

Workshop on LC³ (Limestone Calcined Clay Cement), 23 September 2014

Talking points Ambassador of Switzerland Dr. Linus von Castelmur

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

As we know, climate change is a topic of global concern and its impact is obvious in many parts of the world. Innovative solutions are needed for addressing the causes of climate change and for dealing with its consequences. Switzerland is a committed player in this field. It has supported global initiatives through creation of knowledge, sharing of technical know-how and provision of financial support.

In India in particular, Switzerland is working with partners within and outside the government to jointly develop climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. We do this through the *Global Programme on Climate Change (GPCC)* of the *Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation* which is hosted at the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi. The programme supports activities that help safeguarding development achievements from negative impacts caused by climate change. It also supports activities that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions without compromising India's development goals.

Currently, there are several promising Indo-Swiss collaborative efforts ongoing. Be it energy efficiency in commercial as well as residential buildings, energy efficiency in micro- small- and medium enterprises or be it renewable energy applications, this collaboration has achieved some major landmarks. One recent achievement is on "Energy efficient design guidelines for residential buildings" which has been endorsed by the *Bureau of Energy Efficiency* of the *Ministry of Power* and launched recently as a part of the Government's 100 days agenda.

The LC3 project is another promising example of scientific and technical collaboration between Switzerland and India. I am extremely delighted to see the network of world premier institutes working together in this project. The innovative cement production process on which these institutions are jointly working is of great economic and environmental significance. Due to the worldwide importance of cement as a construction material, the potential effects of a low carbon cement production process are just astounding. I am convinced that this project will not only be of great significance for India, Cuba and Switzerland, but for the entire world.

I am also proud that the LC3 project is testimony of Switzerland's capacity for innovation as well as its excellence in architecture, design and engineering. At the same time, the project could not have been implemented successfully without joining hands with outstanding research institutions and development organizations in India and Cuba.

From what I understand, the trial production of LC3 carried out in Cuba and India has shown good results. The production of LC3 seems to be economically more advantageous compared to the production of standard cement on the market. CO₂ savings in the range of 30% seem to be feasible compared to the standard cement production. Even for someone who is not an expert in the cement sector, it is clear that these are very promising results. I am hopeful that the project will be able to consistently produce good test results of LC3 and learn from previous experiences. This will be the basis for elaborating the technical standards for this new product that will allow it to be sold and used widely.

I am glad that the LC3 project has already created a lot of interest amongst partners from the private sector. Representatives of many cement companies are with us today. You will be key partners for the success of this project. We count on your active engagement in convincing the builders community and other clients of the market potential of LC3. With your support, LC3 can be recognized promptly as cement suitable for general construction and established as a mainstream cement type.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, our efforts on LC3 have just begun but I am sure that this project will produce results, which will play an important role in the future developments in this sector in India and many other parts of the world. The project can set a global example by showing the way towards a less carbon and resource intensive economic development. I am proud that Switzerland is poised to become one of the leading actors in this programme of high relevance for the global climate.

I wish all partners success in this endeavor. Thank you.