



### Seminar - Training of Casting Engineers in India: A Collaboration between Kimura, KGMSDC and JICA

**K**imura Foundry in collaboration with Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (TARA), Development Alternatives Group, organised a virtual seminar titled “Training of Casting Engineers in India - A Collaboration between Kimura, KGMSDC and JICA” in association with JICA, E-Square Inc., Japan, and the Karnataka German Multi Skill Development Centre (KGMSDC) Society, India, on 28 September 2020. The purpose of the seminar was to present the results of the feasibility survey, that was carried out over 12 months, share the knowledge that Kimura Foundry has gathered with relevant stakeholders, and confirm the expectations of KGMSDC and other Indian stakeholders for the proposed Casting Academy going forward.

As part of a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) programme to support the overseas expansion of Japanese businesses and the development goals of Japan’s strategic partners, Kimura Foundry Co., Ltd., Japan, in collaboration with Society for TARA, carried out the “SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector” in India. The project was initiated in July 2019 and aimed at addressing two issues affecting India’s development: the shortage of specialised skilled workers in the casting industry and the shortage of high-quality casting products.

The survey examined local regulations, production standards and practices, and human resource development in India in preparation for setting up of a state-of-the-art Casting Academy and introduction of a local casting course by Kimura Foundry. The development effects of the creation of such an academy were also studied and numerous interviews were carried out with public and private stakeholders.

The seminar witnessed virtual participation of more than 70 stakeholders from India and Japan, mainly from the foundry and related trades, training institutions, academic and research institutions, business/commerce associations, and automotive and ancillary industries.

The participants were welcomed by Kanika Verma, Programme Director, TARA – Development Alternatives Group, and Takashi Kimura, Senior Executive Managing Director, Kimura Foundry. Kazutoshi Kimura, President, Kimura Foundry, in his opening remarks, highlighted Kimura Foundry and its rich history, and its plans for India in the future. He also thanked the concerned state government officials and partners in India for their support in undertaking the project survey successfully. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, in his opening remarks, highlighted the role of JICA in the development journey of India and expressed his commitment to facilitate future collaborations between India and Japan.

The second half of the session focused on technical aspects and was chaired by B S Raghupathy, Joint Secretary, KGMSDC. During the technical session, Mamoru Mizoguchi, Manager, Kimura Foundry presented on “Market Survey Results and Adaptability of Kimura Foundry's Technology”, while Dr. Toshitake Kanno, Senior Executive Managing Director, Kimura Foundry, delivered a commemorative address on “Casting Technology Education in Japan”. After the presentations, the session was opened to all the participants for questions and answers.

Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, expressed satisfaction on successful completion of the feasibility survey, and announced JICA's approval for the next phase of the project “SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector”.

During the second, multi-year survey, Kimura Foundry will establish a state-of-the-art Casting Academy at KGMSDC's Centre of Excellence in the Peenya industrial area of metropolitan Bengaluru, in cooperation with the state of Karnataka. The Business Verification Survey will also establish a system for conducting casting quality inspections, as well as teach environmentally friendly Japanese-style management methods, to improve casting product quality and management skill levels at foundries in Karnataka.

The closing remarks of the seminar were delivered by Kenichi Tamura, Director, E-Square Inc., and Shrashtant Patara, Chief Executive Officer, TARA – Development Alternatives Group, wherein they highlighted the collaboration of various public and private agencies from India and Japan as the key to successfully undertaking such development projects, and achieving the envisioned outcome and impact. They also thanked the participants for taking the time out of their busy schedules and participating in the seminar.

Overall, the seminar was conducted successfully with the dissemination of survey findings, and the stakeholders validating the needs for specialised skilled workers in the casting industry and improvement in the quality of casting products. To achieve these, the participants also expressed their continued support for the project and the partners. With the completion of the initial survey, TARA along with its partners, now look forward to the next phase of the project to strengthen India-Japan cooperation and establish a distinguished Casting Academy in India.

