

Environment Impact Assessment – Challenges in India and way forward

One day Workshop – Jointly organised by MoEF & CC, QCI/NABET

Venue – Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

Date –April 25, 2015

A One Day workshop on “Environmental Impact Assessment: Challenges in India and Way Forward” was jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Quality Council of India (QCI) at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on Apr 25, 2015. The workshop was attended by senior officials of the Ministry and more than 300 delegates from the Expert Appraisal Committees from various states, industry and accredited EIA consultants.

Inaugurating the workshop, **Sh Prakash Javadekar**, the Hon’ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt of India emphasised that while it is important to have proper quality of EIAs and the clearance process should be expedited, the conditions given in the environmental clearance need to be strictly implemented to actually derive the benefits of the examining the project proposals from environmental angle. He mentioned that the accreditation process to identify capable EIA consultants is a step in the right direction and the Govt will consider coming out with a Notification to this effect. He also mentioned the recent initiative of the Govt in making the environment clearance process on-line and coming out with standard Terms of Reference for various sectors of industry, will go a long way in expediting the environmental clearance process. The on-line application process will also be extended to the states gradually.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman, QCI, **Sh Adil Zainulbhai** emphasised that obtaining accreditation should be only the beginning and the consultants must voluntarily strive to go beyond the requirements of accreditation so that they build up international capability and get business not only from India but beyond as well.

Sh. M. K. Singh, IAS, Joint Secretary, Impact Assessment - MoEFCC while chairing the Technical Session mentioned that industry and the Accredited Consultants should put in their joint efforts in preparing quality EIAs which will help expediting the environmental clearance process.

Dr Prodipto Ghosh, Ex Secretary, MoEFCC traced the genesis of the scheme stressed that it was first of its kind and emphasises on transparency and capacity building of the consultants.

Dr R P Singh, Secretary General, QCI welcoming the dignitaries and participants mentioned that it was one of flagship schemes of QCI and welcomed suggestions from all stakeholders for further improvements, going forward.

Sh Vipin Sahni, Chief Executive Officer, NABET, thanked all the eminent persons who had helped the Scheme to come this level of maturity. He also reiterated NABET’s commitment to strive for improvement in the quality of EIAs in the country through transparent implementation of the Scheme.