

Eighth Session

Geneva, 29 April 2013

Item 11 of the provisional agenda:

**Establishing an International Centre of Excellence
on Coal Mine Methane**

**Blueprint for Establishing an
International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane
(ICE-CMM)**

Inter-governmental context: UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence

The UNECE's International Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Centre of Excellence is an official inter-regional United Nations programme led by UNECE on behalf of other four United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, in cooperation with the relevant UN and other agencies (e.g., ILO, the World Bank, EBRD, or IFC).

In 2012 UNECE's EXCOM decided to establish an International PPP Centre of Excellence that consists of a hub, established within the UNECE in Geneva, and affiliated PPP specialist centres (dedicated to one sector, such as, e.g., roads, water, health, food security, prisons, sustainable development, education, renewable energy, coal mining, etc.), hosted by various countries. In this sense, UNECE's International PPP Centre of Excellence is an umbrella organisation that coordinates activities of and enables cross-sectorial interactions among its affiliated centres.

An individual International (Specialist) Centre of Excellence is an organization or part of an organization that cooperates with the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence in promoting and disseminating best practices in a specific area. Such Centre of Excellence is established through the cooperation among the government, NGOs, the private sector, academic world, and the society at large. Therefore, each Centre of Excellence is a Public-Private Partnership in itself.

Only public sector or quasi-public sector bodies (greater than 50% public sector ownership) may host a Centre of Excellence. The UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence will undertake the following process when selecting a public-sector body to become a host-organization for a (Specialist) Centre:

- Receipt and approval of an Expression of Interest
- Receipt and approval of a business case and project management plan
- Finalization and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Funding Agreement between UNECE and the host organization

Some of the criteria for selection of the host country are:

- The chosen subject matter is placed high on the agenda of the national or regional/local government
- The proposal is supported by many stakeholders, including the private sector

Each Centre of Excellence will choose a specific area in which it commits to develop and disseminate specialized knowledge. In doing so, it will work with designated partners worldwide. The Centre could be a part of an existing organization that specialized in the subject matter. Each Centre is an example of a structured and internationally recognized endeavour in a specific area that can then be copied by other countries and organizations, helping them reduce time and money for establishing partnerships. The interested UN Member

States may find that hosting such Centres of Excellence is helpful in achieving their specific national goals in the given field, through gaining international recognitions as a hub for best practices in a specific field.

In the context of UNECE, the proposed centre on coal mine methane would be referred to as: the International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM). ICE-CMM will be a member of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence. (ICE-CMM is a provisional name. It is up to the host countries and *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on CMM (AHGE on CMM) to choose the most appropriate name).

Tasks of an individual International (Specialist) Centre of Excellence

- Develop and disseminate best-practices within the topic
- Assist in developing sector-specific capacity-building strategies for governments
- Contextualize the knowledge through a series of targeted best practice guidance
- Develop an accurate mapping of the current global market within the sector
- Conduct subject-related research and development
- Organizing (bi)annual seminar on the subject
- Provide (paid) assistance to other organizations for implementing best practices

Why coal mine methane matters?

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas. Over a 100-year period, the comparative impact of methane on climate change is over 20 times greater than that of carbon dioxide. Thus recovery and use of CMM mitigates climate change. It also improves mine safety and productivity. It may generate revenues and cost savings.

The UNECE's Ad Hoc Group of Experts' on coal mine methane carries out activities related to development and profitable recovery and use of CMM in working and abandoned coal mines. The AHGE on CMM employs a holistic (or sustainable development) approach to methane management, looking at the problem of methane emissions from coalmines from economic, social and environmental perspectives.

In 2010, the AGHE on CMM, in cooperation with US EPA, released “Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines”, intended primarily to improve mine safety at active underground coal mines and encourage the use of coal mine methane to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

On 25 July 2011 the Economic and Social Council invited member States, international organizations and the regional commissions to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures to ensure the application of the *Best Practice Guidance* worldwide. The ECOSOC decision recommended *Best Practice Guidance* as a global standard for coal mine safety through better methane management.

The International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM)

The proposed International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM) will be a part of the United Nations Public-Private Partnership community. ICE-CMM will support capacity-building activities and dissemination of best practices in its area of expertise, namely: economically viable methane abatement and utilisation, socially acceptable underground coalmine practices, and environmentally responsible methane management.

ICE-CMM will nominate members to the Advisory Board who will advise national and local governments in their implementation of CMM related policies. Individual members of ICE-CMM will be encouraged to become members of the AHGE on CMM.

ICE-CMM will co-ordinate with the UNECE International Centre of Excellence its activities needed to engage key stakeholders and to harness the overall global knowledge base of the UNECE PPP Initiative. An Editorial Board will be the quality assurance of the results of ICE-CMM work and will assist and support in developing best practices in specific fields related to coal mining and methane management.

