



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE COAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

18th Session of the Coal Subcommittee
19-20 November 2013
Palais de Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

FINAL MINUTES

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Coal Subcommittee held its 18th session on 19-20 November 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, in conjunction with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ad Hoc Group of Experts (AHGE) on Coal Mine Methane (CMM). Co-chairs Felicia Ruiz (United States) and A.K. Debnath (India) presided over the meeting, welcoming 44 participants, including Partner Country delegates representing nine countries. Several speakers from the GMI Project Network facilitated a panel discussion on how to design and promote new CMM projects as well as maintain existing CMM projects while the carbon market reboots. Delegates from Australia, Colombia, India, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States highlighted recent developments in regulations affecting CMM projects and provided updates on recent and future CMM activities in their countries. Delegates also provided insight into the status of their countries' methane action plan for the coal sector. Finally, the subcommittee discussed its action items and plans for 2014.

The following sections provide more details of the meeting's discussions.

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Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Coal Subcommittee meeting was attended by GMI Partner Country delegates, Project Network members, and Administrative Support Group (ASG) staff. A list of attendees is included as Annex 1 to these minutes. Presiding over the meeting and providing opening remarks were:

- Co-chair Mr. A.K. Debnath, Chairman and Managing Director of India's Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI).
- Co-chair Ms. Felicia Ruiz, International Programs Lead for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA's) Coalbed Methane Outreach Program (CMOP).

Introductions of country delegates, Project Network members, and other attendees followed. A copy of the final agenda, which was approved by the subcommittee, is included as Annex 2 of these minutes.

ASG Update

Monica Shimamura, co-director of the ASG, expressed her gratitude to UNECE staff and the AHGE for hosting the 18th session of the Coal Subcommittee and collaborating with GMI to further methane reductions from coal mines globally. She provided an update on GMI membership, which now includes 42 Partner Countries and more than 1,300 Project Network members. She noted Saudi Arabia recently

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applied to become the 43rd Partner Country and GMI is currently reviewing their application for acceptance in early 2014. Ms. Shimamura also announced a new logo will be made available on the GMI website and via list-serv for Project Network members to use in their own outreach materials. Ms. Shimamura also informed participants there would not be a new grant solicitation issued in 2014 since many of the current grants are still being completed.

She also provided a status update on several charges the GMI Steering Committee made to each technical subcommittee during the March 2013 meeting in Vancouver, Canada:

- Firstly, the Steering Committee requested GMI continue to engage with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC). Although CCAC does not have an active sector for coal mines, it is currently working with GMI municipal solid waste, oil and gas, and agriculture sectors to address emissions of methane, HFCs and black carbon.
- The Steering Committee also highlighted the importance of in-person meetings—at least one per year, per sector—in order to convey global policy and technology advancements in methane reductions in each sector. As part of the Partnership’s 10-year anniversary, the ASG is planning an all-sector meeting. The ASG will be seeking support from each sector to develop technical and policy sessions.
- Thirdly, the Steering Committee requested documentation of the accomplishments toward methane reductions and outreach in each sector over the first 10 years of the Partnership. To meet this charge, the ASG is collecting materials for a video-based accomplishments report and accompanying pamphlet to highlight the reductions achieved, educational tools and resources developed, successful financing mechanisms, and demonstration projects in a multimedia format.
- Lastly, the Steering Committee understands the difficulty in coordinating and developing a standalone GMI-specific action plan for all five methane emitting sectors in each GMI Partner Country. Given the numerous government and non-government agencies working to address emissions, the Steering Committee did not want the coordination required to draft a single document to prevent submission of action plans. The Steering Committee suggested the action plan submitted could be in the format of a NAMA or a climate strategy document that includes methane reduction targets as a component, but not necessarily the sole focus of the document. The Steering Committee still requests each Partner Country to pursue submitting a written statement of how each country is addressing and prioritizing methane reduction activities either as a standalone document or as part of another climate document. Ms. Shimamura also noted Australia, the European Commission, Pakistan, and the United States have all completed their action plans.

