

South – South Cooperation

UNIDO Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation in India

Some of the major players in global industry and trade today are the developing countries – a group simply known as the South. In the last two and a half decades, the share of the South in world manufacturing and exports has doubled and South-South trade is rapidly increasing. If the rise of some countries in the South is to be harnessed for the mutual benefit of all, it calls for a qualitative enhancement of South-South cooperation. To tackle new challenges in the areas of trade, investment promotion and industrial development, new institutions and systems are needed and UNIDO responded with a project to launch South-South Cooperation Centres in some of the more advanced developing countries like India, China, South Africa, Egypt and Brazil.

In February 2007, the first UNIDO Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation (UCSSIC) was formally launched in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO, said: “ The role of South-South cooperation in linking development, expansion of trade and poverty reduction is not a new subject in the international development dialogue. However, it is faced with new challenges and arguably has a greater potential today than ever before”. In his address, Mr. Kamal Nath, India’s Commerce and Industry Minister, observed: “ India has as much to learn as to teach, as much to receive as to give. Mutual benefit is the defining phrase. We see the South-South Centre as a project which is global in its reach and scope”.

The UNIDO Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation:

- Assists in adapting successful policies and practices among developing countries in attracting investment, promoting trade and developing industries;
- Disseminates best practices among MSMEs, thus making them more productive and competitive;
- Transfers modern and suitable technologies and tailors them to the specific needs of recipient countries;
- Improves networking among developing countries in investment promotion and industrial development; and
- Diffuses best practices in South-South trade with export promotion based on international quality standards.

UCSSIC Projects Approved/ Under Implementation

Project

1. **Sanjaya Lall Memorial Conference on India-Africa Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Investment** - (13 African countries – Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia)

Status:

Implemented in September 2007.

28 delegates from 13 African countries participated in the 5-day Conference.

Apart from training sessions on Trade and Industrial Policy, it also had six focus modules on:

- a) Cluster development strategies
- b) ICT applications in industry
- c) Cost-effective housing and building materials
- d) Renewable energy
- e) Pharmaceuticals
- f) Leather

2. **India-China Technology and Investment Cooperation Initiative – Energy Efficient and Environment-friendly Stoves**

Status

Phase-1 implemented.

Workshop-cum-demonstration was held in May 2008 in cooperation with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), attended by delegates from China, entrepreneurs, representatives from 8 state governments and NGOs.

Phase-11:

2 entrepreneurs have been identified to visit China to discuss a joint venture, and one state government agency (UREDA – Uttaranchal Renewable Energy Development Agency) has also expressed interest to popularize the technology in Uttaranchal.

Mission to China proposed for 15-19 September 2008.

3. Bamboo: Bamboo Skills Development and Demonstration Centre in Timor-Leste

Status

Under implementation.

Preparatory mission was undertaken to Timor-Leste from 11-16 August 2008 during which a national Institutional Partner was identified and a core operational team selected.

Several field visits were undertaken and discussions with stakeholders held. Detailed Work Plan for the period August 2008 – July 2009 was finalized in consultation with the Timor-Leste government.

Projects Ready/ Awaiting PAC Approval

4. Ethanol: Development of Commercially Viable & Industrially Feasible Clean Technology for the Production of Ethanol Fuel utilizing Cashew Apple as a Renewable Feedstock – (India and Brazil)

Status

NRCC (National Research Centre for Cashew, Puttur and KAU (Kerala Agricultural University) have been identified as Research Partners. Research proposals have been formulated, and incorporated in the project strategy. Co-funding from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India, to the tune of US \$ 100,000 has been tied up. Approval of PAC is awaited.

5. Renewable Energy for Productive Uses and Rural Transformation in Africa (Nigeria, Benin)

Status

Final Service Summary Sheet (SSS) under submission, Approval of PAC awaited.

6. Upgradation, Modernisation and Revitalisation of the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), Kenya

Final SSS under submission. Approval of PAC awaited.