state and subnational actors in Asia. Especially the efforts of small and medium sized businesses (SMEs), large companies and civil society to bring about sustainable consumption and production patterns, climate resilient development and a transformation towards a low-carbon economy in India and other Asian developing countries.

The first session was moderated by Dr. Sander Chan (DIE). The presentations and discussions showed that SCP practices are instrumental not only for climate change mitigation, but for a broader approach enabling climate resilient development. Ms. Henriette Faergemann, Climate Change Counsellor EU Delegation India provided an overview of climate change initiatives in EU-India development cooperation and outlook for post-Paris collaboration opportunities. She emphasised the need for new technology partnerships between the EU and India, an important point that was also highlighted in India's INDC.

The crucial linkages and opportunities between SCP and climate change were highlighted by Prof. Shobhakar Dhakal, a Coordinating Lead Author of the IPCC, from the Asian Institute of Technology . Whilst Asian developing countries are now rapidly increasing their emissions compared to industrialised countries, a consumption based accounting of emissions show that emissions from industrialized countries are still higher compared to developing countries. The issue of carbon leakage resulting from international trade can be addressed by establishing sustainable consumption and production patterns. He also emphasised that of the remaining global carbon budget of around 1000 GT CO₂ equivalent, about one third of which could be considered "earmarked" for infrastructure construction in the developing world.

The industrial development taking place in Asia offers huge potentials for business both large and small to employ most efficient technologies available. Mr. Mukesh Gulati, Executive Director of India's MSME Foundation, presented the tangible results of the SWITCH-Asia project "MSME Clusters" in India, which improved working conditions, reduced energy and resource consumption, and improved productivity through low-cost technical upgrades among hundreds of MSMEs in India's fast growing foundry sector.



Concrete examples of local action for climate resilient community development were highlighted by Mr. Debajit Palit, Associate Director, Social Transformation Division of TERI, introducing the success stories of TERI's *Lighting A Billion Lives* initiative which benefits local communities, mitigates climate change and promotes resilience across rural India.

In the session moderated by Dr. Manish Shrivastava from TERI, all speakers emphasised that climate actions undertaken by businesses are a crucial element for any successful mitigation strategy. What stood out was the need for much closer supply chain cooperation to implement climate solutions along whole value chains that ties together SMEs and large multinational companies. The session featured representatives from experts and practitioners cooperating with large businesses in India and SWITCH-Asia projects working with SMEs. Mr. Arupendra Nath Mullick introduced the TERI Council for Business Sustainability which plays an important role for leveraging corporate climate action in India. It launched a corporate vision and roadmap for India's corporate action on climate change for the Paris COP21. Likewise, Mr. Krishnan Pallassana, Director of The Climate Group India, highlighted the role of small and big business in the pursuit of access to clean and affordable energy for all. The Climate Group has brought clean and affordable solar energy to over 60,000 people in 4 states in India. On the more technical level, Ms. Wilasinee Poonuchaphai from GIZ Thailand reflected on the recently completed SWITCH-Asia "Thai Automotive" project which successfully improved energy efficiency and productivity in Thailand's SMEs of the automotive sector and established links with leading European car manufacturers. Ms. Putri Razreena Abdul Razak, from the SWITCH-Asia "SuBuMa" project in Malaysia introduced a number of cutting edge tools for carbon management and accounting in Malaysia's construction materials sector.

The event demonstrated that strong climate action is taking place in Asia and non-state actors such as SMEs, large companies, communities and non-for profit think tanks are engaged in developing innovative solutions. The event also confirmed once again the close link between climate action and the approaches of sustainable consumption and production.

