

## Roundtable on Promotion of Resource Efficient Brick making in Bangladesh

A high level roundtable was organized by Institute for Industrial Productivity (IIP) on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2015 on 'Promotion of Resource Efficient Brick making in Bangladesh' through south-south cooperation under the project support by UK Department for International Development (DFID) under its Knowledge Partnership Program (KPP) at Dhaka, Bangladesh. IPE Global is partnering with DFID on this innovative programme. The purpose of KPP is to facilitate transfer of policies, practises and technologies from India to other developing countries.



The Roundtable was organized given that the current status of brick industry in Bangladesh is highly unsustainable and needs to upgrade in order to save valuable top soil, reduce air pollution, and increase energy efficiency.

There are innovative technological options, polices and measures available that can help ensure resource conservation and manage environmental issues in a manner that can solve the issues currently being faced by the Bangladesh brick industry and the policy makers. The FaL-G Brick (Fly ash-Lime- Gypsum) technology that has been invented and patented by two Indians, Mr.Kalidas and Dr. N. Bhanumathidas, is a climate-friendly technology that produces bricks without using top soil and coal and completely eliminates carbon emissions.

Under the aegis of the KPP, the Bangladesh Department of Environment, Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), which is the state financial institution and the Bangladesh Brick Manufacturers Owners Association (BBMOA) had requested the IIP project team to facilitate knowledge transfer around technology and policy areas for promotion of this technology in Bangladesh.

The Roundtable on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, was aimed at sharing of experience on:

- i. Fly Ash brick technology (FaL-G technology) of India;
- ii. Experiences of policy and regulatory measures taken in India for management of Fly Ash and promotion of Fly Ash brick technologies; and
- iii. Financing options for cleaner technologies in Bangladesh.

The Roundtable had high level representation from Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of Bangladesh, BBMOA and IDCOL.

Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Director (Joint Secretary), DOE mentioned that FaL-G is a 'miracle technology,' stating that for adoption and customisation in Bangladesh, it is important to build the capacity of a local agency so that they could provide hand holding support to the local entrepreneurs in the long run. He mentioned that DoE would be keen to interact and learn from the experiences of Indian Policy Makers for creating enabling policy and financing conditions for promotion of fly ash management technologies/ approaches.



The BBMOA representatives were interested in the new technology, but wanted to learn more about its quality and strength aspects and its application. BBMOA Member Secretary mentioned that the industry would be willing to implement the new technology but it would give them more confidence if it was demonstrated in Bangladesh and customised taking the local conditions into consideration.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Md.RaisulAlam, Director General (Secretary), Department of Environment, Government of Bangladesh stated that this knowledge sharing was timely as they were on the lookout for alternate resource efficient technology and technologies like FaL-G could help in reducing the pressure on paddy fields and deal with the issue of food security. Also, ample opportunities existed for the growth of fly ash brick technology as fly ash output is bound to increase in Bangladesh given that a number of new super critical coal based thermal power plants are currently in different stages of commissioning. Technologies like these could also help in achieving Bangladesh's mandate of promoting energy efficiency in brick kilns while at the same time-address the issue of flyash management which is going to become a major concern in times to come.