



TECO NETWORKING CONFERENCE

New Delhi, 16-17 November 2016

An open discussion to network people for preserving water and soil resources in a wide social vision.



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The Conference has been articulated in six sessions. For each of them a brief summary highlighting the main information outputs and the principal issues of discussion is reported.

OPENING SESSION

A wide array of opportunities for partnership activation between EU and India, and several possibilities of economic support to the projects, has been presented, jointly with the tools useful to take advantage of these opportunities.

Four EU Nations, delegates from Norway, Germany, Slovak Republic and France presented their Government's strategy for collaboration with India and the goals reached until now on bilateral collaboration for science and technology.

The forthcoming launch of a website has been announced; the new tool will be a hub to store and share ideas, projects, results and opportunities in the frame of the collaboration between EU and India.

TECO SESSION

TECO Team presented one of the main activity of TECO Project: the Mobility Programme. The initiative already supported about 13 projects and it is going to continue the next year with renewed energies and purposes. TECO applicants currently in India to carry out their projects (from Italy, Slovak Republic and France) have joined the Conference and have presented their ongoing activities. Within the approved projects, a wide array of different subjects has been covered, ranging from biology to filmmaking, all of them focusing on the issue of water and soil quality.

CHALLENGE SESSION

Each of the speakers presented the main challenge faced during their work activity, highlighting problems and solutions. The challenges presented to the audience ranged from the technology transfer from the research to the market, the restoration of degraded lands in India, the problem of facing geogenic contamination, the improvement of the policy and regulation framework on contaminated sites, to the request of adequate responses to growing needs of environmental protection and sustainable development in Indian regions.

REMEDIAION TECHNOLOGY SESSION

The lecturers from the public and the private sector presented leading-edge technologies elaborated to face water and soil pollution. The presentations also highlighted some of the main problems and impediments to an effective remediation of the polluted sites, the lack of remediation standards and the low awareness of the population. About this last point, the information dissemination on both the risks linked to pollution and the strategies for decontamination is a fundamental starting point for every remediation action.

"We aim to offer an opportunity to create new research and business networks and to support the existing ones, with the common goal to work together for a better Environment."

The TECO Team

NATURE-BASED TECHNOLOGY SESSION

During the session, different approaches were stressed: trees, wetland plants and biochar as a tool to remediate freshwaters and soils; lakes, ponds and check dams to mitigate saltwater intrusion; ostracods for the evaluation of anthropogenic impacts. All of the proposed solutions provide sustainable, cost-effective, multi-purpose and flexible alternatives for a wide array of objectives, individuating smart, 'engineered' ways to face different kinds of contamination.

SENSING TECHNOLOGY SESSION

The session on sensor technology has been mainly focused on electrochemical biosensors and their applications for the environment, food and health. Five oral presentations gave a comprehensive picture of the wide applicative potential of these analytical tools based on nanostructured materials and using chemical sensors coupled to monolayers of smart molecules of biological origin as well as enzymes, oligonucleotides, antibodies, photosynthetic complex and reaction centers or synthetically produced polymers as well as molecularly imprinted ones with high selectivity and sensitivity.

CLOSING SESSION

A rich and constructive discussion closed the conference, helping the TECO Team to individuate new goals to further improve the positive experience of the first two years of the TECO Project. The main issues of discussion have been: 1) The importance of the participation of students (from school and University) in such events, 2) The opportunity for a further involvement of policy-makers into the networking platform, 3) The invitation to propose to the European Commission the publishing of new calls focused on the networking and communication issue.

We thanks all the participants for their precious and multifaceted contributions.

TECO Team



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“TECO project is a powerful tool to strengthen the cooperation between EU and India through the participation of different actors in the field of the environmental sustainability, ranging from Scientific Institutions to Private Companies passing through target groups and stakeholders.”

Massimo Zacchini

TECO Project Coordinator Italian Side, CNR-IBAF