



Strategising Sustainable Development Goals Business Model Formulation

Development Alternatives (DA) Group along with E-Square Inc., Japan and Kimura Foundry Co., Ltd., Japan conducted a second round of feasibility survey across Bengaluru, Mysuru and Delhi to address issues affecting India's development, from 14 to 22 October 2019. The survey highlighted the shortage of specialised skilled workers in the casting industry and the shortage of high-quality casting products.

It was conducted as part of the project "SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Training of Casting Engineers in India", jointly implemented by Kimura Foundry and E-Square Inc. along with the DA Group as India partners. The project is supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The survey team comprised of Mamoru Mike Mizoguchi and Saeka (Sarah) Nohara from Kimura Foundry, Kenichi Tamura and Hidenori Kanaya from E-Square Inc. and Sudhir Sah from the DA Group.

As part of the survey, various consultations were held with stakeholders from the government and the private sector. Consultations were held with Dr. S. Selvakumar (Secretary, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department, Government of Karnataka), H. Raghavendra (Managing Director, Government Tool Room & Training Center (GTTC)), C. R. Janardhana (President, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI)), B. S. Raghupathy (Joint Secretary, Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI)), Venugopal Nanduri (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH – International Services (GIZ-IS)), Team Leader, Karnataka German Multi Skills Development Center (KGMSDC), R. Raju (President, Karnataka Small Scale Industries

Association (KASSIA)), Gaurav Kapoor (Senior Head, Industry Partnership, CSR, Media & Advocacy, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)).

The discussions focused on promoting understanding of the project and collecting information on the skilling and manufacturing needs of the foundry industry. The team also explored the feasibility to set up a Casting Academy in collaboration with government institutes to impart specialised skills and training. The investment environment, regulations, approvals and potential funding support involved in setting up of the Casting Academy and a local manufacturing unit were also discussed with the stakeholders. To identify potential training partners, field visits to the training centre were undertaken to collect information on the existing and planned infrastructural facilities and the courses being offered at present. Similarly, visit to casting units were undertaken to understand the manufacturing level of the casting units in terms of current capacities, technologies, human resource and the associated gaps that could be highlighted in the feasibility study.

The stakeholders actively participated in the survey and provided invaluable inputs. The need for the study and the proposed solutions were validated by all the stakeholders and they assured the team of their support for the successful implementation of the project. The third and final round of the feasibility survey is scheduled for February 2020 which will be followed by the verification survey phase of the project.