

Capacity building of LSPs in foundries

January 27, 2010, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

Under the REEEP-supported project for promotion of DBC in the Coimbatore foundry cluster, a key component is to build capacities at cluster-level. This entails strengthening the capabilities of local service providers (LSPs) – fabricators and technicians – in interpretation of design drawings, fabrication of equipment with strict quality norms, system commissioning, and maintenance and troubleshooting.

TERI worked with APITCO Ltd (a consultancy organization implementing a SIDBI-supported project to promote business development services in the Coimbatore cluster) in order to evolve a plan and structure for LSP training programs. TERI held initial discussions with entrepreneurs and LSPs on 27th January 2010 in the cluster. The program was attended by around 20 LSPs and representatives from COSMAFAN Marketing Society (an association of foundry units that arranges raw material supplies to its member-foundries) and IIF (Institute of Indian Foundrymen).

TERI conducted the technical sessions of the training program. The first session included a general description of the DBC and its advantages vis-à-vis the conventional coke-based cupola. The second session focused on the characteristics of the TERI-design DBC and on issues relevant to fabrication of the DBC and related systems such as accurate interpretation of design drawings, oxy-acetylene welding for castings, and so on. This joint training was in effect a synergy of capacity building initiatives at cluster level by different organizations: APITCO, REEEP, SDC, SIDBI, and TERI. More such synergetic initiatives are envisaged in future.