

Indo-European Meet on “Resource Efficiency in the Aluminum Industry with a Focus on Effective Utilization of Red Mud (Bauxite Residue)” : 19.09.2019

PRESS NOTE

Ministry of Mines (MoM) in association with Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC), European Union-Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-REI) & European Union (EU) organized an interactive Indo-European Meet on “Resource Efficiency in the Aluminum Industry with a Focus on Effective Utilization of Red Mud (Bauxite Residue)” on 19th September, 2019 at Hotel Taj Mansingh (Hotel Taj Mahal), New Delhi. The meet was inaugurated by Shri Anil Kumar Nayak, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines in the presence of Dr Amit Saran, Director (Mines), Dr.T.K Chand, CMD, NALCO, Dr P K Banerjee, President & CTO, HINDALCO, Mr Tapan Mappat, Head (Innovation), VEDANTA, Dr. Dieter Mutz, Team Leader, EU-REI and Dr Anupam Agnihotri, Director, JNARDDC.

The delegation of experts from European Union enlightened about global and EU developments in the sector and specifically about ongoing Horizon 2020 Program under which three major projects (EnsureAl, RemovAl & SCALE) are in operation with aim to bulk utilize of bauxite residues (red mud). The delegation is part of European Union’s Resource Efficiency Initiative for India (EU-REI) which aims at supporting India in the implementation of the United Nations global Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) agenda by way of adapting international standards and best practices in business on resource efficiency and fostering the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources. The European perspective was put forward by EU experts - Ms Katy Tsesmelis, International Aluminium Institute (IAI) ; Mr György (George) Bánvölgyi, Hungary ; Mr Ugo Miretti, ITRB Group ; Mr Casper van der Eijk, SINTEF, Norway ; Dr. Papadimitriou Konstantinia, Greece and summarized by Dr. Dieter Mutz, EU-REI.

Production of 1 tonne of primary aluminium leads to generation of about 8-10 tonne of waste materials, such as bauxite residue (red mud), fly ash, spent pot liner (SPL), dross etc. Although all these materials generated in huge quantities (millions of tons) have great potential for value added applications, most of them are discarded or dumped at specific landfills. The economic system, aimed at minimising waste and making the most of resources, is the need of the hour. Mr Nayak, JS(Mines) requested JNARDDC to come out with a document of actionable points at the end of the meet with a view to address this global issue.

The meet had wide spread participation by top executives from all three primary aluminium producing companies (NALCO, VEDANTA & HINDALCO), representatives from various organizations (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, CPCB, SPCB, BARC, IBM, TERI, BIS and GIZ etc) as well as from user industry mainly Cement Manufacturers Association where red mud can be consumed in bulk quantity. Day long deliberations were held and it was unanimously decided to focus all efforts for effective bulk utilization of red mud in an economical manner with necessary government support which will be a win-win situation for all the stakeholders.