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# NEWS CLIPPING

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Lanxess Rubber Day India 2013

## Prominent experts speak on future of mobility, green technologies and road safety

"India is clearly emerging as a global automotive hub. All international car manufacturers have a market in India. This growth will usher in new needs, new opportunities, and new challenges. We will need to develop technology-driven solutions for a more sustainable future" remarked Dr. Joerg Strassburger, Managing Director and Country Representative of Lanxess India, while introducing the second Lanxess Rubber Day India in Mumbai.

Dr. Rainier van Roessel, Member, Board of Management, Lanxess AG, addressing the audience

The event saw a selection of Indian experts in the field of rubber production gather to discuss the state of India's growing rubber industry and its contribution to the nation's burgeoning transportation sector. The symposium organized around the theme of 'High-tech Mobility and Emerging Trends', was arranged by Germany's Lanxess, the world's largest manufacturer of synthetic rubber. Speakers, panelists and around 300 attendees from the rubber and automotive industries, as well as from academia and government were present at the event.

M. F. Farooqui, Secretary – Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Government of India noted that India remains on track to meet the targets stated in the nation's Automotive Mission Plan, which projects that by 2016, the automotive sector will account for more than 10% of India's GDP and employ 25 million more people than it did in 2006.

Dr. Rainier van Roessel, Member of the Board of Management of Lanxess AG noted that fewer than 1% of Indians own a car today, compared with 16% regionally, "As India catches up in car ownership, much more has to be done in our sector to drive down the accident rate on this country's highways and to make vehicles cleaner and more efficient. New developments in rubber technology have a great deal to contribute to these improvements."

The process of 'radialisation' was also discussed at the event. India currently uses a high proportion of bias ply tyres with old-fashioned inner tubes. More modern tyres employ a radial design, which does not require a separate tube. Radial tyres deliver greater longevity, better fuel economy and substantially improved safety performance. They are also known as 'green tyres', due to their exceptional environmental performance and significant contributions to fuel efficiency. Only about 15% of large commercial vehicles in India presently run on radial tyres.

Topics for panel discussions included 'The Future of Mobility in India', 'Innovation in Rubber for a Greener Tomorrow', 'Technological Trends in Automotive Rubber Components', and 'Driving Growth and Delivering Safety'. Lanxess was also the lead partner for the 7th India Rubber Expo and Tyre Show at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai held a day after the Lanxess Rubber Day India.