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Cover Report

5th Annual Customer Event

thinkstep Mumbai, India

November 28 and 29, 2019

Exhibiting and Practicing Sustainability

Annual Customer Event 2019

Exhibiting and Practicing Sustainability



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Table of Contents

Event Overview	3
Welcome Remarks and Business Update	4
thinkstep Journey and Global Update	5
Chief Guest Address.....	6
Keynote Speaker Address	7
Panel Discussion: Time for action - Decarbonization.....	9
Panel Discussion: Sustainable Product Strategy.....	11
Exhibiting sustainability: Technical Stands.....	13
Vote of Thanks, Closure & Feedback.....	14
Annexure: Awards Distribution	15



thinkstep Sustainability Solutions Private Limited, a Sphera company ('thinkstep') organised its fifth Annual Customer Engagement Event, "Exhibiting and Practicing Sustainability" on 28th and 29th November 2019 at Courtyard by Marriott and Lemon tree Premier Mumbai with participation from over 75 clients.

thinkstep's first to fourth customer events in the past years, aimed at variety of aspects ranging from basic understanding of product and corporate sustainability topics, seeking responses to market developments, release of GaBi Indian Life Cycle Assessment Database & SoFi Business Responsibility Reporting Application, workshops on GaBi and SoFi products, business value of the sustainability and upcoming trends in LCA.

The first day of the event included GaBi and SoFi user group meeting, Sphera offering and solutions, SoFi 7 upgrade and BDR, design and implementation of LCA for innovation, sustainable product portfolio and green procurement, workshop on SBTi & scope 3 GHG accounting followed by LCA Awards presentation. The second day witnessed senior management professionals discussing on crucial topics such as decarbonization and sustainable product strategy. Based on the theme of the event, multiple technical stands covering various topics such as SBTi and Scope 3 assessment, Climate Change Risk Assessment, EPD, SDG, Operational Risk and EHS, Sustainable Fashion and GaBi packaging calculator were set up with a host and a moderator along with sustainability practitioners from various domains.

In SoFi user meeting, Mr. Douglas presented on Sphera's product portfolios. and strong client base including US defence, other federal agencies, system integrators, value added resellers and EHS consultancy firms associated with Sphera. Mr. Douglas stated that Sphera is a leading solution provider in EHS, operational risk and product stewardship

The event comprised of information sharing session, enriched content across panel discussion, one to one sessions and open atmosphere for networking opportunities.

Welcome Remarks & Business Update

Dr. Rajesh Singh, Managing Director thinkstep, India & South-East Asia



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Dr. Singh delivered his opening remarks by highlighting thinkstep's vision of 'helping organizations worldwide to succeed sustainably'. He expressed his gratitude to all the customers for giving thinkstep the opportunity to enhance their performance on sustainability. He elaborated the business update which showed 11 years of thinkstep's journey in India, with 200+ clients in all, 200+ LCA studies carried out, 20+ SoFi licences and 85+ GaBi licences deployed successfully, 1100+ SoFi users and 650+ LCA users working on the thinkstep tools successfully. Furthermore, thinkstep has published 12 reports on various platforms such as GRI, CDP and DJSI, 20+ SAC's Higg FEM verifications, SBTi projects and Climate change risks assessments over the last year.



Dr. Rajesh deliberated the audience about the overseas geographical reach of the company which covers many of the south and south-east Asian countries such as Thailand, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. He credits achievement of this feat to the integrated approach (software, databases and services) that company follows. Due to the highly competent workforce, thinkstep India has been able to support thinkstep AG, Germany and its other subsidiaries. thinkstep launched an application in India that introduces the idea of circular economy to promote Industrial Symbiosis. Besides thinkstep has also supported GreenCo, ILCM, UNGC's SDG. Dr. Rajesh has represented thinkstep in International conference on LCM held in Poland in the year 2019.

thinkstep Journey & Global Update

Mr. Jan Poulsen, CEO, thinkstep AG, Germany



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Mr. Poulsen commenced by citing the positive developments of thinkstep India with respect to overall growth, Sphera acquisition and new business inclusions. He updated on key innovations in SoFi, GaBi and consulting offerings of thinkstep i.e., Product Portfolio Assessments (Triple-S), Circular Economy, Science-Based Targets; performance improvements and enhanced user experience. He emphasised on the need for building a shared business plan to influence consumers and regulatory bodies. He also thanked all the clients in India for entrusting thinkstep.



