

# Workshop on 'Building CoSMiLE'

## 1 Date & Venue

10:30 AM – 2:00 PM, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2006, at Seminar Hall, TERI

## 2 Background

The CoSMiLE initiative takes into its ambit a large number of stakeholders. An entity capable of influencing policy dialogue could be as much a part of the network as say a brick maker in a rural area. Each would have their own interests in CoSMiLE, their own contributions to make to the effort.

Earlier discussions on the subject had identified Communities of Practice (CoPs) as an appropriate way of building CoSMiLE. This approach has come up in various discussions and is seen as an important tool for 'Building CoSMiLE'. However, that is not all that is to CoSMiLE. There has been the generation of a large amount of knowledge within the initiative and the group also sees sharing this knowledge with the larger audience, an important aspect of this initiative.

A discussion session was held in August 2005, to form some image of the proposed platform. A first cut strategy was proposed, that would:

- Focus on industry clusters
- Start with few pilots
- Emphasize on sharing tacit knowledge
- Bring like-minded people together
- Strengthen existing industry associations with knowledge
- Focus on traditional knowledge sharing methods

Capacity building and knowledge sharing, with enterprises and general stakeholders, emerged as important perspectives of the group when it met to take further the concept in January 2006. In case of workers, capacity building and ameliorative action were considered important. Additionally the team also saw building its own capabilities to deal with challenges an important issue. Discussions on the building of CoSMiLE centered on the following questions:

- Which is the priority target group?
- What is the physical process of membership to this 'informal' platform?
- What are the responsibilities and benefits of the members?

The participants also shared their ideas of what CoSMiLE should be like. Some of the ideas that came up were:

- the platform should aim to become a 'knowledge hub' for SMiE sector
- it can think of developing itself to become an advisory group on activities related to SMiEs

- proactive engagement with various agencies dealing with SMiE sector should be attempted.
- cluster level events will help to build the network
- CoSMiLE should develop a roster of competences for the selected SMiE sectors
- the project should study how other similar initiatives are structured

Given this basis, the CoSMiLE team is now organizing a one day moderated session on 10 June 2006 with the following broad objectives:

1. Identification of stakeholders, types, and roles
2. Clear objectives for the network - this may be different for different stakeholders/sectors, but must be clear
3. Identifying a timeline for development of the network, and milestones for next two-three years
4. Identifying initial activities for promotion, sharing learning
5. Developing a branding / identity development strategy

The initial process is the acceptance / ownership of the concept and the strategy itself by the initial set of stakeholders - TERI, SDC, and the CoSMiLE Steering Group. This moderated session on developing an understanding of “How to build CoSMiLE?” will be moderated by Mr. Ram Bhatt, O&S, Bangalore.

The above event will act as a precursor to the ‘Building CoSMiLE’ workshop on the 15<sup>th</sup> wherein the team would present the summary of the discussions to a number of resource persons to get their feedback and gain from their insights into similar processes and platforms.

### **3 Objective**

The objective of the planned half-day workshop on 15 June will be two fold:

- Present summary of the moderated session held on 10 June 2006 to the resource persons
- Develop an understanding for a multi-level, multi-stakeholder CoSMiLE platform

### **4 Participants**

The participants for this half day session would be:

- TERI CoSMiLE team
- SDC, Delhi
- Resource persons:
  1. Mr. Manuel Flury, SDC, Berne
  2. Mr. R K Batra, TERI (*to be confirmed*)
  3. Mr. Rajeev Kher, TERI

## **6. Tentative Agenda**

10.30 – 10.40 AM:	Welcome and introductory remarks Dr Sameer Maithel, TERI Dr Veena Joshi, SDC
10.40 – 11.00 AM	CoSMiLE – An update Girish Sethi, TERI
11.00 AM – 12.45 PM	Discussion on “Building CoSMiLE” and feed back from resource persons Moderated by Mr. Abhishek Nath, TERI
12.45 – 1.00 PM	Concluding Remarks
1.00 PM	Lunch