

International Women's Day celebrated by Indian Glass Industry

(March 8, 2025)

The last FY 2024-25 meeting of the AIGMF Executive Committee was hosted by NES Refractories, Guwahati at Royale de Casa Resort, Kaziranga (ASSAM), a UNESCO World Heritage site from March 7-9.

AIGMF members were offered a complimentary two nights' stay sponsored by NES Refractories. In addition to the normal industry agenda, visits to the Kaziranga National Park, bonding/technical sessions were also organised.

The main theme of the program centred around Women in Glass Manufacturing followed by presentations, Executive Committee meeting and other sessions celebrating International Women's Day on March 8.

Members arrived on March 7 who were received at Guwahati and then transferred to Kaziranga by taxis. A welcome dinner was hosted in the evening by M/s NES Refractories.

On March 8, a morning safari on elephant and jeeps were organised, followed by breakfast and a tour of the Biodiversity and Orchid Park.





After lunch, the technical meeting started with the Opening Address by Mr. Rajesh Khosla, President AIGMF and CEO/President AGI Greenpac, followed by a welcome speech by Mr. Aman Gupta, Managing Director, NES Refractories and host of the event.

Kick-off presentation on 'Glass Bottle Manufacturing- The Path to Optimal Sustainability through Automation and Digitalization' was given by Ms. Sudha C Jebadurai, President, AGR International Inc., USA. AGR International offers a broad line of products and testing/research services specifically designed to help bottle manufacturers produce high-quality containers while improving efficiencies, reducing costs and contributing to the responsible management of resources. AGR's products include testing and measurement of dimensions, burst-pressure, thickness, vertical load, volume, fill height, impact and more.



Role of Science in Glass Manufacturing

By

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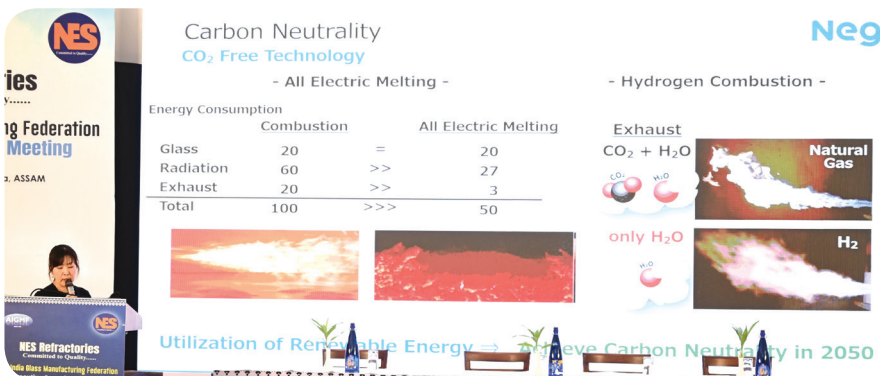
Professor, Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), Ghaziabad, India



Another technical presentation on 'Towards Sustainable Glass Manufacturing' was given by Ms. Yuki Uno, Sales Manager, Nippon Electric Glass (NEG) Co., Ltd., JAPAN offering oxy-fuel combustion technology; H_2 fuel technology, electric melting technology and carbon-neutral glass melting furnace technology. Ms. Uno was joined by her colleagues Mr. Hitoshi Kanaya, Senior Vice President and Mr. Yoshio Iwatsubo, Sales Engineer & Furnace Consultant with NEG from Japan.

Ms. Sheetal Khanna, General Manager, Gold Plus Glass Industry Ltd., presented, 'Flat Glass for Green Building and CSR initiatives'. She discussed topics such as dynamic shading system controlled by electrochromic and thermochromic coatings. Thermochromic coatings are interesting in that the glass shading changes automatically with temperature.

Ms. Sangeetha Shenvi, Vice President





– Sales, Schott Poonawala Pvt. Ltd presented a personalized experience of leadership in the workplace, ‘The Power of Diversity: Women Leaders Transforming Growth’. She indicated that many women had “fear to lead” out of the belief that they would be ‘swimming with sharks’. These should be addressed by the glass industry at some point.

