

ASIAN AGE

DMRC earns carbon credits

BY RASHME SEHGAL

NEW DELHI

Feb. 10: The Delhi Metro is the first railway project in the world to earn carbon credits.

Being equipped with a regenerative braking system will enable it to use less grid electrical energy, thereby making a reduction of (tones of Co2) of 4,11,600 in the next decade.

Another low-carbon fuel switch system has been introduced in a town in Maharashtra and has also been registered, thereby allowing it to earn carbon credits.

These are but a few breakthroughs that have been achieved in the field of cli-

mate change as revealed in FICCI's report on this subject titled *Climate Change Task Force Report 2* which was released in the city on Tuesday.

Already, over 746 Indian companies across 40 industrial sectors are contributing to the clean development mechanism (CDM). These are especially active in the iron and steel, aluminium, cement and oil and gas sectors.

The oil, gas and petrochemicals sector alone have seven companies participating in the carbon market with 41 projects, of which six have been registered.

These companies include the Indian Oil Corporation, Reliance Industries, Bharat

Petroleum Ltd., Oil & Natural Corporation, NTPC Ltd. and the Chennai Petroleum Corporation.

Another 18 companies have 66 CDM project out of which 10 are registered. The 66 CDM projects in the CDM pipeline will account for around 57 million CERs upto 2012.

The Ficci report gives a break up of 66 CDM projects from which 42 are from the energy efficiency category, 10 from renewable energy, 11 from the industrial process category, two from the MSW and one from fuel switching category.

The problem is that 748 Indian projects are still waiting to be registered. Dr

Prodipto Ghosh, chairman of the Ficci Climate Change Task Force pointed out that at present a huge gap exists between demand and supply of service providers (DOEs).

"At present, there are seven DOEs in India, which have to handle a large number of projects. We need a larger number of DOEs which will then help reduce the time frame especially for small scale projects," said Mr Ghosh.

The report stressed the need to set up a technology development fund for collaborative R&D as also the need to relax the IPR regime in order to accelerate technology transfer.

United States President

Barack Obama has promised to spend \$150 billion to promote research in clean technologies but developed nations are facing shrinking economies due to the financial crisis.

Statistics indicate that the world economy will shrink by 2 per cent, the European by 2.5 per cent and the United States economy by 1.6 per cent. They will, therefore, have less financial resources to meet their commitments to reduce emissions.

The pressure will be on the developing nations, especially India, China and Brazil, to reduce missions without, however, receiving cheaper technology transfers, the report pointed out.