

Coal Mines Subcommittee
23 March 2022
Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Introduction

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) held its 31st Coal Mines Subcommittee meeting virtually on 23 March 2022. The meeting featured updates from Partner Countries, keynote addresses from the Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chairs from China and India, as well as presentations on achievements of the Subcommittee and newly developed tools and resources for coal mine methane (CMM) mitigation projects. The Subcommittee meeting was held jointly with the [virtual meeting](#) of the 17th Annual Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (GoE-CMM) from 21-22 March 2022. Delegates from 13 Partner Countries participated, including Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland, Turkey, and the United States. A list of the participants is provided in Annex I.

17th Annual Session of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (GoE-CMM)

Discussions during the online meeting of the UNECE GoE-CMM primarily focused on promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from coal mines through activities that help the recovery and use of methane. These efforts will help reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines, mitigate climate change, and support sustainable development. The GoE also discussed strategies for incorporating into its activities the challenges related to the just transition of coal mining regions and how it will focus future efforts in that field.

31st GMI Coal Mines Subcommittee Meeting

The 31st meeting of the GMI Coal Mines Subcommittee meeting, attended by more than 50 participants, was held virtually from 10:00 to 12:00 UTC on 23 March. The meeting began with welcoming remarks by Ms. Volha Roshchanka, GMI Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair for the United States. Ms. Roshchanka provided introductory remarks on behalf of all Co-Chairs and welcomed the new Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chairs and delegates.

All presentations and the meeting agenda can be found on the GMI website at <https://globalmethane.org/events/details.aspx?eventid=658>.

Keynote Address from India

Mr. Manoj Kumar, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), began his keynote address by welcoming and thanking participants for joining the meeting. He emphasized the importance of the Coal Mines Subcommittee given the increased energy consumption across the world. He explained India's reliance on coal for energy production and noted that Coal India Limited (CIL) is working to achieve India's vision of net zero emissions. Mr. Kumar described progress on projects in India that will reduce methane gas emissions from coal mines, which will include the extraction of coal bed methane (CBM).

Keynote Address from China

Dr. Liu Wenge, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, China Coal Information Institute (CCII), introduced himself to the group and described how CCII has partnered with GMI since its inception in 2004 by attending and supporting GMI events and carrying out a series of study projects in the coal sector. He emphasized the importance of reducing methane emissions from the coal sector given the sector's impact on climate change. Dr.

Wenge also explained how the Subcommittee's mission of reducing methane emissions in the coal sector can be achieved by encouraging collaboration between Partner Countries and Project Network members. He thanked the meeting participants and noted that he looks forward to continuing to work together as a Subcommittee.

Update on GMI Activities

Ms. Monica Shimamura, Director of the GMI Secretariat, presented news and updates on recent GMI activities and upcoming priorities. Ms. Shimamura began by reviewing the structure of GMI and welcoming Denmark, GMI's newest Partner Country. She provided an overview of GMI's accomplishments since 2004, highlighting that these activities have led to a 500 MMTCO₂e reduction in methane emissions. Ms. Shimamura also discussed GMI highlights over the past year. Highlights included rechartering GMI through May 2031, publishing new Terms of Reference, hosting the "A Call to Action on Methane" international dialogue in June 2021, and developing a new Steering Leadership model. Ms. Shimamura then explained the new Steering Leadership model in further detail, which is now comprised of a Chair and two Vice Chairs. She also welcomed new Steering Committee members and described the current Steering Committee priorities. Current priorities include providing support to countries that are working to aggressively reduce methane emissions, implementing the GMI Action Plan and helping Subcommittees enhance participation of Partner Country delegates, hosting the Global Methane Forum in October 2022, and leveraging strategic partnerships to improve collaboration with GMI. Ms. Shimamura also discussed the Global Methane Pledge and noted that GMI is a key supporter of the Pledge.

Country Updates from Delegates

Partner Country delegates were invited to give updates on current progress in the coal sector in their respective countries.

China

Mr. Han Jiaye, CCII, began by reviewing the coal sector trends in China over the past five years. Demand for coal has decreased over the past 5 years, and approximately 5,500 coal mines were closed. He noted that China is focused on installing additional capacity of CMM power generation units to increase electricity generation. Mr. Jiaye also discussed two new policies in China that support the mitigation of coal mine methane. He noted that next steps for China include intensifying international cooperation and strengthening the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system construction for methane emissions.

