

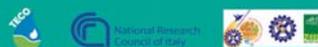


 EUROPEAN UNION - INDIA 
Research and Innovation Partnership

TECO
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FINAL CONFERENCE 2018

RemTech EXPO
Ferrara - September 20th 2018



TECO FINAL CONFERENCE

September 20th, 2018

at RemTech EXPO, Ferrara (Italy)



TECO DID A LONG RUN!



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In the prestigious and inspiring frame of the RemTech Expo, the Final Conference of TECO Project was held with success and many appreciations.

The conference was officially opened by **Massimo Zacchini**, TECO project manager, and **Paras Pujari**, TECO project officer. After four years of intense activity, acknowledgements were due to all the many people involved in TECO Project, starting from the Delegation of the European Union to India, which provided funding for the project. Deeply thanks went to the Indian side of TECO for all the support and the cooperation, to Dr. Silvia Paparella for giving her blessing in hosting the Conference inside the RemTech Expo, and also to the administrative office, in particular in the person of Cesarino Nicoletti, always ready to face and solve all the problems arisen in the technical management of the mobility programme and in the financing issues.

Massimo Spadoni, scientific attaché of the Embassy of Italy in New Delhi, as former project manager of TECO, remembered with pleasure the really first steps of the project and **Silvia Paparella**, project manager of RemTech Expo, expressed her joy to host TECO Final Conference but expressing her willingness to give space for a follow up of TECO in the next year. To conclude the institutional remarks, on video went the greetings from **Carlo Calfapietra**, acting Director of the Institute of Agro-environmental and Forest Biology (IBAF) of CNR (National Research Council of Italy), coordinator institution of TECO Project.

TECO Session

Main outcomes of the project have been presented by **Laura Passatore**, specially referring to the mobility programme, which financed 26 projects involving 34 experts from 12 European countries towards 21 Indian host institutions. Also communication and networking activities have been illustrated. The total network built under TECO project is made of more than 300 contacts, both from Europe and India, mainly public research institutions (206 in total) and private



Massimo Zacchini



Paras R. Pujari



Massimo Spadoni



Silvia Paparella



Carlo Calfapietra



Laura Passatore

companies (76). Regarding communication activities, TECO press office reached 14 press services (press agencies, journals and web-journals, institutional European newsletter and thematic networks) obtaining almost 50 articles published. The overall actions and the history of TECO project have been then showed to the audience by a short and evocative video realized by the filmmaker and photoreporter **Giancarlo Cammerini**.

Some of the experts supported by TECO mobility grants presented their projects. **Gordana Medunić**, from Croatia, told us how much crucial for her career and life has been her experience in India working on bioremediation of ash polluted soil; **Patrizio Arrigo** (CNR, Italy) talked about nucleic acids as biosensors for phthalate monitoring. **Anca Macovei**, a Romanian researcher working at University of Pavia in Italy, will soon start her travel to India for making research about seed germination on contaminated soils and **Francesca Trapasso**, from CNR, Italy, presented a multidisciplinary approach for reusing of waste coming from mining polluted soils. **Inka Vanwongerghem** and **Abhishek Dutta**, both from Belgium, couldn't be present in person at the conference but sent small presentations that were illustrated to the audience. Dr. Vanwongerghem studied the electrochemical treatment of septic tank while Dr. Dutta carried out his activity on waste resource recovery in East Kolkata Wetlands.

EU-India collaboration Session

The session opened with a contribution by **Paola Grenni** (CNR, Italy) on bioremediation of organic contaminants in the rhizosphere followed by another Italian colleague, **Barbara Casentini**, involved in a "Bilateral Cooperation Program" between CNR (National Research Council of Italy) and CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute); issue of the cooperation research is the safe management of arsenic-rich waste. **Prashant Adsul** and **Rohit Kumar**, founders and directors of an Indian private company, Tesla Innovations, exposed to the audience the challenges of the Indian market regarding environmental issues and the multiple opportunities for Europe to collaborate. Under the "Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Italian Republic for the years 2017-2019" **Fulvia Chiampo** illustrated the first results of the research collaboration between Polytechnic of Turin (Italy) and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI-CSIR,



Giancarlo Cammerini



Gordana Medunić



Patrizio Arrigo



Anca Macovei



Francesca Trapasso



Paola Grenni

India) about geophysical methods to monitor soil bioremediation. An Indian postdoc at University of Udine, **Merlyn Thandu**, talked of smart photoactive-functionalised materials for self-disinfecting surfaces obtained with the collaboration of an industrial partner, Coveme SpA, and, last but not least, **Shalini Dhyani** from NEERI, TECO Indian partner, reported a case study in Zn mines in India for restoring of mine spoils by applying nature-based solutions.

TECO ended in this way the last event but a chance to continue collaborating together on technological eco-innovations for the quality control and the decontamination of polluted waters and soils has been launched by Massimo Zacchini.

The journal “Water”, peer-reviewed open access journal on water science and technology (Impact Factor 2.069 in 2017), proposed to prepare a special issue on the specific thematic of TECO Project. TECO Team would like to collect 10-12 articles of good quality by researchers directly or indirectly involved in the TECO Project and invites all interested people to join and contribute to this publication which deadline for submission is fixed on June 30th, 2019. For more and detailed information please contact Massimo Zacchini by email massimo.zacchini@cnr.it

Many thanks to the valuable experts that attended the TECO Final Conference and our gratitude goes to all the people that worked to build the TECO Project and make it important by helping us in the creation of a wide network.

TECO Team



Barbara Casentini



Prashant Adsul



Rohit Kumar



Fulvia Chiampo



Merlyn Thandu



Shalini Dhyani