An Approach and Policy to Strengthen Steel & Protect Environment

'Global warming' is a wakeup call needing an immediate solution. Policies to encourage energy efficiency and lessen CO_2 emissions have to be undertaken world over. The developing regions like India and China has a direct proportionate rate to the steel productivity. Thus any policy imposing extra taxes on steel production in Kyoto-countries would lead to switching of production in other parts of the world and thus leading to green house effect.

Accordingly in its efforts, International Iron and Steel Institute(IISI) has identified climate challenges while urging the steel industries around the world and the governments complying to the Kyoto protocol- to commit themselves to their productivity with sustainable development.

Here is what IISI, recommends to the global steel industry & the government.

I. COMMITMENTS FROM STEEL INDUSTRY

This includes seven step procedures:

1. Expanding the utility of the contemporary efficient technologies to minimise the generation of CO_2: many steel industries since years are operating on the lowest level emissions based on major technical innovations. Yet there are plants with much poorer performance. Thus it is necessary to transfer technologies to speed up the replacements of steel plants that bring down the global performance.
2. Undertake Research and Developments for new technology solutions limiting CO_2: With IISI's attempt, steel companies and steel associations world over are funding co-operative research with universities, research institutes and other industries to develop new approaches to steel production.
3. Optimise and maximise recycling of steel scrap: percentage rate of recycling steel is high. Yet more can be done to ensure recycling. This includes mutual working with local governments to maximise the recycling in household waste, working with customers to help design steel using products in a way that aids end-of-life recycling.
4. Maximising the value of Steel industry by-products: by-products like slags -that used to be dumped in the past is now used in the cement industry to dramatically reduce Co_2 emissions in cement production. The steel industry is committed to spreading this practice worldwide.

5. Aiding the use of the new generation of steels to improve the energy efficiency of steel-using products in partnership with customers : The steel industry continues to develop newer steels to reduce CO_2 emissions over the lifecycle of the end product. For instance, new electrical steels have been developed to improve the energy-efficiency of electrical motors. Likewise, new ultra high-strength automotive steels have achieved major reductions in passenger-car weight, without comprising safety.

6. Approving common and established reporting procedures that account for and report progress towards achieving CO_2 emission reductions.
7. Adopting a global sector-specific approach: To launch a task force developing Global Sector Specific approach for CO_2 reductions in the post-Kyoto period.

Like wise there are a few policy commitments on the part of governments

II COMMITMENTS FROM GOVERNMENTS

1. Replace cap and trade emission regimes with policies that allow the most efficient steel companies in terms of CO_2 emissions to expand and the least efficient to decline.
2. Engage with industry to adopt a Sector Specific framework which involves all major steel producing countries.
3. Establish recycling programmes that encourage market-based steel to steel recycling as used in the steel industry.
4. Encourage the closure and replacement of the least efficient steelmaking plants.
5. Support long-term research initiatives for radical new technology solutions proposed by the steel industry. Governments also need to develop policies that encourage demonstration of these innovative technologies.
6. The Member Companies of IISI are committed to a vision where steel is valued as a major foundation of a sustainable world. This is achieved by a financially sound industry, taking leadership in environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Commitment towards improvement

The world steel industry will continue to work to reduce the impact of green house gas emissions on the environment. The industry will continue to work with customers to design better, long-lasting & energy-efficient products. There is also potential to optimise the use of currently available high-tech steels. The global steel industry also continues to develop and introduce new steels that promise to deliver further benefits.

(Courtesy : IISI policy document)