His presentation titled Focusing what matters, addressed the consequences of failing to act fast on climate change are predictable. He stated that if we fail to address global warming, our problems will be so terrible that removing micro-plastics from the oceans will no longer even be on the radar.

He urged the need of green economy model and discarding of the old economy model for sustainable growth and future. He emphasized on the fact that companies that actively integrate sustainability goals into their business models have higher profits over time than other companies.

Mr. Poulsen deliberated the audience about the new developments after Sphera's acquisition. He briefed that the global footprint of the company has expanded which itself is a manifestation of the increased strength of the company. Further, he explained key differentiations, different Sphera solutions, industries and customer portfolios. Mr. Poulsen ended his speech by inviting all the audience to think 2020 symposium to be held between 24-26 March at Stuttgart, Germany.

Chief Guest Address

Mr. P. K. Satpathy, Director (Production), NMDC Ltd.



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Mr. Satpathy during his address covered a vast range of topics like climate change, hunger and malnourishment, income inequality, rapid urbanization and recurrence of financial crisis. He explained India's leading role in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) through government's role at various levels. He apprised the audience with various government initiatives to address the issue of climate change in the country such as National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), Signing of Paris Agreement etc.



NMDC has been one of the earliest signatories to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Network and has played an active role in the formation and growth of the network in India. Relating to NMDC's core practices, i.e. mining, he disclosed various opportunities, risks and challenges. Pertaining to the Indian scenario, he addressed various challenges faced in India such as displacement and rehabilitation issues, EHS issues etc. In response to these challenges he suggested various solutions such as regulatory compliance, Societal & Environmental Development, Expediting Exploration, Business model innovation, Financial Attractiveness and Enabling Supportive Infrastructure.

Mr. Satpathy highlighted various initiatives taken by govt. of India in the field of sustainable mining, which include Star rating of mining leases, The Mining Surveillance System (MSS), Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana [PMKKKY], The National Mineral Exploration Policy and stringent measures to check illegal mining via the MMDR Amendment Act of 2015, National Mineral policy 2019 etc.

Keynote Speaker Address

Mr. Sanjay Kumar, IRSS, General Manager

Ministry of Railway



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Mr. Sanjay Kumar expressed his gratitude to Dr. Rajesh, Mr. Jan Poulsen for their efforts in making India a contributor in the field of sustainability. He said the assembly of various dignitaries in the event is a manifestation of the same but at the same time pointed out that a large majority still like to sweep the sustainability issues under the carpet.



He talked about the need to reduce global emissions referring to the UNEP data. He asked the audience about their participation in a movement called Fridays for Future in the backdrop of Greta Thunberg's address to the president of the United States of America which trended as "How dare you?" worldwide in 2019.

Mr. Kumar distinguished sustainability from GDP growth and economic and business case for sustainability. He said the India has been able to achieve a decent economic growth but the model of this growth is not quite sustainable which is worrisome citing the issues of higher consumption and lesser resources availability. Concluding his speech, he mentioned that there is a grave need of various government initiatives to boost achieve the SDGs and appreciated the efforts of thinkstep in this regard.

Keynote Speaker Address

Mr. Prabodha Acharya, Chief Sustainability Officer

JSW Group



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Mr. Acharya illustrated with the help of a story the perceptions made by organizations towards sustainability. He said akin to story, some view sustainability as a business growth, some as CSR and so on. He quoted “Some people put greater emphasis on the opportunities for business to develop solutions to global problems, others on the imperative to do no harm and to meet legal obligations and societal expectations”.



During his presentation he mentioned various parameters categorized under governance, environment, workplace etc. that contribute to sustainability and is an ever-expanding umbrella under which these parameters huddle. Adding to this he explained points of focus among these lumps of parameters to achieve greater sustainability. Finishing his short but highly effective speech he co-related all these points to materiality analysis and praised thinkstep for its constant support to JSW Group.

