



## GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE COAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Coal Subcommittee  
22 October 2014  
Palais de Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland

### FINAL MINUTES

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Coal Subcommittee held its 20<sup>th</sup> session on 22 October 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Group of Experts (AHGE) on Coal Mine Methane (CMM). Co-chair Felicia Ruiz (United States), Co-chair Huang Shengchu (China), and acting Co-chair D.N. Prasad (India) presided over the meeting, welcoming 41 participants, including Partner Country delegates representing nine countries. The Administrative Support Group (ASG) provided an update, and the Subcommittee discussed the Steering Committee charges to the ASG, including a new task force developed to propose a plan for GMI's future post-2015. Delegates from Australia, China, Colombia, India, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States provided updates on recent and future CMM activities in their countries and other Partner Countries, and several Project Network members provided updates on their work. The Subcommittee discussed its work products and plans for a future International Methane Forum.

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

#### **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:

- Acting Co-chair Mr. D.N. Prasad, Advisor (Projects) of India's Ministry of Coal.
- Co-chair Mr. Huang Shengchu, President of the China Coal Information Institute (CCII).
- 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, ASG Co-Director, expressed her gratitude to UNECE for hosting the meeting. She acknowledged that 2014 is GMI's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and confirmed GMI will be holding a future International Methane Forum in Washington, DC. Ms. Shimamura announced the ASG is incorporating Partner feedback to finish a four-module GMI video describing why methane is important and covering three technical areas in detail. Partner Countries and Project Network members will be invited to use the video when needed. The ASG is also working on an infographic to highlight GMI's accomplishments and the importance of methane mitigation. She also noted the ASG is updating the GMI website and adding a

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map to illustrate GMI projects worldwide. The ASG welcomes information on any known projects missing from the map.

Ms. Shimamura discussed the GMI Steering Committee meeting held in October 2014 in Montreal, Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss GMI's future since the Terms of Reference (TOR) expires in 2015 and there have been significant policy changes and methane mitigation progress in the past 10 years. Steering Committee members prepared for the meeting by reviewing questions for consideration posed by the ASG, including how the GMI sectors could work together with other organizations, such as the CCAC.

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

### Group Discussion on Steering Committee Charges

The Co-chairs opened the floor for a group discussion on the outcomes of the Steering Committee meeting in Montreal. In addition to this discussion, Partner Country delegates and Project Network members were encouraged to email the Co-chairs to share their thoughts on the Coal Subcommittee's strengths and any ideas for future plans. The Co-chairs will work with the ASG to develop a formal process on how to submit feedback to the Steering Committee.

The following comments and points were discussed regarding the Steering Committee read out:

- The group discussed the differences among CCAC and GMI, and there were many comments in support of GMI's continuance and unique expertise. The task force will evaluate how GMI will work with CCAC and other similar organizations moving forward, including how countries that are not partners with CCAC or these other organizations would be involved in that work.
- It was noted the Steering Committee planned to discuss moving the ASG to a different country or organization that is better equipped to handle joint funding from various countries for meetings and events. Participants noted that GMI can help ensure project success by continuing its work in project identification and technical assistance, and also noted the importance of Partner Countries can fund their own projects and may have unique needs. Another participant commented GMI should look into the UN structure for hosting the ASG.
- Partner countries indicated their desire to be included in the Steering Committee, and there was a suggestion to have a few core members and some rotating members. Initially, all Partners were immediately eligible for Steering Committee membership upon joining the Initiative. Since 2010, however, countries have to wait one year after joining GMI to request to join the Steering Committee<sup>1</sup> but its structure post-2015 could be up for discussion.
- It was suggested that GMI work with other organizations such as World Energy Council to co-host meetings or partner with other sector-specific organizations for meetings to diversify participation. In addition, there was a comment in support of co-hosting meetings with industry experts, such as this one.
- It was suggested that the task force more directly seek input on the Coal Subcommittee's future from the AHGE on CMM and the Project Network since they are such heavy stakeholders in the Coal Subcommittee. Ms. Ruiz stressed the importance of getting feedback from Partner Country

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<sup>1</sup> According to the 2010 TOR updates, all Partners are considered Steering Committee "observers" from the time they join the Initiative. Twelve months after joining (and any time thereafter), Partner Countries may request to become a Steering Committee member via a letter to the ASG that outlines their engagement (e.g., workshop participation/sponsorship, site assessments/studies) in the Initiative to-date.

