



E-Newsletter



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Visit of Mr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu & Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Government of Tamil Nadu to CETPs in Ranipet

Mr. R. Balakrishnan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Government of Tamil Nadu along with senior officials of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board visited Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) Systems operating in Common Effluent Treatment Plants in Ranipet on 11 July 2013.

Mr. Balakrishnan visited Ranitec CETP and SIDCO I CETP. An interactive session with tanneries and CETPs was organized by Ranitec CETP during the visit. Mr. R. Ramesh Prasad, Chairman, Ranitec CETP welcomed the participants. During his welcome speech, he recalled the meetings with Mr. Balakrishnan when he was Chairman of TNPCB. The ever-stern directions from the TNPCB led to the achievement of ZLD in Ranitec. He thanked all agencies who supported Ranitec for achieving this pinnacle. Mr. C. M. Zafarullah, Managing Director, Ranitec CETP, during his introductory remarks, highlighted the news column on Ranitec's ZLD achievement published by World Leather magazine. He mentioned that very soon the recovered water will be sent via pipeline to all tanneries but the recovered water is being sent through tankers as of now.

Mr. Charles Rodrigue, Joint Chief Environmental Engineer (JCEE), TNPCB congratulated Ranitec team for achieving the ZLD status. Mr. Kamaraj, DEE, TNPCB also participated in the visit. Mr. G. Sundaramurthi, IAS (Retd.), Managing Director, CEMCOT congratulated the team in Ranitec and other CETP managements.

Mr. A. Sahasranaman, IAS (Retd.), Vice Chairman, CEMCOT mentioned that the industry should continue to operate and maintain the plants. Though prevention of pollution is the main goal of ZLD project, recovery of almost 100% waste water is an equally important outcome of these projects.

Mr. M. M. Hashim, Chairman, CEMCOT expressed that the industry in Tamil Nadu has made huge investments in addition to the subsidy from Governments. 6 CETPs have been assisted by CEMCOT, 3 CETPs by AEDOL and two separately through ASIDE scheme. He mentioned that about Rs.400 crores have been invested in CETPs for ZLD systems. He requested the Government to extend support for operation and maintenance of the plants.

NEXT ISSUE

- Cost optimization through cleaner processing
- Update on solar energy





Mr. R. Balakrishnan, in his address, congratulated CEMCOT, Ranitec CETP, SIDCO I and SIDCO II CETPs for their achievement. He expressed his satisfaction on the ZLD and its operation. Mr. Balakrishnan suggested that the training services provided by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) could be useful for the member units. He invited the participants to identify areas of requirement for training needs.

Mr. R. Amirthakatesan, Managing Director, SIDCO I CETP and Mr. Srinivasa Raghavan, Managing Director, SIDCO II CETP also spoke on the occasion. Mr. Zafarullah proposed a vote of thanks.

Ranipet Tannery Effluent Treatment Company Ltd (Ranitec) is serving about 89 tanneries, most of them are in MSME category, located in and around Ranipet town. The CETP was originally commissioned in June 1995 and later there were

several modifications. The first major improvement was done in 1999 by UNIDO, from then onwards the CETP has been considered as UNIDO's model CETP for the region. The CETP has commissioned the ZLD system in May 2012. Certain improvements in the primary and secondary treatment stages, reverse osmosis plant, mechanical evaporator, recovered water distribution system and special storage yard for salt-laden solid residue are components of the ZLD project. The cost of ZLD project was Rs.44 crores with the following funding pattern: 50% from DIPP, Government of India, 15% from Government of Tamil Nadu and remaining 35% from the member tanneries. Though the original capacity of the CETP is 4200 m³/d, now the ZLD has been established for 3000 m³/d, due to considerably reduced flow of effluent to the CETP for the past few years. While, the SIDCO I CETP's ZLD project has a capacity of 2500 m³/d, that of SIDCO II is 1000 m³/d.



Ambur Open 4



The 4th edition of Ambur Open 4, Exhibition of Finished Leather, Accessories, Components, Technology and Machinery was held in Ambur Trade Centre on 29 & 30 June 2013. The fair was inaugurated by Dr. P. Shankar, District Collector, Vellore in the presence of Padmashri Mr. M. Rafeeqe Ahmed, President, AISHTMA, Mr.M.M.Hashim, Chairman, ILIFO, Mr.K.R.Vijayan, President, ISF, Mr.N.Shafeeq Ahmed, Vice Chairman, CLE, Mr.A.Aslam Basha, Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly, Ambur, Mr.P.R.Aqeel Ahmed, Regional Chairman (SR), CLE, Dr.A.B.Mandal, Director, CLRI, Mr.R.Ramesh Kumar, Executive Director, CLE and Mr. Suresh Kumar, Senior Vice President, TUV SUD South Asia and leading other industrialists, exhibitors and visitors. The fair as usual attracted the leather and footwear industry representatives all over Tamil Nadu and from other states too.

