

CHALLENGES & REMEDIES FOR PROCESS DIVISION IN INDIA

– A Panel Discussion



5th May 2018, The Lalit, Mumbai

The afternoon was all set for the first formal event by the Process Industries Division India Tech Centre. A panel discussion on “Challenges & Remedies for Process Industries in India” started at 5 pm with an overwhelming response from an array of audience ranging from public to private sectors, industry to academia, scientists to students and IMechE members to would be members. The hall was packed with 60+ would be IMechE members and 25+ members.

The panel was a perfect blend of representatives from government, industry and academia who had rich experience in the process industry. We had four best of the best panelists from different verticals of process industry in India. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director CSIR-NEERI, Mr. Rajesh Kakkar, Director offshore – ONGC board, Mr. Narayan Madhav, AGM Xylem water and Mr. Chole, Vice President-Life sciences, BVG.



Mr. Mahesh Shinde, Secretary of the process division India tech centre, welcomed the gathering and set the context for the event.

Dr. Milind Atrey, Chairman of the process division India tech centre, was the anchor for the event. He briefed the gathering about the importance of process industry, especially in India who is a rapidly growing country, and introduced the panelists. Mr. Ravi Raghavan was his co-anchor for the event.





Dr. Rakesh Kumar presented with some of the dynamics which are happening in the environmental regulations in India. He had some firm views on the point sources of purification being attempted.



Mr. Rajesh Kakkar was optimistic on meeting the energy needs of India through diverse approaches towards gas, oil production. There are apparently some significant shale reserves in India. He was, honest enough to admit that not much has been done in the area of shale yards with a clarification that what US has done cannot be replicated. But he also said that ONGC already has programmed @35 wells out of which they have already drilled 5 wells in the west part of India. The main challenges are acquiring the land, maturity of shale (it's not as matured as that in US or even China) and the huge amounts of water that is required. Yet they are drilling the wells to find out what is the efficacy.



Mr. Chole from BVG group briefed about the plans that his company has in the area of food processing. He clarified that food processing in no way reduces the quality of the nutrients.

Mr. Narayan Madhav from Xylem highlighted that the technology options are all there and it's just a question of the right mindset, the right policies. He exemplified the integrated approach to waste management, water management etc. Suggested to reduce water footprint.



'THE PROCESS INDUSTRY IN INDIA PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN OVERALL ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE NATION.'

A FEW TAKEAWAYS & CHALLENGES DISCUSSED...

Mr. Kakkar indicated that maintaining supplies of oil & gas and meeting the increasing demands will be challenging. The reservoir depletion and hence rate at which we can pump out oils & gas is one more challenge. To counter these challenges many schemes like redevelopment of existing plants, reservoir pressure maintenance etc. are in place in addition to erecting plants in new oil fields. Overcoming policy challenges, through continuous improvement, ONGC is aiming to meet the Prime minister's challenge to reduce import dependency by 10%.

Mr. Kumar stated that setting correct targets and formulating ACTs to control pollution considering the dynamics as well as balancing economic growth & its impact on environment are few challenges NEERI in contributing to resolve.

Mr. Madhav voiced that ensure drinkable as well as industrial water supply to meet the increasing demands becomes challenging, especially because not enough importance & priority is given to treating waste water. One solution to the mindset problem inspite of availability of technologies could be giving incentives to industries for adopting technologies to treat and reuse waste water.

Mr. Chole spoke about the lack of awareness and limited percentage of processed food. Even the infrastructure provided by the government for farmers, like cold storages etc., are instead being used by middle men, food processing units etc.

There were quite a few interesting and probing questions from a very participative audience and the panel gracefully satiated the curiosities of the audience.



Mr. Prabal Sarma briefed the audience about IMechE and membership benefits. Mr. Sunil Panchbhai extended the vote of thanks and the event concluded with a delicious networking dinner.

