



GLOBAL METHANE INITIATIVE
10th Steering Committee Meeting
16 April 2018
Toronto, Canada

MEETING SUMMARY

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its 10th session on 16 April 2018 in Toronto, Canada. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Rodolfo Lacy of Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and Mr. Mike Beale of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Representatives from Argentina, Canada, China, Germany, Ghana, Mexico, and the United States participated in the meeting. The meeting focused on Subcommittee updates and planning for the Methane Challenge campaign. Presentations for the meeting are available on the [GMF site](#).

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

Agenda 1: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting (Co-Chairs)

Agenda 2: Roll Call / Brief Introductions (Tour de Table) (GMI participants -- see Appendix A)

Agenda 3: Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda (see Appendix B)

- Approved

Agenda 4: Biogas Subcommittee – Summary (see [Biogas Subcommittee presentation](#))

- 2016-2017 Update:
 - Activities were focused on collaborating with many private sector industries and NGOs, primarily in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa.
 - Participated in several events, including the ISWA World Congress, the European Biogas Conference, the Latin America Biogas Conference, and the International ManuREsource Conference.
 - Other outreach activities included developing standardized training and financing models.
- 2018-2019 Action Plan:
 - Technical priorities include (1) landfill gas capture and biogas energy recovery, (2) best practices for food and organic waste and wastewater treatment, (3), advancement or management sustainable agriculture, (4) renewable natural gas production, and (5) co-digestion of sludge, manure, ag residuals and food wastes.
 - Narrow its geographic focus on efforts in China, India, Mexico, and Kazakhstan.
 - Support existing national schemes, national methane strategy development and CCAC interface on waste and agricultural.
 - Desired outputs are project and policy success stories, standardized training and learning platforms, business and financing models, biogas branding, and collaborative outreach.

Agenda 5: Oil and Gas Subcommittee – Summary (see [Oil and Gas Subcommittee presentation](#))

- 2016-2017 Highlights:
 - Participated in eight workshops and meetings, including events held in Spain, Argentina, and the Netherlands, and held six stakeholder meetings in Mexico and India.

- Conducted five measurement studies; four in Mexico and one in Kazakhstan.
- Provided technical assistance and outreach, including a joint GMI/UNECE publication on best management practices for oil and gas and worked with EcoPetrol in Columbia to identify mitigation measures for vented gas recovery.
- 2018 – 2019 Action Plan:
 - Reflects four objectives: (1) establish long-term relationships, (2) develop tools and resources to enhance capacity-building efforts, (3) identify and address barriers to projects, and (4) identify country-specific needs and opportunities.
 - Work with UNECE on a best management study to highlight technologies and practices appropriate for specific sectors.
 - Build relationships with the finance community and GMI strategic alliance partners.
 - Prepare a priority list of key project barriers and identify financing options and mechanisms to overcome barriers.

Agenda 6: Coal Subcommittee – Summary (see [Coal Subcommittee presentation](#))

- 2016–2017 Highlights:
 - Members collaborated with the UNECE to update and promote the “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines.”
 - Joint annual Subcommittee meetings were held.
 - International Centres of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane were opened in Poland (August 2017) and China (May 2017); the Centres are establishing and building in-country capacity.
 - Actively engaged with GMI partner countries to provide technical employee assistance and outreach.
- Plans for 2018–2019:
 - Provide targeted technical assistance and outreach to Columbia, Jordan, China and India, and continue to support the UNECE and the International Centres of Excellence.
 - Update and refine key tools and resources of the Subcommittee.
 - Conduct a Subcommittee meeting on 24-25 September 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland in conjunction with the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane meeting.

Agenda 7: New GMI Partners (see [New Members presentation](#))

- GMI received letters from Cote d’Ivoire and Israel with requests to join GMI.
- Cote d’Ivoire became the 44th Partner in March and Israel became the 45th Partner in May.

Agenda 8: Summary of 2017-2018 Events, Administrative Support Group (see [ASG presentation](#))

- ASG presentation summarized key GMI events supported in 2017.
- Enhanced the [GMI website](#) to improve usability and search functionality and added GIS-based maps of GMI project data.
- Developing a new tool that will allow users to explore methane emissions sources and mitigation opportunities in the Oil and Gas sector.

