

REPORT

Roundtable on Flexibilisation of Coal Fired Power Plants

The Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) Support Office together with the Excellence Enhancement Centre for the Indian Power Sector (EEC) held the first Business and Science Roundtable on Flexibilisation of Coal Fired Power Plants with special presentations from CUTECH Institute GmbH, Germany and the Energy Research Centre of Lower Saxony (EFZN), Germany at the GIZ New Delhi Office on 5th September 2017. Representatives from the Indian Power Sector such as NTPC & NETRA, Indian Government officials from the Central Electricity Authority, the State Transmission Grid Operator POSOCO and large component companies such as BHEL and Siemens participated besides other stakeholders such as the NGO TERI, and sector specialists from the advisory firms E&Y and Deloitte and from USAID at this exclusive Indo-German Roundtable.

After the introductory remarks by Mr. O.P. Maken from the EEC and a brief introduction round, Dr. Knut Kappenberg presented the set-up of these German organisations and the German context they work in. The German power industry has already gained extensive experiences in enhancing the flexibilisation of thermal power plants due to high share of fluctuating renewables in Germany's energy mix. Following this, Ms. Eglantine Kunle from CUTECH Institute presented the modelling tool to calculate the costs and impact of flexibilisation for coal fired power plants that she had developed. Her presentation highlighted the typical bottlenecks and challenges to flexibilisation with also providing adequate solutions to those problems.

After this a lively discussion emerged focussing on regulatory challenges. BHEL and SIEMENS confirmed that technologies were available but that a market for flexibility needed to be created first, so they became feasible for their customers to invest in. It was agreed that this topic will gain more and more relevance as the share of fluctuating renewables in the grid continues to rise in India and that while still being a niche market now, the right steps should be taken now to prepare for this future scenario. Learnings and experiences were discussed under the moderation of Mr. Tobias Winter, the Director of the Indo-German

Energy Forum Support Office. The workshop was followed by networking lunch and continued discussions between all participants.