

4th Workshop on
“Capacity Building of Empanelled Third Party Inspection Agencies”
held on 12th June 2017 at PNGRB, New Delhi

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board conducted the 4th workshop on Capacity Building of all Empanelled Third Party Inspection Agencies (TPIAs) at its office on 12th June 2017 to improve the quality of conformity assessments and strengthen the process of certifications. The workshop was attended by the representatives of all the empanelled Third Party Inspection Agencies as well as National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB).

Dr. Basudev Mohanty, Member, PNGRB while inaugurating the capability building workshop, conveyed his appreciation that such workshops have been organized in the past to provide an effective platform for exchange of experience of TPIAs in conducting safety audits and their views and suggestions for improvements, and participation of a larger number of TPIAs etc. in this 4th workshop is a positive step in going forward. As the safety regulations have to incorporate the latest technology and applications, such workshops provide a healthy forum to not only assess the present regulatory architecture, but also its future shape. In oil and gas activities, safety is of paramount importance. However, in enforcing safety regulations, TPIAs become eyes and ears of



the Board. He stressed upon the need to conduct conformity assessments with utmost care and diligence so as to ensure maintenance of highest standards of safety at the installations, as provided in the Regulations. He informed that a total of 36 ERDMP certifications, 35 T4S audits related to Natural Gas Pipelines, 18 T4S audits related to City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks and 2 T4S audits related to

Petroleum and Petroleum Products Pipelines were carried out by the empanelled TPIAs in 2016-17. He observed that the work and responsibilities of TPIAs is expected to increase once the necessary regulatory framework for registration of the downstream installations such as LNG Terminals, LPG Bottling Plants, Retail Outlets, are put in place.

The technical sessions included presentations from TPIAs covering the details of the works undertaken, methodology, key findings, recommendations and suggestions etc. for further improving the quality of assessment and certifications. The technical sessions were highly interactive and participative.

Presentations were made by NABCB and RTPL w.r.t competence requirements for T4S / IMS assessments and ERDMP certifications, process / qualification / competency harmonization, etc. Action taken on deliverables of the 3rd workshop was discussed. PNGRB reiterated the requirements of ISO : 17020, PNGRB (Third Party Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2015 and shared the salient observations / recommendations of the multi disciplinary team (MDT) constituted to carry out compliance assessment of seven Petroleum and Petroleum Product pipelines, one CGD Network and one Natural Gas Pipeline since last workshop. It was emphasized that the TPIAs carry out the inspections / audits to check compliance to the statutory regulations on behalf of PNGRB. Therefore, no laxity is acceptable during these inspections. It was informed that quality of assessments has made significant progress but still there is a lot of room for further improvement. Therefore, deployment of competent and experienced manpower for carrying out the inspections / audits is the key for quality of assessments. It was unanimously decided that strict action be taken against the TPIAs found to be compromising in quality of their assessments/certifications.

The concluding session was chaired by Secretary, PNGRB. Secretary stressed upon the need of quality assessments for improvement in safety levels considering the hazardous nature of the industry. It was



emphasized that the learnings / outcomes of the workshop be taken forward to improve the quality of inspections / audits to achieve the highest standard of safety in the industry. She stressed on the accountability of TPIAs as the assessment / audit reports are legal documents. The queries from the participants were also replied during the session. To enhance the quality of assessments and certifications, the action items were also identified.

The TPIAs expressed gratitude to PNGRB for organizing this interactive learning program and providing guidance for conducting the assessments and certifications.