Finally, Dr. K Annapurna, Chief Scientist, CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, presented ‘Role of Science in Glass Manufacturing’. She briefly reviewed science behind glass batch calculation, glass melting in large tanks, the heat requirements and forming of the products; the volume-temperature diagram of a glassmaking substance, viscosity control and avoiding crystallization paths being the more important science behind glass manufacturing.

A Guest lecture on ‘Glass Education’ was delivered by Dr. Atima Sharma Dwivedi, Principal of Kanya Maha





Vidyalaya (KMV), Jalandhar (Punjab) over a short video on KMV and a report on the present status. KMV, a not-for-profit, heritage women's educational institution was established in 1886, with a mission to support community development and particularly help the less privileged students.


Glass Research at KMV has been going on since 2007 with challenges in terms of support for students for their academic fellowships, internships, R&D equipment and raising funds significantly to improve education at KMV. Dr. Sharma indicated that Dr. Arun and Mrs. Darshana Varshneya from USA had visited the KMV and pledged several tuition assistance scholarships and professional travel support for the students.

She sought further support from the glass industry in terms of 3-6 month internships and employment for the senior class women students and graduates.



Dr. Arun Varshneya President of Society of Glass Technology (UK) along with his wife Mrs. Darshana Varshneya, Chief Financial Officer of the Saxon Glass Technologies, USA; the winner of the prestigious C K Somany Award for Excellence 2024, Dr. Manoj Choudhary and Former President of International Commission on Glass was among the online participants who joined in the early morning hours from the USA.



Kaziranga from the Lens of
Mr. Yoshio Iwatsubo
Sales Engineer & Furnace Consultant
Nippon Electric Glass Co. Ltd., JAPAN
( Member Company)





A presentation on North East Sillimanite 'NES Refractories offering industry solutions' was given by the host represented by Dr. A K Misra, Director Technical of the NES Refractories. Dr. Misra emphasized on refractory being a 'partner' in glass manufacturing. He discussed the range of refractories available from NES for the various components of a glass-melting tank, and the extensive testing laboratories to assure the quality. Dr. Misra reiterated the NES commitment to high quality refractories for the glass industry, zero-defects, and on-time delivery. He further indicated future directions at the NES to be developing fusion-cast refractories, super duty silica bricks, silica insulation bricks for the tank crown, high-strength insulation blocks and feeder expendables soon.

A presentation on 'Indonesia- A Business and Tourist Destination' was given by Ms. Erny Wahyuni, Second Secretary (Social and Cultural Affairs), Embassy of The Republic of Indonesia





in India. Her presentation started with a video on Tourism opportunities in Indonesia followed by a video on Glasstech Asia Fenestration Asia 2025 to be hosted from Nov 6-9, 2025 at Jakarta, Indonesia, thereby inviting all to visit Indonesia at that time.

The last women's presentation on 'UNESCO Heritage sites in Uganda' highlighting the sanctuary for the nearly-extinct mountain gorilla in the wild and safaris was given by the Honourable Amb. Margaret L. Kyogire, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Uganda in India, who was joined by the Financial Attaché Mr. Michael Agaba of the Ugandan Mission in India.

Concluding Remarks on technical sessions were given by Dr. Arun K. Varshneya, PhD HonFSGT President of Society of Glass Technology (UK); Professor of Glass Science & Engineering Emeritus, Alfred University, USA and President Saxon Glass Technologies, Inc., USA, who joined online in the early hours from





the USA along with his wife Mrs. Darshana Varshneya, Chief Financial Officer of Saxon Glass Technologies, Inc.

