

Visit of Rajkot foundry entrepreneurs to Coimbatore engineering cluster

April 9-11, 2010, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

TERI strives to build upon and upscale the benefits of its ongoing work in the MSME sector under CoSMiLE, by synergizing these benefits with other initiatives aimed at development of the MSME sector through technology improvement, knowledge sharing and capacity building. One such initiative is the REEEP project being implemented by TERI in the Coimbatore foundry cluster, which focuses on promoting energy efficient melting technologies such as the TERI-designed DBC through technology demonstration and the building of cluster-level capacities. Another is the World Bank-led multi-agency /multi-activity project to improve SME access to finance and business development services (BDS), being implemented jointly by SIDBI and TERI in two SME clusters—the Rajkot engineering cluster and the Chandigarh-Mohali-Panchkula ‘tricity’ engineering cluster.

As an example of this synergetic approach, a team of seven delegates from the Rajkot engineering cluster, comprising entrepreneurs and BDS providers associated with foundries and pump manufacturing industries, visited Coimbatore—a hub of engineering industries including foundries and pump manufacturing units— from 9th to 11th April 2010. The visit was organized by the SIDBI–Rajkot project. During their tour, the delegates visited prominent pump manufacturing industries in the Industrial Estate, Coimbatore. They were deeply impressed by the high levels of quality maintained in the plants, and by the exemplary work culture.

The delegates also interacted with the office bearers of Coimbatore Industrial Infrastructure Association (COINDIA), a very dynamic and successful association of MSME entrepreneurs of Coimbatore, who shared their experiences with the visiting delegates and also inspired the office bearers of the Rajkot Engineering Association (REA) to replicate their own successful strategies. The delegates were particularly fascinated by the development and manufacturing related services provided by COINDIA to the local industry such as training, testing, sand reclamation facilities for small foundries, rapid prototyping and tool room facilities. The delegates also visited Small Industries’ Testing and Research Centre (Si’Tarc), an NABL-accredited testing and calibration laboratory having facilities for testing and development of pump designs.

The highlight of the tour was a visit to a technology exhibition (‘Techno4 2010’) that showcased the products, technologies and services related to four engineering sectors: pumps and ancillary equipments, motor and rotating machines, foundry, and light engineering industry. The event was organized by Orbitz Exhibitions in association with SIEMA (Southern India Engineering Manufacturers’ Association). Visitors at the exhibition included CEOs, senior executives from industry, engineering companies, consultants, R&D professionals, manufacturers, technocrats, advisors and policy makers, etc. There were around 200 exhibitors, 50 overseas participants and more than 100,000 global visitors at the exhibition. The event provided the Rajkot delegates with a great opportunity to learn about new technologies, products and services, and to share knowledge and network with entrepreneurs and BDS providers from elsewhere in India and abroad.