'Promoting Environmentally Sound Technologies and Best Practices'
And
Launch of JITMAP Online Platform

A workshop titled "Promoting environmentally sound technologies and best practices" was held as a thematic track of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) on 15 Feb. 2018, 13:30 - 15:30 at the India Habitat Centre in Lodi Road, New Delhi. The event was jointly organized by The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MoEJ), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The event showcased the Japan-India Technology Matchmaking Platform (JITMAP) initiative taken by IGES and TERI to promote the deployment of Japanese environmentally sound technologies in India. The event also marked the launch of JITMAP's website by the Hon'ble Vice-Minister for Environment Mr. Yasuo Takahashi.

Around 40 participants from key Japanese and Indian stakeholders attended it: Policy makers, bankers, business associations and academic and research experts. The participants shared their views on ways to promote the deployment of environmentally sound technology and best practices in India and ways to make JITMAP platform operational.

Details of Deliberations

The workshop started with the opening remarks by Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General of TERI, followed by special remarks by H.E. Mr. Ysuo Takahashi, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environment, Japan.

Dr. Rabhi Abdessalem of IGES set the theme by giving a presentation highlighting IGES-TERI efforts to promote environmentally sound technologies in India with special focus on explaining the background and the operational procedure of JITMAP. His presentation was followed by the launch of JITMAP website by H.E. Mr. Takahashi.

A round table discussion moderated by Mr. Dipak Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow of TERI started with two presentations on specific Japanese environmentally sound technologies. Mr. Hiroto Tsushima of Honda India, introduced Honda's Mobile Battery EV, and Mr. Shozo Okada of Kobelco introduced his company's Compressed Air System. Both speakers highlighted the huge opportunities in Indian market to deploy those technologies and the remarkable role, which can be played by JITMAP to facilitate such deployment. They showed readiness to work with JITMAP members to conduct feasibility studies and assessments whenever needed.

The round table discussion highlighted valuable opinions from various stakeholders. A brief account of the same is as follows:

-Rajnesh Trivedi, representative of YES Bank highlighted the importance of technology customization and on the role of Multistakeholder approach. He expressed the readiness of YES bank India to collaborate and to share its expertise with JITMAP members;

-Krishan Dhawan, CEO, Shakti Foundation mentioned that technology deployment should be seen beyond just selling the technology but also as a foreign direct investment (FDI) and job creation;

-Rene Van Berkel, UNIDO, emphasized on the role of conducting demonstration projects;

-Mr. R. N. Kansara, GEDA, highlighted the need for a permanent institution of JITMAP to ensure timely action and follow up. He suggested GEDA to host JITMAP institution if necessary;

-Mr. K.H. Kakkad, GITCO and Dr Anant Sardeshmukh, MCCIA shared how their organizations can support JITMAP operation. For instance, they expressed their readiness to support pilot project(s) implementation to highlight not only the benefit of Japanese technologies but also how JITMAP operates given they are already JITNMAP dialogue members;

-Girish Sethi, Senior director, TERI, highlighted on the need for a continuous support to JITMAP by mobilizing necessary resource over a multiyear projects. He highlighted the possibility of JITMAP to support SMEs, not only those recipient of technologies but also those supplying the technologies from Japan side;

-Mr Abhay Bakre, Director General, Bureau of Energy (BEE) showed extreme interest on JITMAP and the readiness of BEE to support. For instance, he suggested developing a road map and a concept paper about JITMAP which BEE can take it forwards for further discussion at the Ministerial level;

-MOEJ expressed that governmental support might be needed to JITMAP. They will discuss with MOEFCC on what kind of support could be provided;

-Dr. Rabhi Abdessalem emphasized on the need to engage adequate stakeholders from Japan and India in JITMAP activities so to take advantage of their: Networking, knowledge and expertise and resources. A successful pilot project involving various stakeholders is needed to demonstrate how JITMAP operates. This will be extremely needed to communicate with other stakeholders and engage them/gain their support in future work.

In short, all stakeholders involved in the discussion showed strong interest in JITMAP as new business model to promote the deployment of environmentally sound technologies in India. They showed also readiness to provide any needed supported.

The event was closed by prof. Takeuchi, President, IGES who emphasized mainly on the need for the following:

-Technology should be looked over its **life cycle cost** rather than just the upfront cost;

-**Multistakeholder** approach is needed: Involving central and local stakeholders;

-**Integrative** approach is needed: Involving technologies, finance, and policies;

-Mainstreaming technologies through **incremental/**gradual implementation while **adapting** it to local conditions;

- JITMAP's website is a remarkable example of taking full advantage **of the Information Technologies** to avoid the conventional challenges:

-Integration of **environmental issue with mobility**.

In conclusion, it was acknowledged that the JITMAP certainly opens up a plethora of opportunities for Indian and Japanese business communities. As the platform gains more and more partners and stakeholders it must also enrich JITMAP's website with more and updated information which will be beneficial to its users. The platform must also focus on expanding the user network with greater involvement and support of respective government institutions and with the use of adequate resources.