Panel Discussion

Time for Action- Decarbonization



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Chairperson: Mr. Anirban Ghosh, Chief Sustainability Officer,
Mahindra Group

Panelist:

Mr. K.N. Rao, Advisor and Director, Energy and Environment, ACC Limited

Mr. Arvind Bodhankar, Jt. Exec. President & Chief Sustainability Officer, Ultratech Cements Limited

Mr. Kaustubh Phadke, General Manager, GCCA India

Mr. Thakur Pherwani, Global Head SHE & Sustainability, Dr. Reddy Laboratories Ltd.

Ms. Rinika Grover, Head- CSR and Sustainability, Apollo Tyres Limited

Mr. L. Syam Prasad, COO, OmniActive Health Technologies Ltd

Mr. Rajesh Sharma, AGM, Hero MotoCorp Ltd.



Mr. Anirban Ghosh, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra Group, chaired the panel discussion. He started by asking the most critical part of a vehicle which needs good attention while managing its end of life phase or its manufacturing phase, the answer being Tyres. Ms. Rinika Grover, Head- CSR and Sustainability, Apollo Tyres Limited highlighted company's action plan/ roadmap on Decarbonization, being an outlook for the future and talked about climate neutrality, offsetting and carbon sequestration through afforestation, mangrove conservation, renewable mix of energy etc. She mentioned that as per the study conducted by thinkstep the use phase of a tyre has more impact on the environment and to mitigate that effect Apollo tyres' R&D department has reduced the rolling resistance, removed polythene from the gum used in curing that resulted in reduced manufacturing time. Answering to a question on recyclability of tyres she briefed about company's initiative to use the waste tyres in road construction projects, sports field etc.

Moving to Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Hero MotoCorp, Mr. Ghosh asked him about his expectations from a greener, more sustainable product. He mentioned that the company has a roadmap on decarbonization and by 2030 they aim to achieve carbon neutrality. When asked about electrical vehicles by Mr. Ghosh, he replied that the plan of production is on cards as per the recent trends.

On asking ACC Limited's actions, MR. KN Rao said the company has a roadmap which is pretty much aligned to SBTi's 1.5° C scenario. Admitting that cement industry is an energy intensive sector, he



talked about leveraging the benefits of circular economy, renewable energy, use of materials that have zero carbon footprint such as fly ash, slag etc and waste heat recovery plants. He emphasised on the need of research to produce clinker less and limestone free cements. He urged innovation in building structures that could do carbon sequestration.

At Ultratech Cements Limited, Mr. Bhodhankar deliberated his company's actions on decarbonization through product innovation. Having worked in diverse sectors such as petrochemical, automobile, cement etc., he said cement industry had the roadmap to decarbonization much earlier than any other sectors.

Mr. Kaustubh Phadke listed out parameters that can be used as levers to achieve decarbonization which were energy efficiency improvement, alternative fuel and raw materials, waste recovery and carbon capture, storage and utilization technology. He said the barriers in using these parameters could be legal, technological and waste handling practices in India.

The next panellist, Mr. Thakur Pherwani said that Dr. Reddy Laboratories Ltd., is not only looking for decarbonization but also carbon neutrality. He believed that productivity and yield improvement, green upstream supply practices will give in turn give benefit at the end. He divulged company's internal campaign called energy ambassador campaign to educate people about sustainability as its everyone's responsibility. Adding further to this he shared that the company has a planned to set up a centre of excellence in collaboration with Israeli embassy. The company has initiatives in the field of solar farming and plastic to fuel conversion and green chemistry in line with decarbonisation goals.

Mr. L. Syam Prasad said that the roadmap on decarbonization is an outlook for the future. He was confident that with the help of thinkstep the company will take good steps. He highlighted the need of practices to be followed to reduce pesticides in farming. He said that the company has 15% of its energy share derived from solar energy.

Answering to a question on the end of life management of a Li-ion based battery used in automobiles, Mr. Rajesh Sharma said that research is still under way in this field. Adding to Mr. Rajesh's comment, Mr. Anirban Ghosh said that the performance of such batteries reduces over a period and indeed innovation in this regard is awaited.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar, a panellist of this discussion asked the panellist having expertise in the cement industry on reducing their scope 3 emissions by involving railway transportation in their supply chain. Eventually, Mr. Ghosh thanked all the panel members for highlighting the actions and suggesting solutions. He concluded the discussion by thanking Dr. Rajesh Singh for organizing followed by Mr. Poulsen presenting token of appreciation to all the panel members.

