

Workshop on Next Generation Sustainable Freight Transportation

Under the aegis of UKIERI, a very successful workshop on “Next Generation Sustainable Freight Transportation” was held at IIT Delhi on 9 August 2013. The partnership brings together University of Sheffield UK, Rutgers University, USA and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India and combines their expertise in the field of freight transportation to ensure long term sustainability of freight movement across three continents.

Through this partnership, state-of-the art methodology and systems for sustainable freight transportation in UK-USA-India regions will be identified. The main objective is to establish practices and processes for reducing the environmental impact caused by the freight industry. Techniques for energy efficiency management, fuel saving strategies, waste management and pollution control will be



identified for the three principle freight modes - ship, truck, and rail. The workshop was aimed at identifying and discusses various aspects of Sustainable Freight Transportation in the three continents.

The workshop kick-started with an insightful key-note address by Prof. Prem Vrat, Vice Chancellor ITM University Gurgaon and Founder Director, IIT Roorkee. In this inaugural session, Mr. K Narayan Group GM, Strategic Planning, Container Corporation of India presented the big canvass of freight transportation in India. Later, Prof. SG Deshmukh, Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology & Management, Gwalior and Prof. G. Raghuram (IIM Ahmedabad) sensitized on the “Need of Information System and Technology” and “Policy & Regulation Issues”

in freight transportation. There were many thought provoking presentations by the “Captains of Corporate World” by Mr. S Maitra (Maruti Suzuki India Limited), Dr. Raj Sivakumar (Jet Airways), Mr. Ramji Krishnan (Mundra International Container Terminal), Mr. Amit Buddhiraja (Utopia Freight Logistics), Mr. Devesh Shankar (Xerox India), Mr. Arnab Mitra (KPMG), Mr. SL Ganapathi (Logistics Plus Limited), Mr. Randeep Mathur (DORF Kettle Chemical Ind.).



The workshop was attended by more than 100 experts from the field of Freight Transportation. The leading speakers represented almost-all stakeholders in this area- Academics: Faculty, Researchers and Students; Logistics Service Provider; Shipping Company; Container Corporation; Airways; Railways; SMEs; Steel Company; Chemical company, Bulk-material handler; Funding Agency; Consumers; Innovators, etc.

Workshop covered all important modes of freight transportation- Sea, Rail, Air, and Road. The areas of concerns that were discussed in depth were infrastructure, policy & regulation, logistics providers, Information & communication technology, use of optimization and simulation models, DSS platforms for supporting practicing managers, environment issues like low carbon supply chain, multi-modal transportation systems, human &

organizational issues, research funding opportunities, yield management, inventory issues and JIT, warehousing & cross-docking, problems faced by OEMs, etc.