

Special Address
By
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Thank you very much and thank you Dr. Jigar Shah for such an interesting overview of the Conference. I very much want to thank for the opportunity to speak today. I would like to start by acknowledging such a distinguished panel of speakers, Mr. Mauskar, Mr. Shatrughna Singh, Dr. Chouksy and Mr. Viswanathan. I am very honoured to be part of this panel. This effort is underpinning of economic growth, industrial development and improving living standard. At the moment, of course, there is no practical substitute for concrete, as a durable material in many applications. I was asked partly, what Australian interest was there in this conference. We are building understanding, knowledge and expertise and mutual lessons, because concrete has such a critical under-pinning to us. It challenges on the environment, in ensuring production is self-sufficient and environmental friendly as it can be.

Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, and Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Abbott, both have identified themselves to be infrastructure prime Ministers, both countries need to upgrade their infrastructure. Of course, concrete would be a key feature of that. So, finding ways where we could continue to produce concrete, there is environment impact. So, there is response to the changing needs of the industry and the end uses would be critical. Finding ways of eco-efficiency, producing more cement with Alternate fuel resources, producing less waste and pollution is absolutely critical. So, this conference would discuss reducing its environmental impact and also increasing productivity and efficiency of manufacturing process and decreasing the energy usage. It would not only reduce environmental effect but also increase profitability and economic sustainability of the industry. Over these elements, critical points continue to be access to cost effective cement, and cement products, and addressing the environmental issues is critical. It is a mighty challenge facing the industry in India and Australia.

The cement industry in Australia obviously is essentially smaller than in India but we continue to look at innovations and we look to learning from India. The work of cement production in Australia fluctuated, and at the moment is

stable. In 2009-10, we produced 8.9 million tonnes, it rose up to 10 million tonnes in 2014-15. The industry is generating revenue of 2.3 billion dollars. So, you could understand the scale of the industry there. But like India, Australian cement manufacturers are looking to competitiveness and respond to new and innovative application of cement manufacturing process and to reduce the inputs resource energy demand, and environmental impact. That is leading the industry to look at new and innovative ways of how to approach this. Australian industry recognizes adopting sustainability and energy efficiency as critical for the industry. 90% of production of cement uses alternate fuel. Energy recovery and alternate material is also important and it reduces fossil fuel requirement, to achieve the mission. Improving technology, and increased use of byproducts in the industry has resulted in significant reduction in total emission per tonne of cement produced. Byproducts used in Australian industry include fly ash from power stations as well as granulated blast furnace slag from steel mills. Other examples of alternate fuels and materials being used in the Australian industry include oils and solvents and the material from aluminum smelters, another byproduct. Utilising these alternate raw materials, helps reduce the need for traditional inputs of limestone for cement and environmental impact of cement industry is also reduced. Throughout Australia cement industry is looking to innovate and increase efficiency of the industry and certainly our participation here is very much part of learning about Indian experience and provide opportunities where India and Australia can collaborate primarily in expertise, understanding and experience and others can be worked. Incidentally you are working with other international partners. So, it is very much a learning thing for us and we are here to understand the experience in India, and how Australia and India can potentially work together. Particularly innovative technologies that are being employed in the Australian cement industry. The other area of course is, Australia is world leader in mining technology. Many of these technologies and expertise have potential application within the cement manufacturing industry. Obviously many of the Australian companies in the mining and materials processing are already established in India and are already working with major Indian mining companies and manufacturing companies in India. These Indian industries are utilizing technology and expertise to both increase their efficiency and reduce their environmental impact and ultimately, of course, ensure that they are sustainable and profitable over the long-term. Examples of innovations employed in the mining sector and material handling sector are taken to the cement manufacturing, some of these include co-processing also software,

resource modelling, mine manager, also software expertise, resource expertise, looking at the energy efficiency of manufacturing processes. This also has a number of proprieties like concrete technology which would have application, potential take up in the Indian industry.

One of the key areas, very much part of the theme of this conference, is the use of alternative materials as part of cement manufacturing process. An example of this, the existing plants can be converted to use fly ash and organic propriety liquids also added to produce, sustainable cement, to make stronger, durable and cure faster than the traditional Portland cement. So, these technologies would reduce energy usage and allow carbon footprint of the cement being reduced. The application of these technologies, can afford new avenues of cooperation partnership between India and Australia.

We very much look forward to the deliberations of the Conference, and certainly, as I said, it is not so much about export or selling to India. The underlying idea is very much about collaboration in terms of expertise, mutual learning and so on. I am very happy and grateful to participate in this conference.

Thank you very much.