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**EU-funded Asia Cleantech MSME Financing project successfully launched in New Delhi**

The 3-country Asia Cleantech Financing Network for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACMFN) Project funded by the European Union (EU) through its SWITCH Asia Programme was recently launched on February 23, 2016, in New Delhi, India by a consortium of partners, namely, the lead-institution, Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) and country-partners, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Perkumpulan Untuk Peningkatan Usaha Kecil (PUPUK or The Association for the Advancement of Small Business) of Indonesia and the China Electronic Energy Saving Technology Association (CEESTA) and Beijing Eco-Green Advisory (BEGA) of China. The project's European partner is Germany's adelphi.



(L-R) Mirko Zuerker (adelphi), KS Venkatagiri (CII), Octavio B. Peralta (ADFIAP), Bastian A. Saputra (PUPUK), Walter Ge (CEESTA/BEGA) at the signing of the project cooperation agreement in New Delhi.

Sixty high-level personalities, EU Delegation to India and project partner representatives, senior officers of Indian financial institutions and chambers of industry, SME owners and entrepreneurs, development consultants and practitioners as well as from the academe attended the event which was highlighted by the lighting of a symbolic lamp by the guest speakers and dignitaries.





(L-R) Sarojini Kaul, Project Manager, Cooperation, EU Delegation to India, Kavi Arora, Co-Chair, Regional Council on MSME and MD & CEO of Religare Finvest Limited and Octavio B. Peralta, Secretary General of ADFIAP during the lighting of the symbolic lamp during the project launch.

Among the resource persons, speakers and panelists invited during the project launch to provide their perspectives on the project (in speaking order) were: S. Raghupathy, Executive Director of CII Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Center, Kavi Arora, Co-Chair of the Regional Council on MSMEs and Managing Director & CEO of Religare Finvest Limited, Sarojini Kaul, Project Manager, Cooperation of the EU Delegation to India, Rajiv Chawla, Chairman of the Integrated Association of MSMEs of India (IamSMEofIndia) and Ramesh Dharmaji, Chief General Manager of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

The launch also included the presentation of a video introducing the ACMFN project as well as the partners' presentation about their institutions and roles in the project. There was also a Q&A session with the audience.

The event was also a fitting occasion to recognize and launch the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the National Focal Point (NFP) for the country. Separate NFP launches will also be held in China (CEESTA/BEGA) and Indonesia (PUPUK). NFPs are essentially the project partners and are the key vehicles to implement the project in each country.





(L-R) Mirko Zuerker, Senior Project Manager, adelphi, K.S. Venkatagiri, Executive Director-Designate, CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre, Octavio B. Peralta, Secretary-General, ADFIAP, Corazon D. Conde, Senior Project Manager, ACMFN/ADFIAP and Victor C. Abainza, Senior Project Manager, ACMFN/ADFIAP during the launch of CII as the National Focal Point for ACMFN India.

The ACMFN is a 4-year project which aims to build and leverage a cleantech financing eco-system to spark improved access to finance for Asian cleantech MSMEs in order to enhance sustainable consumption and production patterns in Asia. Cleantech refers to products, services and processes that reduce or eliminate negative ecological inputs, improve the productive and responsible use of natural resources and provide superior performance at lower cost.

MSMEs, considered to be the major drivers of worldwide economies, are being tapped to benefit from the project. The ACMFN will fund the capacity-building for about 400 MSMEs in order that they would have better chances to access financing for their projects. Workshops, advisory services and mentoring, among other activities, will be conducted, including national forums for match-making process between MSMEs and financial institutions as well as training manuals and toolkits. Around 200 MSMEs are expected to have improved processes or created innovations within the project timeline.

For more information on the ACMFN project, please visit our website at [www.acmfhn.com](http://www.acmfhn.com) or email [inquiries@adfiap.org](mailto:inquiries@adfiap.org) and [pmo@acmfhn.com](mailto:pmo@acmfhn.com)

The ACMFN Project video presentation material is also available for viewing through the following link: <https://youtu.be/Dkl8U4-7Aw0>