Seminars on **RSL and REACH**, by TUV Sud, **Managing during Turbulence** by Madras Management Association and **New Mould Prevention break through** by Bureau Veritas were organized. The event is emerging as an indispensable one for the leather and footwear clusters in Vellore District.

Interactive session with Emsol Innovations

1. General

An interactive session was held in Meeting Hall, AISHTMA with Mr.JaiprakashKarna, Emsol Innovations on 20th May 2013. Emsol Innovations is representing Soltigua, Spa, a company engaged in Parabolic Trough Reflector technology for capturing solar thermal energy.

Mr. G. Sundaramurthi, Managing Director, CEMCOT welcomed and gave his introductory remarks mentioning the need of the hour as for going in for alternate sources of energy. Mr. K. V. Emmanuel, Technical Director, ILIFO mentioned that though the solar energy provides heat energy only during day time, considering the energy needs, it is the right time to install these plants, so that at least about 6 hours of operations can be supplemented.

Mr. N. Shafeeq Ahmed, Vice Chairman, CLE mentioned that the new technologies should be explained in simple terms so that the technical personnel in the tanneries understand the concepts and technicalities.

Later Mr. Karna, Emsol Innovations made a presentation on the technology and its applications. The Parabolic Trough Reflector (PTR) concentrates the solar rays into a pipe, normally carrying diathermic oil. The diathermic oil is heated and is pumped to transfer heat in the applications.



2. Salient points of discussions:

- PTR technology is widely used for production of power through operation of steam powered turbines. Customizing the technology to meet various applications of the tannery industry, not restricted to power alone, should be considered.
- Two typical applications other than power production include (a) production of steam for mechanical evaporators in ZLD systems and (b) smaller, less sophisticated units for production of hotwater/thermic fluid heating for autospray in tanneries.
- It was explained by Mr. Karna that it may not be advantageous to use a manually controlled tracking system in lieu of the automatic control since the focusing of the trough should be precise to get good results.

- The company has access to US patented non-tracking solar concentrator. Tracking in precision is important in order to maximize the conversion and sometimes within the large plants different sections could have different polarity. Accordingly, for small installations for a tannery, the specially designed non-tracking PTR could be considered.
- For a tannery needing both thermic fluid drying and hot water applications, the medium of circulation through the number of tubes could be divided into water and diathermic oil.
- It is possible to build the PTR plant in modules, as it is only to add more concentrator modules. Each concentrator module is of 2 kW & occupies 5 m² area.
- It is possible to use the PTR for combined applications like hotwater, steam, heated thermic oil for driers, etc.

- Emsol Innovations believes that it is economical and advantageous to combine electrical energy production with thermal energy. It was noted that the solar photovoltaic (PV) cells are operating at about 14% efficiency of energy conversion, whereas the PTR plant operates at about 50-60% efficiency of energy conversion.

3. Investment cost:

The investment cost vary from US\$ 0.75 to US\$ 1 per W.

The investment cost will vary from site to site depending on the following parameters:

- (a) Location of installations roof top or on ground
- (b) Distance between PTR plant and point of application
- (c) Influence of neighboring buildings, if any
- (d) Solar radiation at the location
- (e) Size of the plant (for large plants of about 1 MW, the investment will be lesser).

4. Application of technology: The following table provides the gist of the discussions in a nutshell:

Sizing of the plant	Features	Output	Applications
Small	Notional capacity: 40 kW Area occupied: 100 m ²	200,000 kcal/day or Equivalent to 13,000 litres of hotwater from 25 ⁰ C to 40 ⁰ C per day or Can heat 8000 litres of thermic fluid from 110 ⁰ C to 160 ⁰ C per day Cost approximately 1 US\$ /W	The main application is in tanneries. The PTR technology is suitable for the following applications: Hot water generation for post tanning operations in tanneries Tunnel drier for autospray / roller coater Vacuum drier (plants based on thermic fluid heaters)
Large scale	Capacity: 1 MW Area occupied: 2500 m ²	Steam generation: 7500 kg of steam at 160 ⁰ C per day or 3125 units of electricity per day + 7500 kg of steam 110 ⁰ C (depends on extraction level which may vary according to site requirement) Equivalent to 5 million kcal/day Cost: approx. 4.125 crores	The main application is in common effluent treatment plants. The energy from PTR plants can be used in mechanical evaporators for evaporation of reject from RO plant.