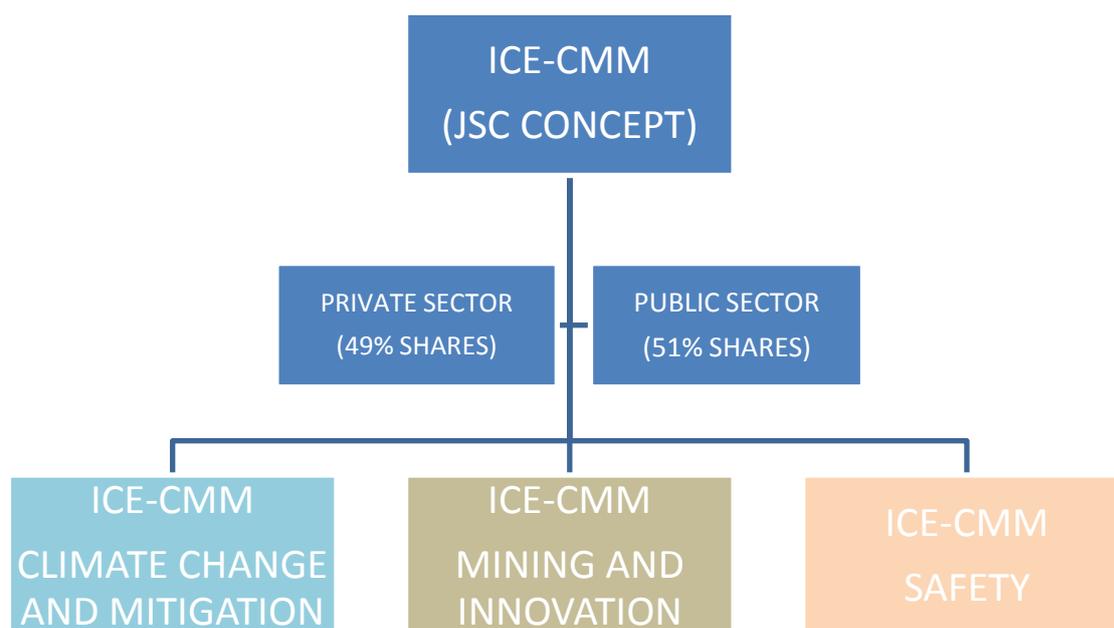
In the concept of the UNECE initiative, the ICE-CMM would be the body and organisation responsible for the overall coal mine methane policy in climate change mitigation and safety of underground coal mines.

In terms of structure, ICE-CMM could have three sections, each of them dealing with the following aspects of coal mine methane:

- Climate change effects and mitigation
- Mining practices and innovation (e.g., advanced drilling)
- Coal mining safety (e.g., explosions, use of life support systems)

These three subjects could be dealt with at one or at several locations, as appropriate, given the expressed interest of UN Member States who may decide to share the burden of hosting and operating ICE-CMM.

Governance ideas for ICE-CMM



The ICE-CMM would be a Joint Stock Company, where the private sector can buy shares. In practice, it is common that the government holds all shares in the beginning, as the private sector has to see results first. The private sector pays a fair amount of contribution to participate. Some examples of this are: PPP Centre Kazakhstan (KZ), PUK (UK), PPSSupport (NL) or Partnerschaften Germany (GE).

The governance position of an ICE is depends on the subject-matter the centre addresses. Sometimes the ICE is a relatively small organisation and should be part of the core business of the-so called mother organisation. In many countries there is a PPP unit, the ICE on PPP is a joining partner. For example, the UNECE PPP Centre on Heath in Manila is an independent organisation with different tasks and workload.

Overview of ICE-CMM structure and functioning

What is described above is a draft concept, open to discussion and suggestions by the AHGE on CMM and other stakeholders. The UNECE International Centre of Excellence is available to work out details and share practical experience. To this end, here is an overview of a generic International (Specialist) Centre of Excellence that could be applied to ICE-CMM, as the AHGE on CMM sees fit.

	International (Specialist) Centre or ICE-CMM
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and disseminate best-practices in methane management • Develop sector-specific capability development strategies for governments • Conduct CMM-related research and development
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate under the national law of the hosting government • MoU and Financing Agreement signed between UNECE and the host organisation
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integral part of the hosting government
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the country of the hosting government
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and semi-government bodies • Large private-sector organizations • Small-medium enterprise (SME) private-sector organisations • Academic institutions, professional / industry representative bodies, and other non-government organisations (NGOs) • Individual membership
Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host speakers and subject-matter experts to attend capacity-building activities organised by the Centre • Develop business plans and budgets for ICE-CMM, for approval by the UNECE International Centre of Excellence • Operations management, human resources management and financial management. Following the development of the initial public release of the UNECE Best Practice Guidance, publicly launch, market, and annually review and update this document under the direction of the UNECE International Centre of Excellence • Actively promote the development of local & international markets in the sector • Establish a network of sector-specific stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and form alliances with key sector-specific bodies • Establish a (partly) publicly-accessible database of clients, contractors and advisors operating within the sector globally, as well as a publicly-accessible database of past, current, and future PPP projects within the sector globally • Establish a database of best-practice policies and program delivery strategies used by the public sector globally • Providing government clients with advice and consultancy services in applying and contextualising the UNECE Best-Practice Guide on a fee-per-service basis • Develop and conduct courses & knowledge-sharing forums in specific sector delivery for the sector
Performance reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly report to the UNECE Secretariat (through the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence)
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All operational and facility costs are funded directly by the host government (possibly in collaboration with other interested governments) • Funding for the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence by the hosting government
Audit and copyright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full transparency of all documentation to the UNECE International Centre of Excellence • The UNECE retains copyright in all documentation and data produced by ICE-CMM • The UNECE name and logo will not be used unless authorised by the UNECE.

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