

ASEM – Roundtable on “Energy Efficiency in Green Buildings” September 5, 2014, Hyderabad, India

The ASEM Roundtable on “Energy Efficiency in Green Buildings” was held during the 12th Edition of Green Building Congress at Hyderabad on 5th September 2014.

The meeting was attended by over 40 senior officials of leading companies from the Indian Green Building sector and ASEM countries.

Many of the participants attended the Green Building Congress award distribution function, organized by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), which preceded the Roundtable. As many as 90 awards were given to Indian and foreign companies in India for meeting platinum, gold and silver ratings in terms of design, construction and environmental performance of their buildings. These included commercial existing and new buildings, factories, schools as also residential buildings in India.

The ASEM Roundtable was anchored by Executive Director CII- Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre Mr. S Raghupathy and included remarks by Chairman IGBC Dr. Prem C Jain, Group Director Building and Construction Authority of Singapore Mr. Koh Lin Ji, CEO World Green Building Council Ms. Jane Hanley, Joint Secretary (ASEAN Multilateral), Ministry of External Affairs Ms. Renu Pall, and Vice Chairperson, CII, Hyderabad Ms. Vanitha Datla.

This was followed by an Open Discussion on sharing of best practices, technology exchange and facilitating business opportunities amongst ASEM countries.

The Open Discussion was intensive and in the context of the various sessions of the Green Building Congress over September 4-6, 2014.

1.0. Objective of the Roundtable

The main objectives of the Roundtable were:

1. To identify focus areas for cooperation in the area of Energy Efficiency in the Green Building sector among ASEM countries;

2. To identify initiatives, which need to be undertaken for increased cooperation among ASEM countries.

2.0. Recommendations

Based on the deliberations at this Roundtable and discussions with stakeholders, IGBC recommended the following:

1. *Identification of specific requirements in India related to construction of Green buildings, and related products, technologies and services focusing on Energy Efficiency:*

The potential for collaboration between ASEM members was endorsed at the Roundtable and the work already underway in India, showcased in the Green Building Congress, was acknowledged. It was agreed that with an increasing number of green buildings being built in India and elsewhere in ASEM countries, there is ever increasing demand for products and services related to green buildings. It was felt, however, that international collaboration could help to expand the base and add to the manufacturing capacities for energy efficiency technologies across ASEM countries. It was proposed that a comprehensive list of requirements related to Green Building equipment and technology be prepared, through wide stakeholder consultation, initially focusing on energy conservation. Later, the requirements would need to be prioritized for taking up specific actions such as facilitation of information sharing, technology transfer etc. amongst the ASEM countries.

2. *Organizing regional meets at Asia Pacific or South East Asian level as a beginning of a process*

Many participants emphasized the topicality of technology and suggested that the list of invitees be widened so that there could be comparative expertise within the same climatic zone. For instance, it was felt that if Scandinavian companies were asked for insulation solutions, they would tend to transpose technology and practices relevant to their cold climates even in the tropical climate of countries such as India, where such insulation technology would help keep the heat out in summer but also not allow the natural heating of buildings using the winter sun. It was felt that selecting a climatically similar set of countries together with “advanced”

practitioners of energy efficiency technologies in western countries would allow a cross fertilization of ideas and greater topicality of the technology suggested. Company representatives pointed out that tropical countries share a climate which brings with it common specific issues that need to be handled while designing, developing and operating green buildings.

There was interest in hearing about indigenous, albeit simple solutions in developing countries, such as the use of black versus white cars, painting of roof tops to reflect light using blue or white paint, use of LEDs rather than CFLs, etc. The urgency of standardization and certification was emphasized by many of the representatives. It was also felt that PPP models provide a way for meeting the high cost of initial investment, and that Government support was critical for expanding the outreach of such technologies and standards. A suggestion was made that town planners at the local level must be given exposure to best practices elsewhere in the world so that they could be ‘motivated’ to adopt similar technologies and practices. It was also felt that building envelope administrations for such buildings would be a more efficient way to integrate systems for energy efficiency.

3. *Formation of network of Green Building Councils of Asia Pacific/ SE Asian countries - tropical countries.*

The formation of a network was proposed by IGBC for extensive cooperation, detailed interactions on challenges related to green buildings in tropical countries and also to facilitate business-to-business interactions.

The network would initially focus on energy efficiency aspects related to green building.

The network would gradually expand to include the following:

- a. Technologies for affordable housing: To meet the goal of “housing for all”, India, for instance, needs to focus immediately on the affordable housing sector. To facilitate sharing of knowledge related to the requirements of affordable housing, the technologies related to making green affordable housing, and other relevant topics, it was proposed

that delegations of relevant stakeholders can visit countries which have large affordable housing programs.

- b. Green products and equipment: As noted earlier, increased demand for green buildings implies increased demand for green products and equipment.
 - c. Smart Green cities: Many countries, including India, are looking at development of numerous smart green cities over the next two decades. Smart cities are complex entities involving intelligent technology and innovative ideas and design. Understanding the nature of operation of a smart city first hand is important to better design. It was proposed that visits may be undertaken to member countries of ASEM (such as the Netherlands) for this purpose.
 - d. Green metros, etc.: Many other concepts like green metros are gaining importance around the world. It was proposed that Business delegations visit countries where such concepts have been implemented.
4. *Development of a web-based portal for facilitating interaction and collaboration among the ASEM countries stakeholders through webinars, discussion forums, etc. – focus on energy efficiency aspects of green buildings*

Discussions at the Roundtable supported that awareness of energy efficiency technologies needs to be taken beyond the confines of such expert meetings to the individual, to the youth and the average citizen level, by using Internet and e-portals to publicize news digests and periodicals on the subject. There was a suggestion for a common platform to be developed so as to widen awareness levels. It was felt that this would make the technologies popular, expand their footprint and encourage mass consumption. It was recommended that actions, therefore:

- a. Facilitate business-to-business and business-to-customer interactions: The web portal will enable businesses to communicate with other businesses and end-users/ customers.

- b. The portal will host regular webinars on relevant topics, hosted by experts. The portal will also provide public forums for discussions on specific topics related to green buildings.
- c. The web portal can host all relevant technical details related to Green Buildings, focusing on energy efficiency.

5. *Organizing business delegations and missions amongst ASEM countries* to enable sharing of best practices, technology and services transfer.

3.0. Conclusions

The Roundtable was supported by participants as *the beginning of a process to intensify dialogue and exchange of technologies* to meet objectives of energy efficiency in the building sector.

As part of this initiative, as a first step, CII-IGBC proposes to organize a one-day conference exclusively for further facilitating cooperation and experience sharing on Energy Efficiency in Green Buildings among the ASEM countries, coinciding with the Green Building Congress 2015. This would involve ASEM Governments and Industry representatives and also include a B2B format to facilitate joint ventures and business tie-ups.

IGBC would be glad to submit a proposal for consideration for facilitation of implementation of the above recommendations.