

MRPL hosts MOPNG's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav seminar

On 19.3.2021, Mangalore Refinery began its celebration of 75 Years of Independence Day with a seminar called "Striving for a Sustainable Tomorrow with Green Fuels." This seminar was part of the series of activities planned by MOPNG to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence, "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav". Prestigious St Aloysius College, Mangalore, were MRPL's partners in the organisation of this event. The seminar was attended by members from industry and academia apart from a large number of enthusiastic students. Led by Shri Tarun Kapoor Secretary MOPNG many officials from MOPNG and leaders from the Oil and Gas fraternity joined the seminar through virtual platform.



Speaking on occasion, Shri Tarun Kapoor, Secretary P&NG, in his introductory speech, explained the significance of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. He stressed the need to ensure the energy security of the nation along with the need to ensure a sustainable future for mankind.





Shri M. Venkatesh Managing Director MRPL gave the introductory remarks. He stated that under a clearly spelt roadmap and visionary guidance of MOPNG, the Indian refining sector is balancing productivity along with sustainability.

The Seminar was Moderated by MRPL's Director Refinery Shri Sanjay Verma, who introduced the topic of sustainability and stressed the need to preserve mother earth for future generations. Shri Verma spoke on the key points highlighted by the expert speakers and summed up the findings of the panel discussion for the benefit of the students.



Panelists during the session on Sustainable Tomorrow with Green Fuels

Dr Arun M Isloor - Professor & HOD Chemistry Department of NITK



Dr Isloor discussed various sustainable energy options that are practically viable. He highlighted a few possibilities which he felt were most suitable for the geographical location of Coastal Karnataka. He felt that there is huge potential to promote Solar, tidal and Geothermal energy in this region. He discussed the pros and cons of promoting these diverse options.

On geothermal energy, he explained that geothermal energy supplies 1% of world energy, he mentioned that 22 countries in the world currently use geothermal energy – which has huge potential as renewable energy.

Kalbavi Prakash Rao -Ex-Chairman of the Mangaluru Capter of CII



Shri Kalbhavi said that connectivity is key for any sustainable development of Mangalore. He asserted that the state government is working on initiating eco-friendly projects like the construction of six tunnels to connect Bangalore with coastal Karnataka. He said that the government is also working on bringing some major changes in the railways to reduce travel time for both trade and tourists.

He mentioned that the major focus is on the capital of Bangalore – which comes under the top 30 global start-up ecosystem. He said that the government’s Karnataka Digital Economy Mission aims at having 10,000 start-ups and creating 1,00,000 jobs. He mentioned that the key enablers to achieve the vision are better quality of life, low cost of living and a great education system. He stressed that with a sustainable model, coastal regions like Mangalore have great potential for growth.

Director (Finance) MRPL Pomila Jaspal speaking on the Role of Ujjwala scheme



Speaking on the role of the government’s Ujjwala scheme in the transformation of society towards sustainable development, Director (Finance) MRPL Pomila Jaspal discussed about conventional ways of cooking with biogas in rural areas and its effects on health and the environment. Ms Jaspal noted that 70% of the Indian population lives in rural areas, and among them, 80% use biomass for cooking. She mentioned that 5 lakh premature deaths happen in India per year are due to health hazards from conventional cooking.

Ms Jaspal asserted that the situation in the rural area is improving with the government’s Ujjwala Yojana. “The government’s initiative of providing LPG gas to rural families has been a big step. In the very first year, 22 million LPG gases were distributed against the set target of 5 million. There has been a sharp increase in the use of LPG by 56% in 2019 compared to 2014,”

She further said that “Key objectives of the Ujjwala scheme are women empowerment, healthy cooking, ensuring quality and ease of living and lessen health hazards. The program has gone a long way to attain sustainable development goals”.

Shri Shyam Prasad Kamath- GGM-Tech Services MRPL



GGM-Tec Services MRPL Shyam Prasad Kamath spoke on the Clean Fuels initiative of MRPL:- BS-VI MS & HSD, Ethanol Blending in MS, 2G Ethanol and Bio ATF. Stating that the Indian Energy Basket has about 75% dependency on fossil fuels, Mr Kamath spoke on the importance of clean fuel.

Mr Kamath said that global initiatives like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, etc. gave major thrust towards the shift to clean fuels and India has been a part of this and working on achieving the targets. Speaking on MRPL's clean fuel initiatives, Mr Kamath asserted that the ONGC subsidiary has been working in line with the government policies to move towards cleaner fuels.

"In order to mitigate the effects of climate change, MRPL has been taking several initiatives like producing BS VI compliant automobile fuels – both petrol and diesel, IMO – marine fuel oil, bio-fuels, etc. MRPL's biofuels production plans include 2G Ethanol and Bio jet or Bio-ATF. MRPL's estimate investment for BS VI specifications is Rs 1810 crore," said Mr Kamath.

The session concluded with an interactive question and answer session, during which key issues like the need for ethanol blending, the introduction of advanced technologies to bring in more renewable resources, the efficiency of solar panel, etc., were raised.

Shri Rudolph Noronha GM CC gave a Vote of thanks

