

CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISAM (CDM)

An Over all situation in the Indian context

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An Introduction:

The Clean Development Mechanism is part of Kyoto protocol environmental agreement. The CDM projects are designed to stimulate sustainable development through people centered participatory developmental activity to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions. The history of CDM begins from the early 1990s with the increasing recognition and actions by the scientists and others due to increase in GHG emissions from the human activities like heavy industries and big agriculture practices with higher motives of profits and indiscriminate productions, which have added the climatic change and rise in temperature not in the Indian situation, but also at global level.

To date the CDM has arguably been the most successful of the three flexible mechanisms. It has two main goals: (1) To assist countries without emissions targets (ie developing countries) in achieving sustainable development. (2) To help those countries with emission reduction targets under Kyoto (ie developed countries) in achieving compliance by allowing them to purchase offsets created by CDM projects. The CDM has created a system where emission reduction opportunities are actively sought out, and an institutional framework that stimulates secure and focused global investment in sustainable development projects.

The Indian context:

Although the developed countries try to play big brother roles many a time on any given global problems and needs, they are also responsible for the GHG emissions, the Kyoto Protocol introduced the concept of "Common, but differentiated in reducing emissions". Where as developing nation like India are not given emission targets, as it produces less emission. At the same time India accounts for a larger amount of mismanaged solid waste and disposal arrangements. We may escape from being a big polluter when comparing the global context. But within domestic situation we put up a poor show because of poor administration, corruption, non commitment attitude, disrespecting the neighbourhood and environment, irresistible usage of non degradable plastic and chemical items, etc (The list can be lengthier) There are rivers, streams and even the sea belt are polluted by the chemical and other hazardous wastes let free to flow. The birds and fish species killed slowly and unnoticeably by the local authorities and even higher ups, because of sheer negligence, bribing and corruption play together to forgo all norms set to protect the species and people as well as the environment at large.

It is encouraging that the Government of India and the Danish government made a bilateral agreement that they will work together on CDM and honouring Kyoto protocol and to facilitate the procurement by the Danish Government and/or private Danish companies of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) from energy efficiency. To facilitate the support for sustainable development in India through CDM project development, project -based transfer of technology, and capacity building by ensuring that the transacted projects meet the existing sustainability criteria set forth in India for such purposes.

India holds around 24% of the global CDM market, according to UNFCCC data. According to the statement given by Ghosh, who is also a distinguished fellow at the Energy and Resources Institute, unveiled a list of proposals that includes the "elimination of financial additionally". He also expressed his views that *"There is a fair measure of convergence of developed and developing countries' ideas for CDM reforms," said Ghosh*, speaking at the Carbon Market Insights conference in Amsterdam. "I don't think CDM reforms will be a stumbling block to a detailed outcome. It will happen probably soon in the process because I don't think other developing countries are far apart."

The Indian government has also proposed the creation of an International Methodology Development Fund, which will scrap charges for first-time project developers, to keep foreign investment flows liquid. Among other reforms, the Indian delegation says that removing the burden of costs will allow Indian CDM to past Phase III (2012–2020). India, and the largest CDM project developer, China, has come under heavy criticism for failing to sign up to a legal binding agreement to reduce emissions.

It is mandatory that any body or government or institution want to design and implement a CDM project must follow the norms that are universal in nature. The following aspects should be considered while **designing CDM project activities:**

- 1. Social well-being:** The CDM project activity should lead to alleviation of poverty by generating additional employment, removal of social disparities and contributing to provision of basic amenities to people leading to improvement in their quality of life.
- 2. Economic well-being:** The CDM project activity should bring in additional investment consistent with the needs of the people.
- 3. Environmental well-being:** This should include a discussion of the impact of the project activity on resource sustainability and resource degradation, if any, due to the proposed activity, biodiversity-friendliness, impact on human health; reduction of levels of pollution in general.
- 4. Technological well-being:** The CDM project activity should lead to transfer of environmentally safe and sound technologies with a priority to the renewables sector or energy efficiency projects that are comparable to best practices in order to assist in up gradation of the technological base.

Climate Change Accounting:

- The emissions picture worsens when biogenic emissions are taken into account. Under the CDM, it has become standard practice for companies in India to claim that burning biomass has no net effect on the climate.
- Scientists have pointed out that this rule does not reflect reality – all CO₂ has the same effect on the atmosphere, regardless of source – and its widespread application would have disastrous consequences, including the complete deforestation of the planet.
- Nevertheless, the CDM continues to allow companies to undercount their emissions, issuing carbon credits for emissions that are not in fact reduced to a positive change. India still needs to work on multiple problems solving in dealing with climate change and GHG areas of interests.

Challenges we face:

- Municipal solid waste management is a challenge in most urban areas in our country: rapidly growing urban populations, increased consumerism, and a shift in consumption patterns are resulting in rapidly rising levels of waste generation.
- The nature of municipal waste is also changing, with increasing quantities of plastics and composite materials such as electronics.
- The presence of organic waste in landfills has long been associated with a variety of problems – odors, pests, landfill fires, and toxic leachate.
- Organic waste in landfills is also one of the primary global sources of methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide.
- With the threat of a climate tipping point looming, measures such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the Global Methane Initiative (GMI) are increasing efforts on eliminating methane emissions.