Agenda 9: Country Updates

- Verbal updates were provided from Canada, China, Germany, Ghana, and Mexico.
- P. Franklin (United States) summarized activities in support of GMI. (see [United States presentation](#))

Agenda 10: Update on Strategic Objectives 2017-2018

- Discussion of progress made on GMI’s strategic objectives. (see [2017 December Strategic Planning Update](#))
- M. Brodeur (Canada) spoke about the “menu of options” for methane mitigation that could be integrated with activities associated with the Methane Challenge.

- M. Brodeur (Canada) referred to the inclusion of methane mitigation strategies in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submissions and noted that only 7 of 43 Partner countries have identified methane-related activities.
- A suggestion was made to conduct a gap analysis.
- It was noted that an annual reporting process is under consideration.

Agenda 11: Proposal for Consideration: GMI Leadership

- Canada agreed to extend its leadership as a co-chair for another 2-year term.
- Appreciation of Canada's leadership was expressed.
- Mexico's participation, including Rodolfo Lacy's role as co-chair, was discussed pending the result of general elections in July and administrative changes in December.
- *Post-meeting note:* Dr. Lucy stepped down from the co-chair role on July 15 due to his appointment as Director of the Environment Directorate at the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD).

Agenda 12: Proposal for Consideration: Challenge for Methane Action (see [Challenge for Methane Action presentation](#))

- M. Shimamura (ASG) provided a brief recap and defined the main elements.
- The Menu of Actions provides options for countries to take actions at a level consistent with the ambitions and resources of their country. Partners can create a country-specific course of action, or actions can be taken individually or in collaboration with other GMI Partners and Project Network members.
- Examples of menu actions:
 - Establish a voluntary national emission reduction target for methane, nationwide or in one or more sectors.
 - Prepare a letter of support for the campaign and indicate activities to be undertaken, signed by a Minister.
 - Host, organize, or participate in technical workshops that address methane mitigation.
 - Develop or promote implementation of best practices guidance documents.
- Engaging the private sector is a key element:
 - Project Network members will be encouraged to collaborate with one or more GMI partners to organize and host events related to investment opportunities, policy developments, etc.
 - Members can host, sponsor, and organize information-sharing events about current abatement technologies.
- The communications and outreach strategy is based on creating a communications Task Force.
- Participants emphasized the importance of reporting the results:
 - How will the information be gathered and how will the information be transmitted?
 - It is important that the reporting is not burdensome.
 - Preliminary suggestions included sending emails to ASG, setting up an online form on the GMI website, and self-promotion via social media.
- Ideas proposed for recognizing activities included Challenge outreach materials, Challenge profiles on the GMI website, and special recognition at a Challenge capstone event.
- The recommended timeframe is 12 months, preferably aligning with the calendar year (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019).
- Issues for discussions were defined:
 - Does the Steering Committee endorse the campaign and wish to proceed?
 - How to publish the deliverables and outputs?

- How to encourage Partners to engage?
 - How to get Project Network members involved?
 - How will participation be tracked?
 - What forms of recognition should be considered?
 - What is the name of the Challenge?
 - What is the desired timeframe?
 - Does the Steering Committee want to invite UNECE and CCAC?
- Comments of the participants:
 - J. Hilbert (Argentina) asked how many of the 43 Partner countries sent official delegates to the GMF. He commented on the lack of participation by many countries, noting that a few countries are taking on many GMI tasks.
 - R. Lacy (Mexico) thinks other countries will embrace the idea and that the Challenge will encourage motivation.
 - Germany expressed support and encouraged collaboration with others and talked about impetus of the pre-Paris agreement. He emphasized the importance of making it easy to sign up.
 - Canada is very supportive but wants the Challenge to be action-oriented. The messaging is important. Canada is happy to participate in the Task Force and suggested a regional balance (not just North and South America).
 - Mexico is supportive and offered suggestions to emphasize the technical aspects, target different countries, increase participation by other Partner countries, and encourage technology innovation.
 - C. Voell (United States recommended increasing awareness of how methane affects people and “telling stories” about people.
 - Ghana expressed support and noted capturing momentum to promote methane.
 - China stated its preference for an action-oriented message and recommends a report at the end of the Challenge.
- Ideas for names:
 - Challenge for Methane Action
 - Challenge to Promote Methane Actions
 - Challenge to Reduce Methane
 - 2018 Methane Challenge
 - Methane Matters
 - Momentum for Methane Challenge/Action/Matters
 - Year of Action for Methane
 - Year of Methane Action
- Discussion about the Task Force:
 - P. Franklin (United States) suggestion: convene a Task Force and ask each subcommittee to appoint one member to the Task Force. The Task Force will be responsible for exploring and developing a more detailed concept with a deadline for finalizing the plan.
 - Calls will be held every 3-4 weeks.
 - R. Lacy (Mexico) suggestions: The Task Force reports to the Steering Committee every 2 months. He also referred to the Climate Change Conference/Conference of the Parties (COP24) in December 2018, suggesting that the Challenge could be promoted at this event.
 - M. Shimamura (United States) responded that it might not be possible to announce the Challenge at COP24 because GMI may not be able to attend. Also, it may be difficult to