A copy of Ms. Shimamura’s ASG update is available on the [GMI website](#).

Coal Subcommittee Report

Ms. Ruiz provided an update on several subcommittee documents and resources for the coal mines sector:

- *Flaring policy whitepaper*. This whitepaper was originally developed in November 2011 in response to the Steering Committee’s charge to address overall methane abatement in the coal mines sector, in addition to methane energy recovery projects. Since the paper was originally published, many of the project examples ceased to operate; hence, the revised paper features an

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updated selection of active flaring projects worldwide. The paper was circulated in August 2013 to the co-chairs and then circulated to the entire Coal Subcommittee in September 2013. The updated paper is now available on the [GMI website](#).

- *CMM Technology Database.* Australia's Department of Industry Tourism and Resources (RET) originally posted the database on their website in 2008 and GMI updated the database in 2011. Ms. Ruiz noted several company contacts and new and emerging technologies are missing from this database and announced co-chairs will be soliciting updates for this tool before the all-sector meeting in 2014.
- *CMM Projects Database.* GMI created this database in 2005 and it is a resource that is repeatedly cited. Ms. Ruiz noted there are more than 300 projects in the database, and emphasized the importance of keeping the project information up to date. Ms. Ruiz noted co-chairs will also be soliciting updates for this tool ahead of the all-sector meeting in 2014.
- *Coal Sector Country Profiles.* Ms. Ruiz noted on behalf of GMI, EPA has developed 37 comprehensive profiles that characterize the coal and coal mine methane sectors of 29 Global Methane Initiative partner countries and an additional eight coal-producing nations. The profiles were last updated in 2010. Several country profiles will be selected for revision during 2014 given that much of the information in these documents is now based on data from 2008 to 2010.
- *Coal Subcommittee Action Plan.* Ms. Ruiz noted the action plan created in 2006 has not been updated to incorporate, among other things, the expanded scope for flaring, and indicated the co-chairs will circulate a draft to the Coal Subcommittee before the 2014 all-sector meeting for comment. The Co-Chairs would like to officially adopt the updated Plan during the 2014 in-person Coal Subcommittee meeting. The document is intended to be a living document that outlines several mechanisms for interaction among Partner Countries and between Partner Countries and the Project Network.

A copy of Ms. Ruiz's presentation is posted on the [GMI website](#).

Panel Discussion

Several Project Network members led and participated in a panel session that addressed the enduring barriers to the global application of best practices that reduce methane emissions during the coal mining life cycle—principally the absence of vigorous international policy and market mechanisms that facilitate CMM recovery and utilization projects.

The basis for the panel discussion was the recognition that, on a global basis, most methane emitted from the coal mining cycle is low concentration and substantial volumes of the gas drained from underground mines reaches the surface at concentrations unsafe for further transportation or use. Additionally, with the end of 2012, a lack of clarity as to what may supersede the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI) has left a global dearth of incentive to reduce emissions either through regulation or carbon market driven policy. Many CDM projects in the CMM sector have, due to insufficient revenue values leading to failing profitability, had to be abandoned with the hope some of these projects will be resuscitated at a later date.

Yet, as we come to the end of 2013, there are hopeful signs coming from Australia, the European Union (EU), the United States (USA), Japan and China that regional carbon markets are being revitalized through unilateral and bilateral action. With present market-wide weak coal prices and reduced options

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for funding CMM projects, now is the time to reconsider approaches to design and construction of projects that cost effectively reduce emissions, increase productivity, and ensure safe working conditions.

The full panel's presentations are available on the [GMI website](#).

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Following the panel discussion, country representatives were asked to provide the Subcommittee with updates on recent and future CMM activities. Delegates from Australia, Colombia, India, Mongolia, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States delivered presentations, which are currently available on the [GMI website](#).

