

Executive Summary

The Secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has called for proposals for establishing Climate Technology Centre, in pursuance of the decision of Conference of Parties to UNFCCC to make the Technology Transfer mechanism fully operational in 2012.

Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), an autonomous organization fully supported by but not controlled by the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India submitted a Letter of Intent to establish the Climate Technology Centre as a proponent.

TIFAC is uniquely positioned to submit the proposal for establishing the Climate Technology Centre. The strength of TIFAC for hosting the CTC arises from a) its fully autonomous functionality with flexibility and depth of leadership, b) robustness of existing governance and management structures, c) close matching of the organizational goals and functions with proposed CTC with respect to the design, development and hosting of knowledge networks involving both public funded institutions and private enterprises d) technical capabilities in the relevant area of expertise, e) demonstrated past record in technology development and transfer mechanisms, f) ability to deal with high volume of requests from stakeholders and assess potentials for outcome of technologies, g) connectivity to the national signatory to the international S&T cooperation agreements as well as policy bodies on climate change related issues, h) past record of participation in international knowledge networks and i) large linkage and social capital gained in the form of trust and reliability among knowledge institutions.

TIFAC understands fully the issues relating to the development and transfer of technologies, in particular, the challenges of developing countries in the adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Evidence is presented to reveal the breadth and depth of experience of TIFAC in carrying out assessment of vulnerability to climate change and technologies for adaptation and management. TIFAC has in the past implemented technology missions and carried out technology diffusion activities in developing countries for example in the area of sugar in Fiji Island and Fly ash utilization in India.

TIFAC has been participating in international multi stake holder networks in the area of energy, forests management etc through International Institute for SA, Austria. TIFAC proposes to establish the Climate Technology Centre a unit complete with its own organizational structure and governance models in line with the UNFCCC guidelines by appointing a Full time Director and two other senior professionals as core project staff. CTC would receive support from TIFAC for logistics infrastructure complete with utilities, office administration, governance, cost control measures, inter connecting CTC to the vast national data base and stake holders.

Establishment of CTC type centre as a permanent unit of TIFAC is in the self interest of the organization and the country. TIFAC proposes to make a long term commitment and establish a Climate Change Cell in TIFAC based on the successful lessons learnt from CTC and CTCN. The organization also prepared Technology Vision 2020 for India through a broad consultation process involving multiple stake holders. The organization is currently involved in preparing Technology Vision 2035. This exercise has involved more than 2500 technical experts and coordination of large number of agencies.

The Governance structure of TIFAC involves a Governing body under the chairmanship of Dr Anil Kakodkar, formerly Chairman Atomic Energy Commission and India's foremost leader in technology management. The Governing body consists also of some leaders from industry, academics, the Government and research agencies. The GC is fully committed to integrity, transparency and ethical standards which are consistent with the core values organization. The organization has worked with agencies like the World Bank adopting best global practices in management.

TIFAC plans to start-up the operations of CTC within three months if this proposal were selected. CTC will be developed as an independent unit with an internal structure to monitor its function and ensure effective performance. CTC will develop suitable and accountable relationship to UNFCCC and Conference of Parties (COP) and related bodies. Key personnel will be appointed by the Governing body of TIFAC based on technical merit and relevancy of their professional background and experience to suit the specific functions of CTC.

The mission of stimulating technology cooperation and enhancement of technology development and transfer would be fully imbibed by the CTC in TIFAC and build-in internal capability to simultaneously manage and administer projects in developing countries in a timely manner. Internal processes for CTC would be so developed deploying E-management tools that operational efficiency and transparency in decision making would be ensured. CTC as an organization will be nimble and small employing relatively small number of core staff and rely on expertise manpower and external consultants. CTC would empanel a set of legal professionals for advising the management of legal risks, if any, relating to various activities of the centre.

While CTC would function as an independent organization, it will maintain an accountable relationship to the COP. The host organization, in this case TIFAC, already enjoys such a relationship with DST. TIFAC, while remaining independent and functionally autonomous fully, maintains an accountable relationship to the Ministry of Science and Technology through DST.

CTC would establish internal processes for its operation and function and host the entire decision logic on a dedicated website. Responsible and nodal person for coordinating with the network members for each work item would be nominated and the members informed. Response time for each activity would be defined and E management tools would be leveraged to monitor the time and work functions. The Director of CTC would ensure a) timely responses to network partners, b) flexibility of the approach and c) transparency of decision support systems. CTC will position an internal alert system for reviewing its procedures and performance against stated deliverables. A periodical report of CTC to the governing body and annual report to Advisory group would be filed.

TIFAC is the proponent for the CTC. The autonomous body has been serving as the unique institution serving the country through technology information, forecasting and assessment since its inception in 1988. The contribution of TIFAC to the development of Technology Vision 2020 is much acclaimed. TIFAC has implemented Home Grown Technology (HGT) scheme where technology scouting and support to commercialization has been made with highly successful results. This is a case of commercialization of technology innovations and proving the concepts. Implementation of Fly Ash mission and Sugar Technology mission and seeding of Leather Technology Missions in India are some good success stories where TIFAC catalyzed the absorption of technologies by the private sector making national impacts. Technologies for energy saving in SME sector were promoted with significant impact.

TIFAC has so far played the role of a networking organization. The number of technology based institutions working with TIFAC at any give time far exceeds 500. The number of technical experts working with TIFAC in various schemes exceeds 1,000. There is therefore, an organizational culture to work with multi-stake holder base. The brand value of TIFAC is in the quality of product and services. TIFAC has maintained consistently the achievement of project goals and targets. One of the special features of TIFAC is in gaining cooperation of stake holders and share holders. The organization has in-built capacity for learning from experience and ensuring delivery of targets with quality assurance. Mission mode programmes implemented by TIFAC have maintained time schedules for delivery of results.

Whereas in many time bound projects implemented directly by TIFAC, time schedules have been strictly adhered to, there are some cases where the time over-run of projects implemented by other agencies has occurred. TIFAC proposes to overcome this challenge by designing CTC as a separate unit and appoint Director and other supporting staff based on their ability to meet the challenges of timely delivery technical targets.

TIFAC, over the years, has gained adequate strength in cost and price evaluation and position cost control mechanisms. The organization has set up revolving fund mechanisms for supporting commercialization of technologies. The funds generated from the technology commercialization exercises of TIFAC have yielded a turn-over scaling of 22 times and tax revenue for the country by 2.1 times of the funds invested by TIFAC.

Experience of TIFAC in assembling technical teams and cross-sectional experts is the richest. Several of the technology related projects implemented by TIFAC involved the assembly of technical teams and experts including those from private sector and industries. TIFAC has completed more than 500 technology assessment, demonstration and developmental projects during the last ten years which involved more than 1,500 technical experts, consultants and others.