elevate the Challenge among many other messages and campaigns to be promoted at the meeting.

- Action Items:

- Deliver a Task Force report by the end of June
- The Task Force will recommend a name
- Consider an official announcement at COP24
- The United States will help organize the Task Force which will include representatives from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Ghana and a member of each Subcommittee.

Agenda 13: For Approval: GMF Communiqué (see [GMF Communique presentation](#))

- The participants discussed shortening the Communiqué and reducing the emphasis on ozone.
- Action Item: M. Shimamura (ASG) will revise and finalize the Communiqué.
- The final Communiqué was announced at the closing plenary session, sent by email to all GMI stakeholders, and posted on the [GMI Website](#).

Agenda 14: Next Steps

- Reviewed actions:
 - Continue to work on Strategic Objectives
 - Complete the Task Force report by end of June
 - Ask the Subcommittees to identify one representative for the Task Force
 - Send a doodle poll with options for the next Subcommittee Meeting

Agenda 15: Adjournment

- R. Lacy (Mexico) thanked the Steering Committee members for a productive meeting and the Subcommittee Co-Chairs for their input and adjourned the meeting.

APPENDIX A

Meeting Participants

David Backstrom, Canada
Mike Beale, Canada
Mathilde Brodeur, Canada
Feng Chun Ling, China
Adolfo Contreras, Mexico
James Diamond, Canada
Joseph Donahue, USA
Joseph Essanduh-Yeddu, Ghana
Nicole Folliet, Canada
Pamela Franklin, USA
Diana Guzman, Mexico
Benjamin Heras, Mexico
Jorge Hilbert, Argentina
Alejandro Aceves Jimenez
Jennifer Kerr, Canada
Rodolfo Lacy, Mexico
Wenge Liu, China
Cathy McGirl, USA
Ruben Hernandez Montero, Mexico
Christian Muller, Germany
Claudia Octaviano, Mexico
Anja Schwetje, Germany
Paulina Serrano, Mexico
Monica Shimamura, USA
Chengchuan Tian, China
Rosario Velasco, Mexico
Chris Voell, USA

APPENDIX B

Agenda

Agenda 1 13:30 – 13:35	Welcome, Opening of the Meeting <i>Co-Chair Mike Beale, Canada</i> <i>Co-Chair Rodolfo Lacy, Mexico</i>
Agenda 2 13:35 – 13:45	Roll Call/Brief Introductions (Tour de Table) <i>Co-Chairs</i>
Agenda 3 13:45 – 13:50	Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda <i>Co-Chairs</i>
Agenda 4 13:50 – 14:05	Summary of 2017-18 events <i>Biogas Subcommittee</i>
Agenda 5 14:05 – 14:20	Summary of 2017-18 events <i>Oil & Gas Subcommittee</i>
Agenda 6 14:20 – 14:35	Summary of 2017-18 events <i>Coal Subcommittee</i>
14:35 – 14:50	Break
Agenda 7 14:50 – 14:55	New GMI Partners
Agenda 8 14:55 – 15:00	Summary of 2017-18 events <i>Administrative Support Group</i>
Agenda 9 15:00 – 15:40	Country Updates <i>Countries TBD</i>
Agenda 10 15:40 – 15:50	Update on GMI Strategic Objectives 2017-2018 <i>Canada and Mexico</i>
Agenda 11 15:50 – 16:05	Proposal for Consideration: GMI Leadership
16:05 – 16:20	Break
Agenda 12 16:20 – 17:00	Proposal for Consideration: Challenge for Methane Action
Agenda 13 17:00 – 17:10	For approval: GMF Communiqué
Agenda 14 17:10 – 17:25	Next Steps
Agenda 15 17:25 – 17:30	Adjournment