

Refractory Industry must upgrade itself to take benefit of increased business from steel industry

“The Refractory Industry must upgrade itself to take benefit of increased business from the steel industry,” stated **Mr RK Vijayvergia, Executive Director-Operations SAIL** at an Conference on ‘New Technologies in Refractories -Challenges & Opportunities’, held as part of CeraGlass India 2010, India’s first ever comprehensive ceramics, glass and allied products show organized by Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation (RIICO), Government of Rajasthan, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Indian Ceramic Society (ICS) with the support of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In his special address, **Mr. Vijayvergia** said, “Steel industry forms the major end use segment for refractories consuming around 70 percent of its total annual production. The Refractory Industry has to keep pace with steel industry with regard to quality and quantity demands. Meanwhile, with the changed business scenario more and more customers are looking forward to total refractory management which encompasses creation of value added service, responsive supply chain network and understanding of customers’ requirement.”

“The major Indian refractory manufactures need to gear up to cater the need of steel industry. World leaders in refractories like RHI from Austria, Vesuvius from Belgium, French giant Calderys, Pohang from South Korea etc have also made their presence in India which is a good sign for the industry. Recently SAIL has taken over Bharat Refractories Ltd which is now named as SAIL Refractory Unit (SRU). SAIL is in the process of augmenting and upgrading the facilities at SRU for higher production to meet the quality requirement of SAIL.”

Showing his concerns to uplift Indian refractory industry, Vijayvergia said, “Recycling and reuse of refractory is another area of utmost important. In order to reduce the volume of waste refractories, it is necessary to cut down their consumption by prolonging life furnace lining. In the field of refractory major technological development in the world have taken place in the area of monolithic and carbon containing refractories. Currently the share of monolithic in India is around 25 percent of total refractory consumption which is less than Japan where it is more than 50 percent.”

Talking about the “Refractory industry in India & its future prospects” **Dr A K Chattopadhyay, Chairman, CII Refractory & Allied products Expo & Past Chairman IRMA & Managing Director Tata Refractories Ltd** in his Keynote Address said, “Economic volatility and risks, information and communications, climate change, domestic reforms, inclusiveness and low cost innovations are the key influencing factors for the strategic direction of the business standards.” Dr. Chattopadhyay stressed on the need to understand the failure of refractories which could help the prosperity of the industry as a whole.

The other speakers included Ms Leslie Power, Global VP for Refractory business, Almatris Inc, USA, Dr Goutam Bhattacharya, Kerneos **and** Dr Ms Yoke Fong, Director Asia Sales, Almatris China

CeraGlass India 2010 is being held at EPIP, Sitapura, Jaipur from November 11-14, 2010.

Jaipur, November 11, 2010