Panel Discussion Sustainable Product Strategy



Chairperson: Dr. Ashok Menon, Global Technology Leader, SABIC

Panelist:

Mr. Manohar Samuel, President- Marketing, Grasim Industries Limited- Birla Cellulose

Mr. Sudhakar Sangle, Manager, Eaton Innovation Center India

Ms. Ashwini Deodeshmukh, Head Good and Green, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co Ltd

Mr. Sabyasachi Ghosh, Chief Manager- EHS, Asian Paints Limited

Mr. Ramnath Gopinathan, Good and Green, Godrej Industries Limited (GILAC)



Dr. Ashok Menon, Global Technology Leader, SABIC chaired the panel and interacted with all the panellists. He invited Ms. Ashwini to brief about how Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Co Ltd is strategizing its products to be more sustainable and how LCA has helped the company. Ms. Ashwini said LCA has helped quantifying and analysing the impacts caused by company's product and has helped in making strategy (such as sustainable design and manufacturing of a product) to develop more sustainable products. She elaborated company's initiative i.e. Good and Green Products.

Dr. Menon lauded Eaton Innovation Centre India's efforts of conducting LCA for past consecutive 15 years. Responding to Dr. Menon's question on benefits gained by conducting LCA in strategizing product sustainability, Mr. Sudhakar Sangle said LCA not only helps companies publish their EPD but reflects hotspots in the processes/products which in turn help companies optimize their processes/production. Dr. Menon asked whether Eaton India have a roadmap in strategizing to achieve product sustainability, to which Mr. Sangle said the company has strategies and they are refined iteratively.

Dr. Menon commended Birla Cellulose's whole range of product that embrace sustainable production practices. Mr. Samuel explained the role of LCA in marketing the company's products at global level. He said data availability for cotton and other fibres except viscose fibre are easily available and hence LCA studies on these fibre-based products have given a competitive edge. Talking about strategy, he said that the company has not restricted their LCA till cradle to gate, but they arranged further studies in a holistic manner. He also mentioned the inclusion of SAC's higg index verification and benchmarking practice as a company strategy for achieving product sustainability.

Panel Discussion

Sustainable Product Strategy



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Switching to Mr. Sabyasachi Ghosh, Dr. Menon asked him to highlight LEED requirements aligned with the paint industries. He replied that there are many requirements listed but are not abiding or

mandatory. He elaborated the use of LCA studies, green product certificate etc. as a marketing tool. He stressed that particularly in chemical industries, the carbon footprint is caused by the upstream raw materials/chemicals production and that they are doing internal benchmarking as a matter of sustainable product strategy.

Dr. Menon asked Mr. Ramnath Vaidyanathan on sustainable product strategies of Godrej industries. He said inclusion of circularity in supply chain is one of the major strategies the company is currently focussing upon. He explained its benefits not only in environmental terms but also in financial terms. He emphasised on challenges faced to strategize the product sustainability at the end of life phase of a product. Responding to Dr. Menon's question on tackling the challenges posed by plastics used in their product packaging, he said the basic 3R is the main strategy to handle the plastic waste. Besides product innovations, such as dry handwash, a product introduced by Godrej made up of used plastics could be a way forward for handling the plastic waste.

The discussion ended with Mr. Poulsen presenting token of appreciation to the panel members.



Going with the theme of the event, *Exhibiting and Practicing Sustainability*, a set of seven technical stands each associated with a topic was organized. Each stand consisted of one Moderator and a host (thinkstep representative) and participants. The host invited the moderator(s) experience on the implementation of the topics at their organization. The moderators highlighted their practices, reason of adoption of the topic, business value by adopting the relevant topics and so on. The details of the stands along with moderators are given below:

Technical Stand 1: Science Based Target initiative (SBTi) and Scope 3 Assessment

Mr. Umesh Joshi, Head Sustainability, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.

Technical Stand 2: GaBi Packaging Calculator:

Mr. Rajesh Singh, Managing Director- thinkstep India & South Asia

Technical Stand 3: Climate Change Risk Assessment

Mr. Vinod Singh, Head-People Energy Process & Business Excellence, Galaxy surfactants Limited

Technical Stand 4: Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

Mr. Manoj Rustagi, Head- Strategy and Projects, JSW Cements Ltd.