Alternative outlook:

Fortunately, alternatives to waste sector privatization do exist. There are number of community based small and medium recycling units that are operated in India, especially in small towns and big cities contribute to maximum reduction of GHG and pave way for CDM in a way that could reduce considerable level of damages to the environment. But there is less or least recognition for such efforts taken by the small players, because they are some where in the corners of nation or they play silent constructive role in the nation building exercise.

There are several examples of community based recycling groups operating in states like Kerala and Tamilnadu, where they help the locals to recycle kitchen wastes to become cooking gas for small kitchens. *(Kitchen waste (except bones and coconut shells), small amount of cow dung, green leaves, and water mixed poured into a small plastic tank and covered. The gas produced (bio gas) supplied through a pipe and fed into the stove, where one can cook for five people twice a day and light a lamp)*

- Waste picker groups in parts of India, notably Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune, have had success in establishing source-separation schemes for municipal waste with the co-operation and support of local government and NGOs.
- The organics, which comprise 70% or more of the waste, are composted or processed into biogas, avoiding the methane emissions problem while creating a second income stream and the recyclables are re-used as new raw material for re-manufacture. Such examples create win-win situations for local communities, municipal authorities and the urban poor.
- But leave little room for participation by major multinational firms that are keen in protecting their big business brands and providing pittance to the local initiatives, so that these MNCs could write in their reports that they are part of local initiative to reduce GHGs or GMIs or something related to pollution.

(Experiments and trials by the tribals and Dalits in northern Karnataka on Solar and wind energy to light their homes and agricultural units (small ones), using hay insulated pots as cooler water pots during summer time, raw wool rugs cut pieces used to cover mud pots along with gunny bags and sprinkle water over them to keep the pots cool, leaves made as plates for all seasons to reduce expense and avoid thermo paper plates, arca nut tree bark plate etc, are some models one can adapt in the day to day life)

Popular Articles : About Clean Development Mechanism INDIA

CFL bulb scheme will be world's biggest carbon credit project

May 1, 2010 | Nitin Sethi , TNN

NEW DELHI: India has bagged the world's largest carbon credit project that will help replace 400 million incandescent light bulbs with energy saving CFL bulbs at dirt-cheap prices in a year while preventing 40 million tonnes of carbon from entering the atmosphere annually. The project, which will allow the government, investors, discus and CFL manufacturers to sell CFLs at Rs 15 each, instead of the Rs 100 they currently cost.

Clean Development Mechanism Articles By DateKOLKATA

UN conference hope for Sunderbans

November 24, 2011 | TNN

KOLKATA: Less than a week to go for the crucial United Nations climate change conference in Durban, South Africa, it is still uncertain whether world leaders will be able to successfully negotiate further commitments on emission cuts even as the Kyoto Protocol commitment period ends in 2012. But if negotiations succeed, it will pave the way for an incentive mechanism to preserve forests. And the Sunderbans, one of the biggest mangrove forests in this part of the globe, could benefit majorly.

Popular Articles About GarbageBANGALORE

Denied free IPL 2012 passes, Bangalore's civic body refuses to clear stadium garbage

April 10, 2012 | Anil Kumar M , TNN

BANGALORE: The face-off between the city civic agency and the Karnataka State Cricket Association has taken a dirty turn. After being refused VIP passes for corporators to watch IPL ties, the BBMP has declined to lift garbage piled up in Chinnaswamy Stadium. Deputy mayor S Harish told TOI the KSCA must shell out Rs 10-15 lakh for every match towards advertisement tax and garbage clearance, but pays just Rs 15,000.

Garbage Articles By DateRANCHI

Rain makes muck mockery

April 16, 2012 | Kelly Kislaya , TNN

RANCHI: While the unpredictable rainfall in the state capital has come as a welcome relief from the scorching heat, it has also created problems for the commuters in the form of overflowing drains that make walking and driving inconvenient and dangerous. One of the victims of the troubles following the rain and resident of Radium Road, Sudhir Kumar, said, "Every time there is rainfall, the drains by the roadsides overflow and all the garbage and sewage water flow out and make it difficult to walk.

Popular Articles About PanchayatJAIPUR

Babus dash MBA sarpanch's plans to transform villages

April 1, 2012 | TNN

JAIPUR: The same month last year she spoke at the UN about transforming rural India by ensuring basic facilities like drinking water, electricity, toilets, schools and jobs for the villagers through panchayats. The youngest and MBA graduate sarpanch of Rajasthan, Chhavi Rajawat on Saturday said the panchayats should be closed down. The reason: petty government officers were not allowing the elected representatives to work. Public utility works were being "deliberately delayed"....

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- READ Centre- Bangalore, Gandhigram Rural University- Dindigul. Tamilnadu,
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- Allsopp et al, "Incineration and Human Health," Greenpeace Research Laboratories, March 2001.
- Including wood, paper, food waste and plant material.
- For example, Searchinger et al, "Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error," Science Vol. 326, pp 527-8, October 2009.
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