

Summary of event

EU-India STI Cooperation Days 2012

Water

www.euindiacoop.org/2012

The third edition of the EU-India STI Cooperation Days was held in Hyderabad on 8 and 9 November 2012, with a thematic focus on water-related challenges. This event was jointly organized by New INDIGO, INDIA Gate, EURAXESS links India and EBTC and hosted by the National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI) and the Indo-French Center for Groundwater Research (IFCGR/CEFIRES), which was celebrating 11 years of fruitful and daily collaboration between France and India.

The two-day event brought together more than 150 scientists, policy-makers and representatives of the private sector from Europe and India to discuss the future of Scientific Technology and Innovation Cooperation between both regions, find out more about funding opportunities, strengthen and initiate new scientific collaboration through dedicated brokerage events.

The rich programme offered a wide variety of sessions including key-note speeches from policy-makers, scientific conference, networking event and technology transfer panel discussion.

The cultural event and dinner offered further opportunities to network and build new partnerships.

The discussions were lively throughout the two days, with questions and answers complementing the key note speeches, scientific presentations and panel discussions.

The presentations and conference material are available on the event page www.euindiacoop.org/2012



This event is co-financed by the European Commission via the Seventh Framework Programme



Opening remarks

The EU India STI Cooperation Days 2012 was opened by Dr Shakeel Ahmed, Indo- French Centre for Groundwater Research (IFCGR) & Chief Scientist CSIR NGRI introducing the Programme. His welcoming words were followed by several introduction speeches. Dr Purnima Rupal Scientist, International S&T Affairs Directorate CSIR, introduced CSIR and some highlights of EU India STI Cooperation. Aurélie Pachkoff, EURAXESS links India Information Officer, welcomed the audience on behalf of the organizing committee by introducing the concept and history behind the third edition of the event.



Information about the previous events is available at the cooperation page www.euindiacoop.org.

Professor S.S. Rai Director in charge CSIR- NGRI presented the Institute and expressed the capacity commitment and the willingness to cooperate with Europe.

Keynote Speeches: the Future of EU-India STI Cooperation



Dr Purnima Rupal, Scientist, International S&T Affairs Directorate CSIR, moderated the session which started with a key note speech by Dr Arvind Kumar, Principal Scientific Officer International Cooperation Division, DST. He presented EU India STI Cooperation as “*a strategic partnership driven by principles of symmetry, parity and reciprocity*” and highlighted the four pillars of EU-INDIA collaboration, being “*Talent, Technology, Trust and*

Togetherness”. John Claxon, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission gave the view of the European Commission on the recent developments in EU International Cooperation Policy in Research and Innovation: “*in a multipolar world, where societal challenges are global by nature and STI increasingly internationally connected, international STI collaboration is key.*” With Horizon 2020, the general principle of openness will be maintained, but “*the European Commission will engage in more actively and strategically international collaboration*”.



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Philippe de Taxis du Poët, Minister Counselor Head of Science & Technology, Delegation of the European Union to India talked about the Indo European partnership in Research and Innovation. Dr Taxis du Poet gave his view of the current state of play and raised important questions on the aim of EU India Cooperation. He highlighted the Indo European partnership where International cooperation is a core element of realizing the research agenda. Both regions are ready to bring the cooperation further, and there is a great opportunity to build partnership on common priorities.



Services offered by EU-India Cooperation support activities

Five projects and initiatives working to promote and facilitate EU India STI Cooperation were invited to present their services. The following projects and services were presented; New INDIGO Partnership Programme, Dominique Aymer de la Chevalerie, New INDIGO; Funding opportunities in India, Martina Desole, INDIA GATE; Researchers' Mobility Aurélie Pachkoff, EURAXESS links India; Indian Focal Point Network, Marie Alix Riou, New INDIGO; Towards an India EU Joint House for Science and Innovation Sylvie Inizan, INDIA SI HOUSE and Services provided by NCPs by Surbhi Sharma, EIRC.

Scientific Conference and Poster session



The Scientific Conference was opened by two prominent researchers; Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Department of Geophysics- Andhra University India and Dr. Andrea Nardini- Italian Center for River Restoration, Italy. The session continued with presentations of several scientific collaboration projects between Europe and India. Altogether 4 FP7 projects, 9 EU-India Networking projects financed under the frame of the New INDIGO Networking

Programme (NPP), 1 bilateral project and 1 project financed under the EU-INDIA coordinated call on water presented their cooperation experiences and their first scientific results.

The scientific conference showcased high class research and as several of the scientists expressed it: *“the Scientific Conference allowed for the identification of synergies between research activities and will trigger new promising scientific collaborations in the future.”*

The NPP projects are currently featured as “cooperation stories” and available online on <http://stories.newindigo.eu>.

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9 young scientists were also invited to present their research work as Posters allowing for a better integration of young scientists in EU-India Cooperation.



EU-INDIA Networking Café



The Networking Café attracted much interest. More than 100 participants took part in the networking event between Indian and European researchers interested in water-related challenges. More than 200 meetings were organized in 15 parallel tables to allow European and Indian participants to discuss potential cooperation and exchange of information. The catalogue, which comprises almost all the profiles of conference participant, was distributed and is available online at the event site www.euindiacoop.org/2012



Technology Transfer session: business opportunity in the field of water

The panel session was jointly organized by EBTC and EIRC and aimed at showcasing successful business collaborations and technology transfers between Europe and India in the water and waste water sectors. Water and Wasterwater were presented as major challenges in



India where “*about 80% of water supplied (especially in urban areas) becomes waste water*”. 6 panelists- Mr Vineet Kumar Goyal, Director, Steinbeis Centre for Technology Transfer India, Mr Bobby Kurien, Head, Integrated Environment Services, Ramky Enviro Engineers Ltd, Mr Prabhakar Kumar, Branch Manager, Ion Exchange India Ltd, Hyderabad, Mr M B Reddy, Senior Manager, Jain Irrigation Systems, Hyderabad, Ms Dipti Acharjee, Senior skills and

Education Advisor, British Deputy High Commission, Hyderabad were invited to share their success stories and experience of collaboration with Europe, as well as the challenges of business collaboration.

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Closing remarks

The 2012 edition of EU India STI Cooperation Days were closed by Dominique Aymer de la Chevalerie, Director CNRS Office in India, who expressed his thanks to the hosts, Dr Professor S.S. Rai and Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, as well as to the organization committee, key note speakers and all the volunteers who made the event a success. He closed the event by welcoming everyone to the 4th edition of the EU India STI Cooperation Days to be organized next year in Paris.



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