Mr. Apoorv Vij, Director – Technical Development, GBCI

Technical Stand 5: Sustainable Development Goals

Mr. Navin Dubey, DGM-Corporate Planning, NMDC Limited

Ms. Monika Shrivastava, Chief Manager, ACC Limited

Technical Stand 6: Sustainable Fashion

Ms. Astrid Dias, Head- Sustainability, Welspun India Limited

Dr. Rohitasva Kumar, Grasim Industries Ltd.- Birla Cellulose

Mr. Yawar Ali Shah, CEO &Executive Director, AMA Herbal Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.

Technical Stand 7: Operational Risk and EHS

Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Sr. Technical Manager, Sphera Solutions

Participants discussed on various aspects related to the topic and they evaluated the feasibility and scope of adoption of sustainable practices that the leading companies are following. They further brainstormed amongst themselves about how their sustainable practices could help them achieve greater business values. In a nutshell, this activity brought everyone on a platform where they were able to promulgate the advancements in sustainability. Eventually, Moderators at different stands appreciated the efforts of thinkstep in leading organizations to sustainable success.

Vote of Thanks, Closure & Feedback Mr. Ritesh Agrawal, thinkstep India



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The sessions ended with Mr. Agrawal thanking all the participants for sparing their valuable time and actively participating to make the customer engagement event a success. He also thanked Mr. Poulsen for offering his insights on the journey of thinkstep over the years. Gratitude was offered to Mr. P. K. Satpathy for being the chief guest for the event and sharing his valuable insights on sustainability; and keynote speakers Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Mr. Mr. Prabodha Acharya for sharing their thoughts on sustainability practices in industries. He also thanked all the panellist for sharing their experiences and knowledge with all the participants.



thinkstep Customer Engagement Event - 2019, proved to be a successful event fulfilling its purpose of exhibiting and practicing sustainability as well as thinkstep's efforts in developing the product roadmap alike. All the participants, panellists, presenters etc. enriched the discussions and way forward. The entire team of thinkstep expressed gratitude for the active participation of the sustainability leaders. Mr. Ritesh invited all the dignitaries and participants for the cocktail dinner.

Annexure

Awards Distribution



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This year's annual customer event included an award distribution ceremony to acknowledge the efforts and triumphs of organizations and individuals in exhibiting and practicing sustainability. The awards were given in various categories to organizations and individuals as listed below. The list below also contains the name of awardee along with the award category.

- LCA Champion Award (Organization): Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Ltd.
- Most Promising LCM Program (Organization): SABIC Technology Centre
- LCA Practitioner Award - winner (Organization): ACC Limited
- LCA Practitioner Award - Runner-up (Organization): ITC Limited
- Best Challenger Award - LCA (Organization): Mahindra & Mahindra Limited
- Thinkstep Companionship Award - LCA (Organization): Tata Motors Limited
- Best Debutant Award- LCA (Organization): NMDC Limited
- LCA Innovation Award (Organization): Arvind Limited
- LCA Academia Award (Organization): Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai
- Best Challenger Award - SoFi (Organization): Mahindra Group
- Thinkstep Companionship Award - SoFi (Organization): TATA Consultancy Services Limited
- Best Debutant Award-SoFi (Organization): Cairns Energy
- SoFi Administrator- Winner (Individual): Ms. Kavita Shukla, Godrej Industries Limited (GILAC)
- SoFi Administrator-1st Runner-up (Individual): Mr. Hoshedar Neemuchwala, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.
- SoFi Administrator-2nd Runner up (Individual): Mr. Avinash Chandra, Indorama Ventures Limited
- SoFi Solution - Global Beauty Contest Global - Winner (Organization): Godrej Industries
- SoFi Solution - Global Beauty Contest Global - Runner up (Organization): GMR Energy Ltd.
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Asian Paints Limited
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): JSW Cement Limited
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Grasim Industries Limited - Birla Cellulose
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Indorama Ventures Limited
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Eaton India Innovation Center
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Ambuja Cements Limited
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Ultratech Cements Limited
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): TVS Motor Company
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Marico Limited
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Hindalco Industries Limited
- Certificate of Appreciation Award- LCA (Organization): Godrej Consumer Products Limited
- LCA Academia Appreciation Award (Institute): National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai
- LCA Academia Appreciation Award (Institute): Symbiosis Institute of International Business, Pune



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