

5th CEOs Meet Organized by IIF at Mumbai -12th Apr 2016

IIF organized the 5th CEOs meet on 12th April, 2016 at Hotel ITC Maratha, Mumbai. Mr. Ajay Shankar, Former Secretary, DIPP was invited as the Chief Guest for interaction with the CEOs, which was attended by approx 40 participants from leading foundries besides other special guests from across the country.

Mr. Vikas Garg, Chairman, Policy Advocacy Committee, IIF in his welcome address mentioned that the CEOs meet has emerged as a very important platform for fruitful interaction amongst the captains of foundry industry for sharing their vision and thoughts on various burning issues and for guiding policy initiatives including the policy advocacy with the Government.

Mr. Vikas Garg highlighted several outcomes of IIF's policy advocacy in the recent past, such as, reduction in import duty of silica sand and brass scrap in the recent budget, clearance of several mines in AP, re-categorization of foundries in orange category & consent to operate approval for 10 years and others. He also mentioned that IIF has also taken with the Ministry of Power for suitable amendments in the Electricity Act and with Ministry of Commerce for some of the inequitable FTAs. It was highlighted that a PR agency has been engaged for brand building and better image of foundry industry and IIF. He also appealed to CEOs to nominate their senior representatives for active interaction with the IIF and also to extend their support to various IIF initiatives.

Mr. Vikas Garg also mentioned that a committee will be constituted which will be headed by Prof. B. Ravi to co-ordinate with NIFFT Ranchi for skill development and another committee for coordinating with CITD Hyderabad regarding low cost automation. He also stressed for the need for foundry specific research with Industry-Institute partnership.

President Mr. K. Samaraj in his special address mentioned that the CEOs meet is intended to hear the voices and concerns of the CEOs to guide IIF's various initiatives. He informed that 4 focus areas have been shortlisted for the discussions & inputs from the CEOs present in the meet i.e. Markets, Technology, Skill Development & Environment.

Markets – President Mr. K. Samaraj stated that while global growth projections are likely to be between 1-2%, India is poised for minimum growth of 7-7.5%. He raised question whether we should focus on domestic market or overseas market, especially when new sectors like defence and others are opening up. Mr. Rajiv Kumar of Simplex Castings stated that export is the need of country. Exports need to be encouraged by higher incentives. Mr. Kiran Patil of Ghatge Patil Industries Ltd. responded that profile of customers is highly mature and organized and most organized & professionally managed foundries have same quality & service levels for domestic buyers and importers.

.Mr K Samaraj mentioned that in near future, IIF will consider developing training programmes on Costing techniques covering various factors which sometimes get overlooked which will guide & help the Foundrymen. Mr Amish Panchal mentioned that some effort was made about two years back. IIF will review & consider developing suitable training programme on costing techniques going forward as mentioned by President, IIF

Technology – President Mr. K. Samaraj mentioned the importance of integrated production process, analysis of data, & control, and how we use the latest technologies like 3D printing, robotics, in process Quality Control to make our operations competitive and world class. Prof. Ravi dwelt on technology changes in the area of foundries and how it should be used to make foundry sector more competitive. He mentioned about smart Foundry and use of low cost sensors in data analytics for smart Foundry. Prof. Ravi also informed about the project undertaken by them for smart foundry 2020, which is a five year demonstrative project.

Skill Development – President, Mr. K Samaraj briefed the CEOs about various initiatives of skill development undertaken by IIF. He further informed that IIF has developed 9 modules on various operational areas of foundry operations which have been translated into 6 regional languages besides English and will cover 70-80% of shop floor workers working in foundries. 3 more modules are under progress. The trainers have been identified and the programme is expected to be launched at national level in June 2016. The training will be provided at the doorstep of the foundries having same standard throughout the country. Mr. Samaraj mentioned that in the first year IIF has been planned to train 1000 shop floor workers, which will be up scaled to 5000 in 2017 and 10000 per annum subsequently. Mr. Gumaste of Kirloskar Ferrous mentioned that the workers learn 80% from the supervisors and hence supervisor training should be done on priority. Mr. Kiran Patil suggested that IIF should sell training packages. He also suggested that IIF should develop training modules on cost effective technology, energy efficiency etc. Mr. K. Samaraj assured that going forward IIF will take these up.

Environment – President Mr. K. Samaraj mentioned that the foundry industry will have to focus on environmental protection, adoption of greener technology and needs to find solution for sand dumping. Mr. Ajit Mutha of Mutha Founders stated that sand recycling has been done by several units and waste sand is being used constructively for manufacturing bricks by adding cement etc. for construction purposes. Mr. Gumaste mentioned that most of the large foundries are having good environment systems already in place and therefore the categorization from red to orange should be extended to large foundries also for which detailed justification is required.

Mr. Ajay Shankar, Chief Guest in his concluding remarks appreciated the IIF initiatives on training and suggested that graphics may be added suitably to make the training more attractive and easy to assimilate. He mentioned that this is a unique initiative by IIF which is probably the first of its kind by any industry association. He also noted the various outcomes of policy advocacy and mentioned that IIF can possibly take up regarding identification of pollution norms, system of compliance etc. He also stressed the need to ability to disseminate internally information on latest technologies and best practices.

Mr. D S Chandrashekar of Shanthala Spherocast mentioned that power & labour cost are only going up in Karnataka. Responding to this, Mr. Ajay Shanker stated that industrial tariff in India is much higher as compared to US and China. He also mentioned that foundry industry may go for captive power generation & take up policy advocacy with SCRCs and get special relaxation.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to CEOs.