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MESSAGE

Steel production and consumption is an important measure of economic activity for a modern economy. It should come as no surprise that steel production in India, one of the world's fastest growing economies, has outpaced global growth by more than 2 percentage points per annum over the past 20 years. Steel accounts for 2 percent of India's gross domestic product, and employs about 6 lakh people. The Government of India's recognition of the vital role played by this sector in a healthy economy is reflected in the new National Steel Policy 2017, which aims to triple domestic steel production from 90 million tonnes (MT) in 2015-16 to 300 MT in 2030-31. The secondary steel sector is responsible for about half the current production. Of this, a third is produced through electric induction furnaces (EIF), which account for 16 percent of the sector's total carbon dioxide emissions, making it an important site for energy innovation.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been proud to support the efforts of the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, to work with the secondary steel sector and make it more energy efficient and environment-friendly. This partnership has been instrumental in providing technical and financial support to the sector to embrace energy efficient technology options and practices. Consumption of fuel and power in beneficiary steel units decreased, and a 24 percent reduction in volume of greenhouse gases emitted was reported. With 1,300 active EIF units in India, there is vast potential for these energy efficient practices and technologies to be scaled up.

This conference, organized by the All India Induction Furnace Association of India (AIIFA) on 'Strengthening Green Steel Production: Building Pillars for New India', is another step in the journey towards more environmentally friendly production practices. I firmly believe that the discussions at the conference will contribute to drawing an energy-efficient path for the EIF sector, and the steel industry as a whole.

I wish the conference a great success.


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