



SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey for Training of Casting Engineers in India

Society for Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (TARA), part of Development Alternatives (DA) Group along with E-Square Inc., Japan and Kimura Foundry Co., Ltd., Japan conducted the third and final round of feasibility survey across Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru from 3-6 February 2020. The survey aimed at addressing two issues affecting India's development: the shortage of specialised skilled workers in the casting industry and the shortage of high-quality casting products.

The survey was conducted as part of the project "SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Training of Casting Engineers in India" being jointly implemented by Kimura Foundry and E-Square Inc. in association with TARA as the local partner in India. The project is supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The survey team comprised of Kazutoshi Kimura, Takashi Kimura, Mamoru Mike Mizoguchi and Yohei Kobayashi from Kimura Foundry; Kenichi Tamura and Stuart Conerly from E-Square Inc. and Sudhir Sah from DA group.

As part of the survey, the implementation team held meetings with various government and private organisations associated with the foundry industry and skill development. Consultations were held with the senior functionaries of Honda Cars India Limited, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, BSL Castings Pvt. Ltd. (BSL), Snowpack Polymers Pvt. Ltd., BSL Castings Pvt. Ltd. (BSL), Government Tool Room & Training Center (GTTC), Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The highlight of the survey was an in-principle agreement between Kazutoshi Kimura, President, Kimura Foundry and B. S. Raghupathy, Joint Secretary, Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTI) to jointly set up a state-of-the-art Casting Academy in Bengaluru to impart specialised skills and training to engineers and technicians in India. They both agreed on signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the same at the earliest and moving ahead in a time-bound manner.

Overall, the survey was conducted successfully with stakeholders actively participating and providing invaluable inputs for the feasibility study. With the third and final round of the feasibility survey concluded, the project will soon move to the next phase - the Verification Survey.