Next Meeting

Ms. Ruiz indicated the subcommittee will meet once virtually via an internet meeting before the next in-person meeting in late 2014.

Action Items and Adjournment

In summary, action items from the meeting include the following:

- Country delegates will:
 - Consider serving on the task force for the GMI all-sector meeting or submit suggestions for coal sector technical and policy presentations to Mr. Ray Pilcher, who is chairing the task force under EPA direction.
 - Draft country-specific Coal Sector Action Plans.
 - Submit video footage for the 10-year anniversary accomplishments report.
 - Review contact information in the CMM Technology Database at: http://www.globalmethane.org/documents/partners_cmm_tech_database.pdf and send updates to the Administrative Support Group (ASG) at asg@globalmethane.org.
 - Add CMM projects (whether simply ideas or actually operating) to the International CMM Project Database, which can be found at: <https://www.globalmethane.org/coal-mines/cmm/>
- The Co-Chairs will:
 - Update the Coal Subcommittee Action Plan before the next meeting and disseminate the revised document for comment.
 - Request update of certain key country profiles for the coal mine sector.
- The ASG will:
 - Work with Partner Countries to identify a host for the next Coal Subcommittee meeting in late 2014, or schedule an Internet meeting.

Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Shimamura thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to participating in a webinar and in person meeting in 2014.

The meeting was adjourned.



8TH UNECE AHGE ON COAL MINE METHANE (CMM)

Start Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2013
Room XII, Geneva

End Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013

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Annex 2 – Coal Subcommittee Meeting Agenda



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE COAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING FINAL AGENDA

Tuesday, 19 November 2013

- 15:00 – 15:15 **Welcome Addresses**
Co-Chair Felicia Ruiz (United States), Co-Chair Huang Shengchu (China), and Co-Chair A.K. Debnath (India)
- Brief introductions of all meeting participants
 - Adoption of agenda
- 15:15 – 15:45 **Update from Administrative Support Group (ASG)**
Monica Shimamura, ASG
- Partnership-wide 10-Year Anniversary Meeting in 2014
 - New outreach materials and resources
 - Country Action Planning
 - Other, TBD
- 15:45 – 16:45 **Subcommittee Business / Review of Action Items for the Year**
Co-Chairs and Subcommittee
- Revised Coal Subcommittee Action Plan
 - Revised Flaring Policy White Paper
 - Updates to the Coal Mine Methane Technology Database and International Coal Mine Methane Project Database
- 16:45 – 17:45 **Panel Discussion: Designing, Promoting, and Maintaining CMM Projects While the Carbon Market Reboots**
- Panel discussion will deal with the enduring barriers to global application of best practices that reduce methane emissions during the coal mining life cycle—principally the absence of vigorous international policy and market mechanisms that facilitate CMM recovery and utilization projects.
- 17:45 – 18:00 **Concluding Remarks**
Co-Chairs

Wednesday, 20 November 2013

- 10:00 – 11:30 **Partner Country and Project Network Updates**
Partner country delegates
- Brief updates (10 minute maximum per country) from Partner country delegates regarding any new or planned activities in-country or in other Partner countries

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- *Note: Due to time limits, we only have time for brief country updates, but Partner countries are welcome to submit longer updates (Power Point presentation or Word documents) if they would like to share in writing a more complete update with other subcommittee members. Following the meeting, all presentations and longer submissions will be posted on the GMI website.*

Project Network members

- Brief updates on activities and new developments in 2013

11:30 - 11:50 **Break**

11:50 – 12:30 **Partner Country and Project Network Updates** (*continued*)

12:30 – 12:50 **Summary and Next Steps**

Subcommittee Co-Chairs

- Meeting action items
- Specific tasks meeting participants agree to accomplish and report on by next meeting
- Next subcommittee meeting (potential dates and agenda topics)
- 2014 Partnership-wide meeting
- Announcements about upcoming coal-related conferences/workshops

12:50 – 13:00 **Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

Subcommittee Co-Chairs