REENERGY 2013

The International Conference and Expo on Renewable Energy, REENERGY 2013 was conducted by Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) from 9 to 11 May 2013 in Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai. The conference had several technical sessions ranging from plenary sessions, expert sessions and workshops on wind energy, solar energy, biomass, energy efficiency and green buildings.

A large number of companies offering solar photovoltaic power plants, comprising of system developers, manufacturers of solar PV modules, inverters, batteries, structural components and accessories, service providers and accredited agencies exhibited their products and services. The conference was educative and demonstrative in renewable energy systems, and facilitated productive interactions between all critical stakeholders in the sector.

Indian Leather Industry Foundation (ILIFO) is in touch many of the leading exhibitors of the conference with an objective to provide cost-effective, optimized solar energy for the leather and footwear industry. The following services are provided by ILIFO for the leather and footwear companies on solar photovoltaic (SPV) power plants.



- Proper sizing of the plant based on pattern of electrical energy consumption, present requirement, power availability, future expansion, operational parameters of the plant, hourly consumption, back up DG power installations existing and proposed, load optimized situation and the investment capacity
- Arriving at the specifications for solar photovoltaic modules, inverters and balance of system and contract terms including warranty
- Evaluation of bids
- Drafting contract agreements
- Layout preparation, positioning modules and integration with grid
- Technical verification during installation
- Optimizing during regular operation

Child Labour in Footwear Sector in India-Industry Response

Dr. D. Kebschull, Chairman, IGEP Foundation & A. Sahasranaman, Hony. Director, ILIFO

Some days back the IGEP Foundation, New Delhi, along with the Business Social Compliance Initiative's India chapter and Council for Leather Exports, organized an interactive session with various stakeholders to consider the issue of child labour in the footwear industry, especially focusing on the export sector. The impetus for this interaction was provided by a report prepared by SOMO, the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, on behalf of the Stop Child Labour Campaign of the Netherlands. The report was based on the inputs provided by selected top level footwear retailers in Europe, selling their wares in the Netherlands, among other countries. This report was followed up by another one by Hiyos, among 28 well known international footwear companies, whose 'research' included not only written inputs provided voluntarily by selected companies but also some field data given by their 'researchers'. Almost all these retailers manufacture or source their footwear from various developing countries. Though the SOMO report alluded to child labour in a number of countries like China, Vietnam, Indonesia and

Bangladesh, the Hiyos report referred to field data obtained from Agra and surroundings in north India and Ambur and surroundings in south India. The main findings of these reports are:

- In general, the first tier of suppliers of footwear of the developing countries to the foreign brands is almost entirely free of child labour. These are modern factories, conforming to basic labour standards as prescribed by the ILO as also by many famous European brands.
- The second tier of suppliers consists of those who manufacture parts of footwear and supply to the first tier suppliers for further processing and conversion into complete footwear. These are micro or small scale units, with the number of workers ranging from 20 to 100. These employ basic machinery and equipment such as leather cutting machines and sewing machines besides required tools and tackles. In some instances, these suppliers are alleged to be using child labour.

- Some parts of footwear, such as hand stitched moccasins, are generally given to households to women at home, as the skill required is available in them and they can work at their convenience. It is in this tier that the report seems to find greater use of child labour.

The multinationals were alerted by the Stop Child Labour Campaign (SCLC) of their findings. Besides, it had posted the findings on its website. Press briefings were also held and TV shows highlighted the issue in the Netherlands. Predictably, the brand owners reacted in most cases promptly, cancelling orders given to those suppliers who were alleged to have employed child labour in manufacture. Understandably, any negative impression created among their customers by such a campaign would result in instant fall in the demand for their brands.

