

**Panel Discussion: Coal Mine Methane (CMM) as an under-valued energy source and the role it can play in transition of the coal industry**

**Organizers:** UNECE, International Centre of Excellence on CMM Poland, International Centre of Excellence on CMM China,

**Target group:** Open to all participants

In the first part of the session, the panelists will discuss the issue of how CMM can be used as a supplement to coal, and what role it can play in transition of the coal industry.

**Guiding questions:**

- *What is the economic aspects of such transitions? (Can the transition have macro-economic viability and sustainability?)*
- *What are the technological aspects of such transitions? What are the obstacles and opportunities associated with such transitions? What is the current state of technology in this field, etc.?*
- *What is the financial aspect of such transitions? What are the existing options for financing CMM projects? What financial mechanisms and credit facilities should be developed in order to facilitate development of CMM projects?*
- *What is the regulatory aspect of such transition? What regulations and incentives (such as e.g. tax reduction for CMM-oriented projects, special power tariff, etc.) are necessary to enable such change?*
- *What is the environmental aspect of such transitions? What are the potential emission reduction gains? How much of the methane that is currently wasted could be used as a valuable resource, and how to make it happen?*
- *What is the social aspect of such transition? Would it help to preserve jobs in coal mining sector? How can we determine how many jobs could be saved and what policy tools could be used to enable the coal mining sector to improve its sustainability?*

In the second part of the session, the host entities of two International Centres of Excellence on CMM will present their respective institutions to the audience. The presentations will address such issues as legal and organizational structure of the Centres, their links with the UN, their goals and activities, as well as their geographical focus including brief characteristic of main problems faced in the regions of their interest. The presentation will also provide a short description of the current methane-related activities of the entities hosting the Centres.

Time	Content	Resource person
<i>Part 1: “Coal Mine Methane (CMM) as a valuable energy source and the role it can play in transition of the coal industry.”</i>		
16.00-16.05	Introduction by the moderator	Mr. Raymond C. Pilcher (moderator)
16.05-16.30	Presentations by each panellist	Mr. Raymond C. Pilcher (Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on CMM) Mr. Richard Mattus (Specialist, UNECE) Mr. Lukasz Kroplewski (Vice President, Polish Oil and Gas Company) Mr. Sergazy Baimuhametov (Vice-Chair, UNECE Group of Experts on CMM) Mr. Jin Zhixin (Vice-Chairman/General Manager, Shanxi Coking Coal Group Co Ltd) Mr. Evgeny Alexeyev (Deputy Director, Methane Center PA)
16.30-16.40	Discussion lead by the moderator	All Participants
16.40-16.50	Open floor – Q&As	All Participants and audience
16.50-17.00	Closing statements	All Participants
<i>Part 2: Presentation of the International Centres of Excellence on CMM</i>		
17.00-17.15	Presentation of ICE-CMM Poland	Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG), Polish Central Mining Institute (GIG), Polish Oil and Gas Institute - National Research Institute (INiG), Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute (PIG-PIB)
17.15-17.30	Presentation of ICE-CMM China	Shanxi Coking Coal Group Co Ltd. (SCCG)