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delegates, the Project Network, and the UNECE AHGE on CMM as the Co-chairs prepare a paper on the Coal Subcommittee's future for the ASG and Steering Committee.

### Partner Country Updates

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

### Project Network Updates

Mr. Sergazy Baimukhametov, Coal Division, ArcelorMittal Temirtau JSC, presented an update on Kazakhstan's coal mine degasification and methane mitigation progress. Of the methane released during mining, approximately 25 percent is used to produce electricity at four coal mines with the appropriate technology. Kazakhstan is looking into capturing methane from unmined coal seams and has invited private companies to consider this project. They are currently working with an American company to evaluate this type of project in a pilot setting.

Mr. Neil Butler, HEL-EAST Ltd., gave an update on coal mining in the U.K. 100 years ago, the U.K. had 3,000 underground coal mines producing 250 million tons of coal, and last year they produced about 3 million tons of coal from fewer than 10 mines. Over the last 15 or 20 years, the U.K. has gained significant experience in closing mines and has implemented best practices for capturing methane during mine closures. Mr. Butler suggested the Coal Subcommittee consider best practices for mine closures and best practices for considering future mine closures in all CMM projects (e.g., gas ownership from the abandoned mine) in its work going forward.

Mr. David Creedy, Sindicatum Sustainable Resources, commented about project development in China. He spoke specifically about five projects funded by Australia. There are some projects that involve flaring and although there is not any monetary benefit, they are still operating to reduce emissions. Two of the projects are moving forward with power generation, and one ventilation air methane (VAM) project has been suspended because there is not enough income to make it worthwhile. He noted there is no incentive to produce high quality gas and that the carbon incentives are no longer working in China.

Mr. Richard Mattus, RM Business Consulting, gave an update on his work. He has been involved in VAM projects in Australia, China, Poland, the United States, and other countries. He was an integral part of the WestVAMP project in Australia, which has been operating since 2007. It processes 0.9 percent methane (99 percent air) and generates 5 Megawatts of electricity. He is currently working on the VAM safety study being done by the Australian government.

### Subcommittee Business

Ms. Ruiz provided an update on several Coal Subcommittee work products:

- *CMM Technology Database*. Australia's Department of Industry Tourism and Resources (RET) originally posted the database on their website in 2008. GMI updated the database in 2011 and again in 2014. The database provides information on major technologies and technology and service providers in the CMM industry. Ms. Ruiz asked the Subcommittee to review the document and send comments or necessary updates (particularly contact information listed) to the ASG.
- *CMM Projects Database*. GMI created this database in 2005 as a comprehensive resource for information on all CMM projects worldwide, and it is a resource that is repeatedly cited. Ms. Ruiz noted there are more than 200 projects in the database, and indicated anyone can add

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information. GMI does a quality control check of the data about once per year. Projects that have been implemented (i.e., not merely in the planning stage) will be merged into the new map of all methane projects that will be hosted on the GMI website. Ms. Shimamura emphasized the importance of keeping the project information up to date and requested any project/data updates be sent to the ASG.

- *Coal Sector Country Profiles.* Ms. Ruiz noted, on behalf of GMI, EPA has developed 37 comprehensive profiles that characterize the coal and CMM sectors of 29 GMI Partner Countries and an additional eight coal-producing nations. The Profiles were last updated in 2010 and are all currently under revision. The updated document will be released in 2015.
- *Coal Subcommittee Action Plan.* Ms. Ruiz noted the [action plan created in 2006](#) is being updated by the Co-chairs, and will be circulated to the Coal Subcommittee for discussion and comment.

### **International Methane Forum**

Ms. Ruiz announced the future International Methane Forum will be held in Washington, DC, with dates to be determined. The meeting will be roughly three days long and will include technical and policy sessions and an in-person Coal Subcommittee meeting. Unlike past meetings, this meeting will likely not include a site visit for the coal mines sector and there will not be poster sessions.