Business Social Compliance Initiative, a part of the Foreign Trade Association based in Brussels, offered to cooperate with the Stop Child Labour Campaign and take measures to tackle the situation, as cancellation of orders by brand owners would cause severe hardship to thousands of workers who derive their livelihood from this industry in India and other developing countries. Foreign Trade Association has been floated by all leading retailers of footwear, clothing and various consumer products in the EU, the current strength of this association being of the order of 1000. All known brands are members of the FTA. BSCI has developed its own code of conduct for suppliers of products to its members. One unique feature of BSCI is that if a factory is inspected on behalf of one of its members and cleared for supply, such clearance was accepted by its all other members too. FTA therefore felt that BSCI should interact with the suppliers and all other stakeholders, especially in India as, unfortunately, only some Indian companies have been specifically named in the report put on their website. The meetings in Agra and Chennai resulted from this development.

Interestingly, the meetings in Agra and Chennai were attended by a vast range of stakeholders industry associations, manufacturers of footwear, EU and US brand owners, trade union, NGOs working in the field dealing with the issue of child labour, international organizations such as UNICEF, labour department representative, Council for Leather Exports and leading industry experts. The openness with which the industry came forward to discuss the matter was quite refreshing.

One major objection of the industry was that whatever report was published and publicized by SCLC was so done without any reference to it. As a result, when suddenly, some buyers cancelled orders placed on their suppliers of many years, on the ground of use of child labour, this came as a rude shock to them. In their knowledge, no child labour was employed in their entire supply chain. Some of these suppliers have developed the second tier of suppliers of some footwear parts by providing

them with required capital and transfer of technology and knowledge. These are regularly monitored by them and therefore the issue of employment of child labour by them was out of the question. It was admitted that some little work, not more than 5% in terms of value, was given to households. Even in households, the work is generally done by women of the household at their leisure, though the possibility of some children sitting with them and doing odd jobs, after school hours was quite possible. However children are not employed by second or third tier suppliers as labour, depriving them of their education and their general well being. They argued that if the SCLC had referred the allegations against them, it would have provided them an opportunity to give their side of the story so that a balanced picture could have been given to the customers at large in Europe. And, thus, could have avoided the knee jerk reaction of some of their buyers in cancellation of orders!!

Some brand owners who attended the meeting at Agra and Chennai confirmed that they were in regular touch with not only the first tier but also the second tier of suppliers to ensure that quality was maintained. In their experience of many years, they have not come across child labour employed in these factories. In fact all of them were in high praise of the suppliers of footwear of India for the tremendous developments that have come about over the past two decades. The factories are modern and the workers enjoy all rights prescribed by both law of the land and the code of conduct of buyers. Regarding the household work, they normally did not venture into households. They agreed that a fool proof system should exist to preclude employment of child labour in household work too.

Some industry experts opined that in general export quality footwear, especially for the discerning EU markets, cannot be made by children. These require sophisticated machinery and equipment and are not generally amenable to work by children. They also felt that from competitiveness point of view as well, child labour would not greatly enhance the industry competitiveness, the cost of labour being not more than 5-7% of the total cost of footwear. They reckoned that the quantum as well as value of work outsourced to households was pretty small. If therefore there indeed existed child employment in households, this should be a rather small issue and the industry should take steps to ensure that such a small matter should not be allowed to jeopardize the fortunes of the industry and its thousands of workers. They also referred to the different stage of development in different parts of the country and opined that it would be unjust to brush the entire industry in the country with one brush. It was also pointed out that conducting research on such matters, without knowledge of the first tier manufacturers, was dangerous. Such 'researchers' may wittingly or unwittingly fall prey to manipulations of rivals in the market, causing serious damage to successful exporters.

The view of the Stop Child Labour Campaign was that though enrolment in schools in India has improved remarkably, especially in a state like Tamil Nadu, there is no denying the fact that many children drop out of schools after class 3 or 4, at the age of about 10 or 11. Such children are drawn towards the informal sectors of economy for job. One extreme conclusion was that such children were made to drop out of school to attract them to household and informal sectors as cheap labour. UNICEF representative, referring to a report of a Government of India committee of 2007, said that 96% of the Indian economy was in informal sectors. Employment of children in garment factories, informal sectors and homes as domestic help was widespread according to the GOI report. Perhaps some households may have such dropped out children who might be employed as labour. Another perception abroad is that as the wage given to the adult was rather low, such child labour was required to augment the income of the family. There was however unanimity amongst all stakeholders that while child labour should be avoided at all costs, at the same time, work given to households should not be stopped lest it should deprive such families of a source of livelihood.

