

## **M2M+IoT 2018 conference on Smart Cities & Smart Villages, 30-31 January 2018, in conjunction with EU-India FI-MEDIA project.**

**Abstract:** The EU-India FI-MEDIA team decided to collaborate with the m2m+IoT Forum of India as early as January, 2017, to co-organise this prestigious annual event, with EU participation as a core component of its success, as the objectives of this dedicated annual forum and the various conferences organized by them have been found to be of the same objective that could help promote the C2C partnership building within the FI-MEDIA project.

The Smart Cities Forum (Day 1) and Smart Villages Forum (Day 2), with an objective to promote India's brand image and provide a pre-eminent platform to the m2m+IoT community, from large, medium to small enterprises and innovators/researchers to showcase their business ideas, innovations and capabilities in this emerging market, has been at the forefront of this cause since 2014 and has now become the signature Forum to project Brand India to the entire ICT stakeholders across the world.

The FI-MEDIA team based in India, represented by Prof MP Gupta of IIT, Delhi and Mr. Abhishek Sharma of Beyond Evolution Tech Solutions Pvt Ltd, was invited to attend the IoT forum session of 6-7 March'17 on the "Connected World" and on "Policies, regulations and standards". In the session, the team could interact with various professionals of the field and the high level Government Officials dealing with m2m and IoT policies and standards and the team had an ideal opportunity to share the C2C partnership objectives of the FI-MEDIA to the delegates. The details were well received and the support was assured as highly applicable.

Subsequently, the teams of Fi-MEDIA and the M2M + IoT Forum decided to work together and met regularly to work out details for Co-Organising the annual event being held during 30-31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018. On 5<sup>th</sup> September, Fi-Media also organized meeting with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for identifying the avenues and approach to support the C2C objective of the FI-MEDIA project. The meeting was held at the DMS, IIT Delhi and was attended by Col Suhail Zaidi, Director & Head ICT for CII, Mr. Subhankar Mitra & Shilpi Batra of M2M + IoT Forum and the FI-MEDIA Team<sup>1</sup>.

At the same time, FI-MEDIA team continued working towards maintenance of the already successful C2C of *Bringing the FIWARE platform to India* and formation of the India node of the FIWARE platform by way of initiating and supporting the direct and close involvement of the FIWARE Foundation, including with Mr. Ulrich Ahle, the CEO of the FIWARE Foundation. These efforts resulted in the participation of Mr Ahle as a keynote on both days to present successes of establishing an India node of FIWARE.



Minister Hardeep S. Puri and Mr. Ulrich Ahle, FIWARE Foundation

In the highly successful M2M + IoT conference of 30-31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018, FI-MEDIA took part as co-organizers along with IIT Delhi and the M2M + IoT Forum organisers. The conference was inaugurated on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 by H.E. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the EU for India & Bhutan and attended by the senior government officials and those from the Telecom / ICT industry and research and innovation domains. On this opening day, the sessions were dedicated to various aspects of the Smart Cities, including infrastructures, applications

<sup>1</sup> News item available at [http://www.bic-fimedia.eu/?view=news&news\\_id=52](http://www.bic-fimedia.eu/?view=news&news_id=52)

and services. There were presentations on various business and research aspects of the Smart Cities and the role of M2M and IoT in this field. Mr. Saurabh Sharma, CEO, Beyond Evolution, the member company of FI-MEDIA also presented on Smart Energy, supplementing the C2C partnership objectives of the project.

The sessions on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018, the second day of the conference, were dedicated to “Smart Villages”, which was the first C2C partnership formed by the EU-India FI-MEDIA project. The inaugural session, entitled “Empowering Villages through Technology and Creating Rural Innovation Clusters”, was moderated by Mr. Abhishek Sharma, Member FI-MEDIA and Managing Director, Beyond Evolution Tech Solution, the industry FI-MEDIA Partner Company. The panel comprised of Ms. Seema Gaur, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, who shared with the audience various government schemes for the villages involving support and usage of IoT, as well. The details were eye-opening and extremely exciting for the future exploitation of the m2m + IoT technology. The other panellists were Prof MP Gupta, Head – Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi and Academic member partner of FI-MEDIA; Mr. Vikram Tewatia, Director General, COAI, Mr. Haliodor Macko, CEO, SPEAK s.r.o. and Mr Ulrich Ahle, CEO, FIWARE Foundation, based in Berlin, Germany.



On behalf of FI-MEDIA project, a presentation on “Smart Energy for Villages” was made by Mr. Abhishek Sharma (left), highlighting the areas of cooperation between EU and Indian entities in industry and research in the area of Smart Energy for villages. FI-MEDIA, through its mobility programme, also facilitated the participation of Dr. Antonio J Jara of H.O.P. Ubiquitous SA of Spain and Professor Mikko J Ruohonen of University of Tampere,

Finland, who were delighted to be given this opportunity of partnering with India IoT-based clusters of technologists and policy makers.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. James Clarke (right), FI-MEDIA project coordinator declared “by co-organizing and actively participating in this M2M+IoT conference, the FI-MEDIA project team successfully achieved the opening of the doors for further C2C partnerships and provided a healthy momentum for the activities for the next years of the project. The final report of the event is currently being circulated. Appendix 1 contains accompanying letters from the Minister of State, Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, and the H.E. Ambassador of the European Union to India and Bhutan.