Mr. Ray Pilcher (Raven Ridge Resources, Inc.) led the Subcommittee through a brainstorm of ideas for the technical and policy sessions to be held during the forum. He suggested some potential broad topic areas: technical, policy and regulatory, economics markets and other finance topics, coal mine safety, case studies to replace poster sessions, and “fast forward to the future.”

The Subcommittee made several suggestions on broad and specific topic areas to cover:

#### Technical:

- VAM projects and arising technical issues (e.g., running at higher ventilation concentrations) should be discussed, as well as fully integrating CMM projects into mine operation.
- As Partner Country delegates frequently mention barriers to moving projects forward, including technologies, perhaps countries could weigh in on what they would like to see from a technology perspective so that their needs could be met.
- GMI, UNECE, and others have done a lot of work to document best practices for CMM projects so technology discussions seem to have matured, and the group should now try to focus on communicating that information to safety regulators, policymakers, and other stakeholders identified on a regional basis. The subcommittee expanded on that idea by saying they may need to develop some short communication pieces to reach out to these new groups within the next year. There was another comment the subcommittee should work to help release an updated version of the CMM best practices guide before the meeting.
- Adding sessions on gas drainage/extraction and drilling in both underground and aboveground mines.

#### Financial:

- Maximize the opportunity to work with the many large Washington DC-based financial institutions and investor associations who may be interested in CMM projects, such as inviting them to a short primer on CMM, setting up a networking event, and inviting them to speak.

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- Recognizing the difficulty in funding and incentivizing VAM projects because they are not always cost-effective; emphasize the next wave of investment for VAM projects (e.g., could a coal tax imposed by governments be earmarked for VAM projects).
- While emission reductions may be the primary driver for CMM projects in some countries, other countries may place a higher priority on the economic value of coal exports and financial benefits of CMM because their emissions are not significant. Presenters should take a variety of perspectives into account during the International Methane Forum.

### Policy:

- Sessions on policy/regulatory discussing barriers that have been weakened or removed in the last 10 years and new barriers have been identified to project development, geo-politics, and climate change awareness.
- Government initiatives or policies that encourage technology and project development, and the results on project development when those initiatives are no longer available (e.g., Australia's carbon tax).
- Ownership, safety regulations, taxation, environmental regulations, incentives, cap and trade, ease of market access, and a fair playing field on cost of power. A panel discussion comparing policies would be informative
- Safety policy is very important since coal mining accidents are so prominent in the media, and safety policies force mining companies to focus on CMM.
- Break down the session to cover big picture issues like markets, mine safety regulations, energy policy, and more. An effort should be made to ensure sessions are coordinated and compartmentalized.

The following suggestions were made on other topics:

- Add sessions about research and development achievements and new technologies and ideas not yet commercialized.
- Project Network updates provide good ideas for material, including sessions covering successful mine closure protocols in the U.K. and other countries, project development barriers and emissions trading scheme market in China, and a session from the AHGE on CMM on best practices and successful case studies.
- For the case study session both successful and unsuccessful case studies should be presented. Subsurface and aboveground practices should be discussed, including improvements made on gas drainage (both volume and concentration). There were some specific suggestions made on case study speakers, as well, particularly a coal company in China and policy regulations in India.
- A session on lessons learned in the past 10 years and how those lessons have impacted CMM development, citing accidents in certain countries as specifics.
- A session on transformative technologies, policies, and finance and project structuring to allow the group to take a bigger picture look at the potential future of CMM.
- The financial and policy innovations are just as important and relevant as the sessions on technology innovations.

Additional ideas on the coal technical and policy sessions at International Methane Forum can be sent directly to the ASG. The Co-chairs will develop a task force to more fully develop the agenda.

