

Inaugural Meeting of INDIA BROMINE PLATFORM (under the aegis of ICC)

Bromine finds its usage in a wide variety of applications ranging from energy storage, rubber, water treatment, pharmaceuticals and agriculture. Its more critical uses are in Fire Safety / Fire Retardants and Mercury emission control. While Bromine is an essential chemical, it is a “potentially” hazardous chemical if not handled properly.

To address the safety related concerns and sustainability of the Bromine industry in India, senior representative of BSEF - The International Bromine Council came to India a couple of years back and met with all the relevant stakeholders. In the meetings organised by Avalon Consulting, the producers in India showed interest to have a collaborative approach.

This resulted in all 7 of the Indian Bromine producers meeting to Inaugurate India Bromine Platform



DR. KEVIN BRADLEY, SECRETARY GENERAL, THE INTERNATIONAL BROMINE COUNCIL (BSEF) ADDRESSING THE MEETING

(IBP) on 19th June 2019 at Mumbai, India.

IBP is a platform created under the aegis of ICC to foster the bromine industry in India by promoting the benefits of bromine and bromine-based technologies.

Safe Bromine Handling by leveraging initiatives like Responsible Care and Nicer Globe is also one of the major objectives of the platform.

The Inaugural Meeting of the INDIAN BROMINE PLATFORM (IBP) was organised on 19 June 2019 at the Office of Lanxess India Pvt. Ltd., Thane, Maharashtra. **Mr. Neelanjan Banerjee**, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Lanxess India Pvt. Ltd. inaugurated the meeting.

Dr. Kevin Bradley, Secretary General - BSEF specially came to India for attending the meeting.

Mr. K. Kannah (Chairman - BSEF) of Lanxess also addressed the members. Representatives of Indian manufacturers namely Agrocyl Industries Pvt. Ltd., Archean, ICL Management & Trading India Pvt Ltd, Lanxess India Pvt. Ltd., Satyesh Brinechem Pvt. Ltd., Solaris Chemtech Industries Limited and



THE MEETING IN PROGRESS

Tata Chemicals Limited attended the meeting.

Throughout the day long meeting, representatives from ICC, BSEF and Bromine producers from India deliberated upon the issues pertinent to the sector (broadly revolving around safety) to charter the way forward. Talking about Bromine's critical use in FRs, it was noticed that approx. 75% of fires incidents reported in India are said to be caused by short circuit.

THE FOCUS AREAS FOR THE IBF INCLUDE:

- Fire Safety
- Mercury Emission Control
- Energy Storage, and
- Safe Bromine Handling.

MISSION OF THE INDIA BROMINE PLATFORM:

- Identify issues pertinent to the bromine industry and drive mutually beneficial initiatives relevant to India's bromine ecosystem
- Seek to disseminate learnings and experience from other regions around the globe in order to drive best practices in terms of bromine

handling and use in India

- Strive to enhance collaboration and knowledge among its members and other relevant stakeholders to support bromine-based technologies and their use in India

OBJECTIVES OF THE INDIA BROMINE PLATFORM:

- The India Bromine platform will focus on areas like:
 - Bromine applications relevant to - Fire safety, Mercury emission control, Energy storage
 - Safe Bromine Handling, leveraging other initiatives in the Indian ecosystem like Responsible Care and Nicer Globe
 - The platform will work with government agencies, industry and academia to define regulations related to Bromine and Bromine technologies based on sound science
 - The platform will drive efforts to enhance knowledge about bromine and bromine-based technologies among relevant stakeholders.
- Mr Manoj Hande**, Head of

Quality, Panasonic Life Solutions India Pvt. Ltd made a presentation highlighting importance of safety in electricals. The same was also linked to use of Fire Retardants in Electrical switches, fittings, etc. **Dr Asif Qureshi**, Associate Professor, IIT Hyderabad made a presentation on "A review of environmental mercury in India".

The top priority area for IBP which emerged out of the discussions was safe handling of Bromine at processors' part. It was decided that IBP will have monthly calls and will organise a workshop / Seminar in a few months' time to take the objective of IBP forward.

Identifying issues pertinent to the bromine industry and **drive mutually beneficial initiatives** relevant to India's bromine ecosystem; disseminate **learnings and experience** from other regions **around the globe** in order to drive **best practices** in terms of bromine handling and use in India; **enhance collaboration** and knowledge among its members and other relevant stakeholders to support bromine-based technologies and their use in India were some of the other points discussed. ■

ALL THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING

