



TERI North America hosts 6th US-India Energy Partnership Summit

'US-India: Past Cooperation, Future Strategies and New Opportunities'

Washington, DC, September 17: The Energy and Resources Institute North America will host the sixth edition of the US-India Energy Partnership Summit on September 21 in Washington, DC, to focus on expanding the use of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, clean coal technology and accelerating clean energy finance.

Coming on the heels of the India-US bilateral energy discussions on the same day, the Summit themed *'US-India: Past Cooperation, Future Strategies and New Opportunities'* will be an extension of those talks and will focus at reviving and reaffirming ties between the two nations. The Summit is well-timed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US set for the same week with renewable energy scoring high on the agenda, and the two vibrant democracies poised to commit themselves to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The US is among the top producers of energy in the world. And by 2030, India's primary energy demand will double, making it the third largest consumer of energy in the world, after China and the US. In this backdrop, it is imperative that the two nations chart a roadmap for future collaborations in this field.

Established in 1990, TERI North America aims to serve as the developing country conscience of global policy-makers on issues of energy, environment, and sustainable development and to mobilize support for these issues. To promote this goal TERI North America has been holding the annual US-India Energy Partnership Summit since 2009. The Summit brings together senior political representatives and leading policy makers, researchers and corporate leaders from both countries to deliberate and create solutions for a sustainable future.

The Summit will have three focused thematic tracks - Improving the Efficiency of Energy Use; Renewable Energy and Financing Clean Energy; Carbon Capture, Commoditization and Utilization.

The thematic tracks will be followed by a High Level Corporate Dialogue that will bring together leaders from industry as well as government and academia to discuss the role of business in sustainable development and furthering the energy partnership between the two countries. The HLCD will be followed by the Special Plenary session, during which Dr Ernest Moniz, United States Secretary of Energy, US Department of State will give the valedictory address.

Deliberations on those topics will take place against the backdrop of the following:

Improving the Efficiency of Energy Use

United States and India face some similar challenges that they can jointly address through new policies and partnerships. Both countries have taken significant series of initiatives together on energy and climate, including the U.S.-India Energy Dialogue and the U.S.-India Joint Working Group on Combating Climate Change. This partnership includes the PACE-D Technical Assistance Program, which is accelerating deployment of clean energy technologies and policies at the national and state levels, Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE), which aims to harness commercial enterprise to bring clean energy access to un-served and underserved Indian villages, and the U.S.-India Energy Cooperation Program (ECP), a public-private partnership between U.S. member companies and the governments of the United States and India. These programs are estimated to generate more than \$4 billion in trade and investment with India and support thousands of jobs in both countries.

Renewable Energy and Financing Clean Energy

With the aim of increasing energy access, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resilience to climate change, President Obama and Prime Minister Modi agreed to a new and enhanced strategic partnership on energy security, clean energy, and climate change in September last year. They have pledged to strengthen and expand the highly successful U.S.-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE) through a series of new programs including a new Energy Smart Cities Partnership to promote efficient urban energy infrastructure; a scaling-up of renewable energy integration into India's power grid; cooperation in upgrading India's alternative energy institutes; development of new innovation centers and a host of other energy efficiency programs. Expansion of this program could yield benefits to both countries since the government of India under its Green Energy Mission has made solar and wind power development key priorities.

Clean energy finance is a vital crosscutting component under USAID's PACE-D Technical Assistance Program. The U.S. has tremendous experience in the financing of green energy investments and could share these with the Indian government and Indian entrepreneurs. Recently 'PACEsetter Fund', a new US \$4 million fund, was launched to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy solutions in India.

Carbon Capture, Commoditization and Utilization

The 21st century needs sustainable business strategies that provide an increasing energy supply while supporting climate protection and social development goals. Transformational technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, including CO₂ utilization, as well as carbon capture and reuse will need to play a key role. The CCCU track will emphasize that profitable CO₂ utilization and reuse options within carbon capture projects, i.e., treating carbon as a commodity instead of waste, can attract business groups and industry early on to engage in commercial scale applications and demonstration of carbon capture projects.

High Level Corporate Dialogue

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals created a clear target for sustainability reporting by corporations called Target 12.6. It aims to encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle. This target encourages all Member States to find a national benchmark for how many companies are using sustainability reporting in their own countries. It also challenges them to think creatively on how to develop policies or incentives to achieve, and advance, a national strategy to progress towards this target.

As 2015 is a defining year with SDGs being adopted and each country releasing the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), the HLCD discussions will be based on the ways the corporate sector can leverage from or fast track the INDCs and SDGs. Thus the discussions will be bifurcated into two streams of thought - SDGs and INDCs. The corporate sector can reorient practices to address the main developmental concerns and create positive spillovers by promoting local sustainable development by supporting local infrastructure, creating employment opportunities, adopting new forms of sustainable production and consumption systems, advancing open markets, and boosting innovation.

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