



2018 International Tech4Dev Conference, Switzerland

The Development Alternatives (DA) Group was invited to the Tech4Dev 2018 Conference organised from 27th – 29th June 2018, in EPFL, Switzerland. This is the biennial flagship event of the UNESCO Chair in Technologies for Development hosted by CODEV. The conference focuses on the potential of technology solutions to advance inclusive social and economic development in the Global South. Tech4Dev 2018 put the challenges and the potential of the Global South at the centre of discussions, as reflected by its theme, 'Voices of the Global South'. Its objective was to introduce Limestone Calcined Clay Cement (LC3) - an alternative to the cement that is normally used in construction, contributing 5-8% to global GHG emissions. This new cementitious system that emerged in Cuba and India, supported by Switzerland, is based on the synergy between calcine clays and waste limestone in portland blended cement system, which enables up to 50% of clinker substitution. The second objective of the conference was to present the progress of the implementation of technologies for the manufacturing of LC³ cement. The three-day event also included a Breakout Session, 'Rethinking Cement for Better Housing', organised on the second day by the Development Alternatives Group, in partnership with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Central University "Marta Abreu" de Las Villas, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras). This session was chaired by Dr. Soumen Maity (Assistant Vice President, DA Group) and Fernando Martirena (Ecosur Cuba). Herein, Dr. Maity presented on the 'role of cement in housing programmes in developing countries: the academic-public-private partnerships', to audiences including Dr. Kurt Rhyner (Ecosur, Ecuador), Peter Schramm (GIZ, Malawi) and Dr. Urs Heierli (MSD Consultant, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland). This was followed by a presentation by Srijani Hazra (Manager, DA) on 'large scale housing delivery solutions in India'. Through the discussion spearheaded by the DA speakers, it was established that the introduction of this technology will have a high impact on developing countries to augment their infrastructure needs in an environment friendly manner. They also emphasised on the contribution of LC³ to sustainable growth in countries through a strong participation of the private sector.