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### Next Meeting

Ms. Ruiz indicated the Subcommittee will meet once, either virtually via an internet meeting or in-person if there is an event with which to co-locate, before the next in-person meeting at the International Methane Forum. Colombia offered to host an in-person meeting prior to the Forum.<sup>2</sup>

### Action Items and Adjournment

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

- Country delegates will:
  - Consider providing comments to the Steering Committee task force on how to make GMI more efficient and effective. Comments can be sent to the ASG at [asg@globalmethane.org](mailto:asg@globalmethane.org).
  - Consider providing comments to the Coal Subcommittee Co-chairs on the Subcommittee's strengths and potential plans to aid in the creation of a report to the ASG and Steering Committee on the Coal Subcommittee's future.
  - Consider submitting suggestions for coal sector technical and policy presentations at the International Methane Forum. Suggestions and comments may also be sent to the ASG.
  - Review updated Country Profiles when available, and send necessary updates to the ASG.
  - Review contact information in the CMM Technology Database at: [http://www.globalmethane.org/documents/partners\\_cmm\\_tech\\_database.pdf](http://www.globalmethane.org/documents/partners_cmm_tech_database.pdf) and send updates to the ASG.
- The Co-chairs will:
  - Seek input from the Subcommittee to develop a report outlining the future of the Coal Subcommittee to share with the ASG and Steering Committee.
  - Develop a task force to develop the coal technical and policy sessions for the International Methane Forum.
  - Update the Coal Subcommittee Action Plan before the next meeting and disseminate the revised document for comment.
  - Finish updating 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 mid-2015 or schedule an Internet meeting.
  - Look into creating a wiki page for the Coal Subcommittee to plan the technical and policy sessions for the International Methane Forum.

Ms. Ruiz, Mr. Prasad, and Dr. Huang provided closing comments, thanked the UNECE for hosting the GMI Coal Subcommittee and the AHGE on CMM meeting, and thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was adjourned.

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<sup>2</sup> The next meeting has been scheduled for 3-4 June 2015 in Bogotá, Colombia. Meeting registration is available at <http://epa.gov/globalmethane/events-upcoming.htm>.



**Joint Meeting of UNECE and the Coal Subcommittee of the Global Methane Initiative**

**Start Date:** Wednesday, October 22, 2014  
Palais des Nations, Geneva  
Participants: 41

**End Date:** Wednesday, October 22, 2014

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## Annex 2 – Coal Subcommittee Meeting Agenda



### GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE COAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING FINAL AGENDA

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- 10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome Addresses**  
*Co-Chair Felicia Ruiz (United States), Co-Chair Huang Shengchu (China), and Co-Chair D.N. Prasad (Acting for India)*
- Brief introductions of all meeting participants
  - Adoption of agenda
- 10:15 – 11:00 **Update from Administrative Support Group (ASG) and Steering Committee**  
*Monica Shimamura, ASG*
- 2015 Partnership-wide meeting
  - New outreach materials and resources
  - Report out and charges from October Steering Committee meeting
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Group Discussion on Steering Committee Charges**
- 11:30 – 11:50 **Coffee/Tea Break**
- 11:50 – 13:00 **Partner Country Updates**  
*Partner country delegates*
- Brief updates (10 minutes each) from Partner country delegates regarding any new or planned activities in-country or in other Partner countries
  - *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.*
- 13:00 - 15:00 **Lunch**
- 15:00 – 16:30 **Partner Country and Project Network Updates** *(continued)*  
*Project Network members invited to speak as time allows*
- 16:30 – 17:30 **Subcommittee Business / 2015 Partnership-Wide Meeting**  
*Co-Chairs and Subcommittee*
- Update on Coal Subcommittee work products
  - Planning for 2015 coal technical/policy sessions at GMI Partnership-wide meeting
    - *Presentation by Mr. Raymond C. Pilcher*

## **Annex 2 – Coal Subcommittee Meeting Agenda**

17:30 – 17:45 **Summary of Action Items**

*Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

- Meeting action items
- Charges from Steering Committee
- Next subcommittee meeting (potential dates and agenda topics)
- 2015 Partnership-wide meeting
- Announcements about upcoming coal-related conferences/workshops

17:45 - 18:00 **Concluding Remarks and Adjournment**

*Subcommittee Co-Chairs*