In the debate that ensued, it was forcefully brought out that in many developed states such as Tamil Nadu, not only school enrolment rates but also retention rates had gone up significantly, the mid day meal scheme being a major factor. The success of Tamil Nadu has resulted in all states of the country adopting the mid day meal scheme in schools. In fact, many sectors of Tamil Nadu such as construction, hospitality and agriculture import workers from other parts of the country to supplement its own workforce. Another point made by the industry representatives was that a fifteen year old girl of the rural India may not be comparable to a like aged European girl in terms of growth and appearance. A variety of factors resulted in rather stunted growth of children in the country. This is a subject for another detailed research and discussion. In many instances, age proof was not readily available, especially if a person is a school drop out or an illiterate. In such instances, the factory owners depended on certificates given by doctors as age proof or the general look of the person. The auditors of brand owners as well as 'researchers' of the type employed by SCLC tended to treat such work places which did not have age proof for all its workers as non-conforming, indirectly implying that it employed child labour. In general, any export sector of the country, subject to many audits by the buyers from the EU and the USA, especially concerning worker rights and privileges, can scarcely do anything that runs afoul of such social conditions. So, child labour, if found in the export footwear sector, is more an aberration than a rule.

On the issue of child labour in general in the country, it was conceded that it did exist in many informal sectors and concerted efforts of various agencies working in this regard is called for to eradicate it. Every sector must take responsibility for itself and take all measures to eradicate this. A recent law has defined any working person less than 18 years of age as child labour and therefore the ambiguity that remained in this regard now stands removed. It is a major challenge calling for synchronization of efforts of the private and public sectors, governments, NGOs, trade unions and international organizations engaged in this mammoth task.

In so far as the limited topic of child labour in export footwear sector, the consensus therefore was that the problem of child labour in this sector, if it existed, may be of rather negligible size but keeping in view the sensitivity involved the industry and other stakeholders, especially the government, should take urgent steps to eradicate it. A fool proof system should be in place to ensure that no child labour is employed in the entire supply chain. The exporters must be able to proudly declare that usage of child labour does not exist in their supply chain. Towards this end, the brand owners, exporters and BSCI have decided to launch a scheme of certification of tier-2 and household suppliers in association with an industry body like the CLE. Besides, the exporters, on their own, shall increase their vigil over the second tier and lower level suppliers to ensure that child labour is not clandestinely used by them in violation of their commitment to them.

Children are the wealth of the nation. It is therefore the responsibility of all right thinking persons, especially the industry, to ensure that they are provided with appropriate environment for pursuing their education and other non curricular activities such as sports and games. Poverty, poor schooling infrastructure and growth of informal economy are generally believed to be the major factors driving children towards work. The laws passed recently by the Government towards child protection and right to free education are steps in the right direction. Enormous investments have been made by the Government of India in upgrading the skill levels of young persons, including school drop outs. If India has to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend, it will be possible only if the children are enabled to get proper education, training, skill enhancement and all round development. The efforts of the governments at the centre and in the states must be sufficiently augmented and supported by all other stakeholders to achieve a child labour free country in the foreseeable future.

Clariant in India opens new INR 58 million Leather Excellence Centre



Mr. Mark Von Der Becke - Regional Head of Leather Services Asia Pacific, Clariant Chemicals (China) Ltd. lighting the Lamp to inaugurate Clariant's Leather Excellence Centre in Ranipet

Clariant, the globally leading specialty chemicals company, based in Muttenz near Basel/Switzerland, has opened a Leather Excellence Centre (centralized and modern technical service lab) in Ranipet, India.



A view of equipment at the newly opened Clariant's Leather Excellence Centre

Mr. Oliver Kinkel, Head of Clariant's global Leather Business Unit, after inaugurating the centre, expressed that Clariant is committed to the long term development of our services and products for India's leather sector, and he is optimistic of leather industry's growth in India and unveiled ambitious targets of Clariant.

Dr. Deepak Parikh, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Clariant Chemicals (India) Limited mentioned that Clariant is constantly creating new products, new solutions and new applications to deliver global technology for localized needs, while simultaneously evolving new market opportunities for their customers. At Clariant in India, Mr. R. Kumaresan, Head of the Leather Services Business Unit, has described the new centre as an excellent interpretation of Clariant's global technology, locally tailor-made solutions' concept. It was also reported that the laboratory has modern equipment and is capable processing from raw to finished leathers. It is expected that the Clariant's Leather Excellence Centre will be of immense benefit for the tanneries in the District.



Mr. R Kumaresan - Head of Leather BU in India, Clariant Chemicals (India) Limited inaugurates the sophisticated equipment in the Leather Excellence Centre

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