Colombia

Ms. Gloria Catalina Gheorghe, Safety and Rescue Manager at the National Mining Agency, discussed how Colombia's demand for coal is increasing and noted that the financial position of coal mining companies in the country is improving. Ms. Gheorghe emphasized that the main concern in Colombia is to reduce fatalities in the mining sector, noting that there is an average of 7 deaths per million tons of coal produced in underground mines. Ms. Gheorghe also shared a new technical guide that was prepared by the National Mining Agency about the design of a prevention and mitigation plan for methane and coal dust explosions in underground mines that is [available online](#). Ms. Gheorghe ended her presentation by sharing information on a new Master's Degree program and other training programs for mining companies that have been supported by the National Mining Agency.

India

Mr. Chiranjib Patra, CMPDI, began his presentation by explaining the increase in India's coal demand over the past few years. He noted that CIL is at the forefront of the nation's coal production, producing around 83% of the country's entire coal output. Mr. Patra provided an overview of CBM project development in India. Presently, only five CBM blocks are being operated. Mr. Patra then explained the current auction process that the Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH) is using to offer CBM blocks in India. He then described current CBM/CMM projects across India and discussed how CBM studies have been conducted in 111 boreholes at 20 coalfields to date. Mr. Patra gave an overview of next steps for the coal sector in India, which are currently focused on efforts to extract CBM/CMM from coal mining areas to combat climate change issues.

Mongolia

The delegate from Mongolia was unable to join the meeting, so Ms. Roshchanka read the presentation provided by the delegate on Mongolia's Country Update. The presentation offered an overview of coal sector trends in Mongolia, noting that demand for coal nationally is stable, while demand for exported coal has been increasing. Mongolia has no underground coal mines and production in surface mines has decreased since 2019. CBM gas prospecting and exploration activities have been accelerating in Mongolia, with four companies conducting CBM exploration between 2018-2021.

United States

Ms. Roshchanka began the Country Update by giving an overview of coal sector trends over the past five years in the United States. She noted that demand for coal had decreased in 2020 compared to 2019, but that it is expected to increase in 2021. In the United States, the electric power sector accounts for the majority of coal consumed. Ms. Roshchanka described how, despite the increased demand for coal, the number of operating mines has decreased. She then discussed current projects in the United States that mitigate methane emissions from active and abandoned underground mines. Both CMM and AMM projects have increased in the United States over the past year, resulting in the avoidance of 18 MMTCO₂e in methane emissions in 2020. Lastly, Ms. Roshchanka highlighted policies that support the mitigation of methane from coal mines at both the state and federal level.

Poland

Mr. Jacek Skiba, Central Mining Institute of Katowice, greeted the Subcommittee meeting attendees as he was participating with a group from the UNECE conference in Geneva. Mr. Skiba noted how the coal price in Poland has been increasing drastically over the past two weeks. He then shared a statement from the Polish Ministry of State Assets concerning a new change to coal mines regulations from the European Commission.

Subcommittee Updates and Accomplishments

Dr. Wenge discussed updates and accomplishments of the Coal Mines Subcommittee over the past year, which focused on the development of new tools and resources that are now available on the GMI website. Dr. Wenge reviewed the new training resources, including:

- [Best Practice Guidance for Effective Management of Coal Mine Methane at National Level: Monitoring, Reporting, Verification, and Mitigation](#)
- [Basics of CMM training course](#)
- [Conducting Pre-Feasibility Studies for CMM Projects training course](#)
- [Conduction Pre-Feasibility Studies for AMM Projects training course](#)

Dr. Wenge mentioned that CCII has translated six of the Conducting Pre-Feasibility Studies for CMM Projects training modules to Chinese. He also thanked the Subcommittee delegates for reviewing and providing feedback on the Basics of CMM training. He then reviewed updates that were made to the International CMM Projects Database in 2021. The database provides a comprehensive list of operational and former/future CMM projects globally. It is available on the [GMI website](#).

Ms. Roshchanka requested that any participants who are interested in translating technical resources reach out to her directly.

Subcommittee Action Plan

Ms. Roshchanka provided an overview of efforts to update the Subcommittee Action Plan, which is expected to be finalized in April 2022. She described the 2018 Subcommittee Action Plan, shared details about the key objectives in the plan, and posed questions for the delegates to consider when proposing revisions to the new plan. Ms. Roshchanka provided examples of accomplishments that had been achieved under the 2018 Action Plan, which included the development of coal sector overview materials and identifying and addressing key barriers to project development. She requested that delegates provide feedback on the new draft Action Plan by

10 April. Delegates will receive a final draft version by 20 April, and the Subcommittee Co-Chairs plan to post the final version on the GMI website by 30 April.

