

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



Meeting held at Foundry Cluster Development Association (FCDA)

From 27th July to 1st August 2023, Society for Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (TARA), along with E-Square Inc., Japan and Kimura Foundry Co., Ltd., Japan, conducted a series of meetings across Kolkata, and Bengaluru. The present survey aims to address two issues affecting India's development: the shortage of specialised skilled workers in the casting industry and the shortage of high-quality casting products. These interactive meetings brought together industry leaders, Foundry Cluster Development Association (FCDA), Indian Iron and Steel Sector Skill Council (IISSSC), and Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI).

The survey was conducted as part of the project "SDGs Business Model Verification 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 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The survey team comprised Mr. Takashi Kimura, Mr. Mamoru Mizoguchi, Mr. Masaaki Sugiura, Mr. Yuki Hosozawa, and Mr. Kenzaburo Nonaka from Kimura Foundry, Kenichi Tamura and Mr. Stuart Conerly from E-Square Inc. and Mr. Sudhir Sah, Mr. Nitish Kumar Saini from TARA.

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 Mr. Vijay S Beriwal, Director, FCDA Foundry Cluster Development Association, and its members; Mr. Sushim Banerjee, Chief Executive Officer, Indian Iron & Steel Sector Skill Council (IISSSC); and Mr. B. S. Raghupathy, Joint Secretary, Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI)

The consultations focused on promoting understanding of the project and collecting information on the skilling and manufacturing needs of the foundry industry. The investment environment, regulations, approvals, and potential funding support involved in setting up the Casting Academy were also discussed with the stakeholders. To identify potential training partners, field visits to training centers were undertaken to collect information on the existing and planned infrastructural facilities and the courses being offered at present.

The deliberations dug deep into the practical intricacies of skill development, its monetisation, and course verification. The roles of significant entities such as the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) were illuminated. NCVET's potential role in standardising vocational education in India added to the discourse.

Overall, the survey was conducted successfully, with stakeholders actively participating and providing invaluable inputs for the feasibility study. The need for the study and the proposed solutions were validated by all the stakeholders and assured the team of providing all required support for the successful implementation of the project. The Kimura Foundry lab is set to be inaugurated on the 4th of October. This collaboration between Kimura Foundry and KGTTI symbolises a dynamic effort to augment skill development within the foundry sector.



Representatives from TARA, E-Square and Kimura foundry at KGTTI