India-Japan Energy Forum 2013: Expanding technology cooperation in energy-efficiency, renewables and smart community

Executive summary

Energy growth is directly linked to well-being and prosperity across the globe. Meeting the growing demand for energy in a safe and environmentally responsible manner is a key challenge for all economies. The increasing demand for power has led to a corresponding increase in usage of fossil fuels which has had an adverse impact on environment. Thus, efficient use of energy, and using renewable sources of energy is of paramount importance. This is true for large industries, small and medium enterprises as well as in the commercial and residential sectors. It has now been accepted globally that one of the most important challenges facing governments and business community world-over is to find cost-effective sustainable solutions to their ever increasing energy needs. The Indian and Japanese experts have been exchanging their ideas towards an energy secure sustainable model of growth through various platforms at an international level.

Building up on the success of the previous editions of India-Japan Energy Forums, TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), India and NEDO (New Energy and Technology Development Organization), Japan co-hosted the fifth edition of the India-Japan Energy Forum 2013 from 10-11 September, 2013 at Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi. The first four editions of the Forum, held in December 2006, February 2008, February 2010, and January 2012 focused on national energy policies; promoting technology cooperation in energy-efficiency and renewable energy; energy conservation; and climate change. These forums have provided a platform to relevant policy-makers, business communities, technocrats and academicians to exchange their knowledge and experiences. The 2013 edition of the forum aims to further expand technology cooperation between the two countries in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The forum was organized in two parts—a Conference and an Exhibition. At the Conference, experts in energy-related fields from the private and public sectors of both the countries met and deliberated on various aspects related to energy-efficiency and renewable energy with a focus on building smart communities. In addition, findings from two empirical research studies were presented at the Conference. The studies focused on means to accelerate development and deployment of smart grid technologies, small wind power, small hydro power and second generation biofuels in India. The Exhibition provided an excellent opportunity to Japanese technology suppliers to showcase their technologies for the benefit of the Indian industry.

The primary objective of the Forum was to expand technology cooperation between the two countries by providing an opportunity to the Indian and Japanese stakeholders to discuss various technological and policy-related issues in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The target audience for the forum included government agencies, technology/product suppliers, industry, prospective users,
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experts, consultants, and academic institutions. Over 300 participants including around 100 from Japan participated in the Forum.

The issues of energy security and global environment are high priority challenges for both India and Japan requiring continuous and effective action. In particular, to overcome recent challenges of global-scale changes in the energy demand structure and soaring energy prices, both sides need to deepen their technology cooperation in energy conservation and renewable energy sectors. Both sides also need to expand cooperation in the sectors such as SMEs and transport where consumption of energy has been growing rapidly in line with India’s economic growth. The India-Japan Forum 2013 aimed to do just that by providing a platform to the stakeholders of the two nations to participate and exchange collaborative opportunities.