Close of the GMI Coal Mines Subcommittee Meeting

Ms. Roshchanka closed the meeting by thanking participants for the valuable discussions and reminded attendees that the meeting presentations would be posted on the GMI website. She summarized next steps and action items for the Coal Mines Subcommittee, which included renewing the Subcommittee Action Plan, expanding Subcommittee membership, identifying external organizations with whom to partner, and conducting a series of webinars to promote the new resources that were discussed during the meeting. Ms. Roshchanka closed the meeting by reminding participants about the upcoming Global Methane Forum to be held in Washington, D.C. in October 2022, and thanked them for participating in the meeting.

GMI Coal Mines Subcommittee Meeting Participants

| Name | Organization | Country |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| Evgeny Alexeyev | Methane Center PA | Kazakhstan |
| Jane Amphlett | Environment and Climate Change Canada | Canada |
| Clemens Backhaus | A-TEC Anlagentechnik GmbH | Germany |
| Maciej Bialek | Chancellery of the Prime Minister (Poland) | Poland |
| Jan J. Biedak | PL-US InnoTech GROUP | Poland |
| Bariş Bilgen | Energy and Natural Resources Ministry | Turkey |
| Tomás Bredariol | International Energy Agency | France |
| Gloria Catalina Gheorghe | National Mining Agency | Colombia |
| Laxmi Chikatamarla | LARA Energy | Australia |
| Bruce Chisholm | Preemptive Pollution Initiatives, Inc. | Canada |
| David Creedy | Sindicatum Sustainable Resources | United Kingdom |
| Michal Drabik | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe | Switzerland |
| Dilan Duman | Turkish Coal Enterprises | Turkey |
| Barry Ellis | WAGA | United Kingdom |
| Bobbie Foot | BHP | Australia |
| Matthew Hackworth | Booz Allen Hamilton | United States |
| Jiaye Han | China Coal Information Institute | China |
| Dougie Harrower | Tetra Tech | United States |
| Lan Huang | China Coal Information Institute | China |
| Selina Huang | China National Coal Group | China |
| Beau Jia | Sindicatum Beijing | China |
| Ake Kallstrand | Durr-MEGTEC | Sweden |
| Małgorzata Kasprzak | World Bank | Poland |
| Lukasz Kroplewski | Group of Experts on CMM & JT | Poland |
| Manoj Kumar | Central Mine Planning and Design Institute | India |
| Rajiw Lochan | Prabha Energy Private Limited (PEPL) | India |
| Robert Marzec | ITG KOMAG | Poland |
| Richard Mattus | RM Business Consulting | Sweden |
| Cathy McGirl | Tetra Tech | United States |
| Badarch Mendbayr | Mongolian Nature and Environment Consortium (MNEC) | Mongolia |
| KC Michaels | International Energy Agency | France |
| Steve Michener | Tetra Tech | United States |
| Lei Mo | International Energy Agency | China |
| Stefan Moellerherm | Research Center of Post-Mining | Germany |
| Chiranjib Patra | Central Mine Planning and Design Institute | India |
| Raymond Pilcher | Raven Ridge Resources, Inc. | United States |
| Jia Qingrong | ICE China | China |
| Qingdong Qu | Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) | Australia |
| Volha Roshchanka | U.S Environmental Protection Agency | United States |
| Monica Shimamura | U.S Environmental Protection Agency | United States |
| Jacek Skiba | Central Mining Institute of Katowice | Poland |

Lesley Sloss
Ravi Tadav
Clark Talkington
Daniel Talliant
Grant Wach
Peter Warwick
Liu Wenge
Jin Zhixin

International Centre for Sustainable Carbon
Central Mining Planning and Design Institute
Advanced Resources International

Dalhousie University Basin and Reservoir Lab
U.S. Geological Survey
China Coal Information Institute

United Kingdom
India
United States
Argentina
Canada
United States
China
China

ANNEX II

GMI Coal Mines Subcommittee Meeting Agenda 23 March 2022

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|-----------------|--|
| 10:00-10:15 UTC | Welcome <i>Volha Roshchanka, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i> |
| 10:15-10:25 UTC | Keynote Address from the Subcommittee Co-Chair from India <i>Manoj Kumar, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd</i> |
| 10:25-10:35 UTC | Keynote Address from the Subcommittee Co-Chair from China <i>Liu Wenge, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, China Coal Information Institute</i> |
| 10:35-10:45 UTC | GMI Secretariate Update <i>Monica Shimamura, GMI Secretariat</i> |
| 10:45-11:30 UTC | Country Updates from Delegates |
| 11:30-11:40 UTC | Subcommittee Updates and Accomplishments <i>Liu Wenge, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, China Coal Information Institute</i> |
| 11:40-11:50 UTC | Subcommittee Action Plan <i>Volha Roshchanka, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i> |
| 11:50-12:00 UTC | Summary of Action Items and Adjourn <i>Volha Roshchanka, Coal Mines Subcommittee Co-Chair, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i> |