

Decarbonising Cement Industry – The Public–Private Partnership Approach

Development Alternatives (DA) hosted the 24th “trialogue 2047” on “Decarbonising the Cement Industry – the Public–Private Partnership Approach”. The event was held at India International Centre, New Delhi on 23 June, 2022. trialogue 2047 by Development Alternatives is a series of intellectual encounters that envisions a century of India as a nation, going beyond the conventional two-sided debate format. It aims to be a forum that can engage with a well-informed audience to identify new directions India must choose and the policies and action it must adopt to accelerate a transition towards a sustainable tomorrow. It aimed to bring to light the urgent need to decarbonise the cement industry, which is considered as one of the biggest contributors to environmental pollution. The “trialogue 2047” brought together key stakeholders of this sector, including representatives from cement industries, national and international organizations, academia, and the government, on one platform.



From left to right: Mr Shrashtant Patara, CEO, DA & Executive Vice President, Development Alternatives Group; Dr Arun Kumar, President Emeritus, Mentor-in-Chief, Development Alternatives; Mr S Chandrasekar, IFS, Member Secretary, Bihar State Pollution Control Board; Ms Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; Dr Mukesh Kumar, General Manager (R&D), JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd; Dr Soumen Maity, Vice President, Development Alternatives; Mr Anand Shukla, PhD, Sr. Thematic Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Embassy of Switzerland

The eminent speakers in the session included Ms Ruchika Drall, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India; Mr S Chandrasekar, IFS, Member Secretary, Bihar State Pollution Control Board; Dr Jonathan Demenge, Head of Cooperation Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (India); Dr Sachin Kumar, Associate Director, Energy Efficiency, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation; Dr Mukesh Kumar, General Manager (R&D), JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd; Mr Shrashtant Patara, CEO, DA & Executive Vice President, Development Alternatives Group; and Dr Soumen Maity, Vice President, Development Alternatives.

During the session, Ms Ruchika Drall said, “Industry’s transition to low carbon pathway is important to meet the India’s goal to net zero by 2047. Leadership for industry transition (LeadIT) is one such initiative by the government of India to support transition of hard to abate sectors.”

Mr S Chandrasekar said, “In order to become a carbon-neutral state by 2040, Bihar is working on a long-term strategy for low carbon and climate-resilient development, partnering with organisations such as The Development Alternatives Group. To reduce emissions from the bricks sector, we promote fly ash technology in the state. There are over 500 fly ash brick enterprises in the state. We have also initiated GHG (greenhouse gases) inventorisation of the cement plants in Bihar. LC³ will play a significant role in the state as well as in the country to minimise emissions.”



Dr Mukesh Kumar said, “Our company is involved in decarbonisation of cement production in various ways. JKL has produced 5 mt of LC³ cement in 2016 in collaboration with IIT Delhi and TARA.”

Dr Jonathan Demenge shared that LC³ is one of the biggest contributions towards decarbonising the cement sector. It is a programme which is based on collaboration between IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, TARA (DA Group), and The University of Cuba.

Dr Sachin Kumar explained how most emissions come from 'processing' in cement industries. He suggested that the government should come forward to build a clear pathway to decarbonise the industry.

Dr Soumen Maity said, “We have been working for over a decade to reach this juncture where a synergy between public and private partnership can be created. With the “dialogue 2047” we hope the PPP approach will facilitate the final goal of decarbonisation.”

The discussion arrived at a consensus that the best way forward is to adopt transformative technologies that help in decarbonising the cement industry. This needs a strong commitment and cooperation on the part of the cement industry, government, institutions, civil society, and academia.