Dr. Varshneya noted that the current meeting focused on two of the 17 sustainable development goals in the UN 2030 resolution: Goal 5.5 “Gender Equality” and Goal 13 “Climate Action”. Glass industry picked up momentum towards meeting these goals following the UN declaration of 2022 as the “International Year of Glass”. Prof. Varshneya noted that the glass industry appeared to have been marching ahead of Goal 13. However, Goal 5.5 needed attention. He mentioned that for a long time, women engineers worldwide have faced male-driven prejudice in their career paths. There should be no place for such bias in a civilized society. Man or woman, they should each receive opportunity and encouragement to excel themselves, to reach the highest for their intellectual abilities, and to





be as much a productive member of the society as possible.

Having daughters only, both Dr. and Mrs. Varshneya made an appeal to the glass industry to help build the glass program at the KMV College by strengthening the foundation. They asked the Indian glass industry to review their employment needs by making investment in engineering schools ('One school at a time') to upgrade their glass characterization laboratories in order to strengthen their curriculum; institute more tuition assistance for engineering students based upon merit and need; provide enhanced internship opportunities with focused training to the women engineering students such that they can develop their career paths to match their skills, and be not afraid to lead, and by sending senior industry staff to present lectures at such institutions to encourage networking.

The meeting was organized in a hybrid mode which was attended by over 80 participants in both



PROFESSOR ARUN VARSHNEYA SEEKS YOUR HELP IN LOCATING INTERNSHIPS FOR KMV STUDENTS

During participation at the AIGMF's International Women's Day event on March 8, Dr. Arun Varshneya, Emeritus Professor at Alfred University USA pledged to act as an outside-India guide to the women glass engineering students of the Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, Jalandhar (Punjab) INDIA (KMV- a not-for profit, heritage women's educational institution established in 1886, with a mission to support community development and particularly help the less privileged students).

One important component of improving instructional standards is for all junior/senior Glass Engineering class students to receive approximately 6 weeks of internship beginning the middle of June 2025 in a domestic glass (or refractory) industry or R&D location. **Please help !**

CONTACT's: Dr. Gopi Sharma of the KMV at sharmagopi28@yahoo.com or Dr. Arun Varshneya at varshneya@alfred.edu or Mr. Vinit Kapur, Secretary AIGMF at info@aigmf.com

physical (60) and online (20) mode from various parts of the world. The winner of the prestigious C K Somany Award for Excellence 2024, Dr. Manoj Choudhary and Former President of International Commission on Glass was among the online participants who joined in the early morning hours from the USA.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr. Shreevar Kheruka, Sr. Vice President AIGMF and Vice Chairman & MD Borosil Ltd., to conclude the International Women's Day event which ended on a high note with eight women speakers participating from India, Indonesia, Japan, USA and Uganda.

Secretary, AIGMF and the Office Bearers thanked Mr. Aman Gupta of the NES for the very kind hospitality extended to AIGMF Members which was truly appreciated by one and all.

A group photo was captured after cake cutting by all women speakers and other ladies who participated. In the last session of the event,





Remembering Former President Mr. C A Tatkawala in the Executive Committee Meeting of the AIGMF who left for heavenly abode on Feb 24, 2025



meeting of the Executive Committee discussed industry issues with a view to promote 100% eco-friendly packaging and building material glass under the natural and beautiful backdrop of Kaziranga.

At the end of the day, a cultural program was organised for the delegation at Bio-diversity and Orchid park, followed by a pool side dinner at Royale de Casa Resort.

All presentations, select photos, safari videos and press coverage of the event are available under past events at www.aimf.com

Before the departure of all guests on March 9, a final round of morning safaris on both jeeps and elephants were organised.

All women speakers and overseas guests were felicitated by gifting a traditional Assamese scarf and 80 Years AIGMF Glass Mementoes specially made by La-Opala RG Ltd., market leaders in opalware and crystalware, an AIGMF Member company ■



Tiger was spotted on March 8 by Ambassador Margaret L. Kyogire, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Uganda, AGI Greenpac representative Mr. Indranil Ranu and AIGMF Team (Mr. Dilip/Monu/Kailash)

