



## **TERI NA hosts 6th US-India Energy Partnership Summit - focuses on accelerated U.S.-India clean energy cooperation agenda**

*India “well-suited” to lead energy transformation to clean, renewable energy future and the U.S. is its “best partner,” declares Mr Amos Hochstein, the U.S. Special Envoy for International Energy Affairs, Bureau of Energy Resources, US Department of State*

**Washington DC, September 21, 2015:** India is “well-suited to lead” the energy transformation to a clean and renewable energy future, Mr Amos Hochstein, the US Special Envoy for International Energy Affairs, said on Monday delivering the special address at the inauguration of the Sixth U.S.-India Energy Partnership Summit.

“The world is at a historic period of transformation in energy because of the rapid changes across the spectrum”, he said at the Summit organized by TERI North America. “The prices of solar and wind power have been coming down, and there are major advances in geothermal energy while non-OECD countries are taking the leadership in energy demand”, he added.

“I believe India is well-suited to lead this energy transformation and this process,” Mr Hochstein said, has to be not just about lowering greenhouse gas emissions, “but rather about access”. “How do you create transformation in a country when you look at both the on and off grid – broad spectrum of all things that need energy - when it comes to India? Because the size and diversity of India it requires us to look at the full range of options.”

Therefore, he said that India can be a laboratory for innovations and more so because of the diversity of issues that it faces. In its endeavour to attain a clean energy future, Mr Hochstein said, the U.S. is

“the best partner” that India can have given the shared experience of being federal democracies and innovations, especially in the financial sector that the U.S. is leading in.

The Summit coming on the heels of the bilateral energy talks between the two nations on the same day, could be seen as an extension of the discussions by emphasizing on expanding the use of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, clean coal technology and accelerating clean energy finance.

In a futuristic clean, renewable energy version of the ancient tradition of lighting lamps to inaugurate events, Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran, Vice President, TERI-North America, Mr Amos Hochstein, Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs, Bureau of Energy Resources, US Department of State, and Ambassador Ajai Malhotra, Distinguished Fellow, TERI formally opened the summit by lighting solar lamps.

Ambassador Malhotra said “India has the challenge of alleviating poverty while dealing with climate change issues. India may be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, behind the U.S. and China, but its per capita output is only one-third of the world average. While India has made advances in developing infrastructure and communications, it has to take huge strides in developing clean energy. The government has already laid out ambitious plans for this and now the resources will have to be mobilised for implementing them, he added. This is important for the 400 million Indian outside the electrical grid, who will have to be given access to power”.

Dr Annapurna Vancheswaran, Vice President, TERI North America said, “While TERI NA completes 25 years of contribution in acting as the intellectual bridge between our two countries the United States and India, the annual US India Energy Partnership Summit, being convened since 2009, has endeavored and contributed immensely towards developing long-term partnerships and collaborative programmes aimed at fostering stronger ties between our two nations particularly in the area of energy, environment and sustainable development.”

Some key areas that the Summit proceedings would encompass would be a road map for the convergence of India’s 175 GW renewable energy vision and its “Make in India” mission; working in tandem to bring the disruptive technologies and manufacturing practices to India, thereby facilitating transformations; enhanced levels of collaborative research in frontier areas - energy storage, biofuels, and intelligent grid management techniques; collaboration in the field of education - joint development of clean energy-related curriculum and better use of information technology in education for reaching out to a wider populace—such as digital learning; development and roll out of programmes for phasing out fuel-inefficient vehicles and adoption of hybrid/electric cars; and, collaboration in the field of clean coal technologies such as carbon capture, utilization, and storage.

It is along these lines that the Summit will progress with the following three thematic tracks: *Improving the Efficiency of Energy Use; Renewable Energy & Financing Clean Energy; Carbon Capture, Commoditization and Utilization.*

These tracks will be followed by **High Level Corporate Dialogue** that will aim to delineate challenges and associated opportunities for businesses in both US and India. With the presence and participation of business leaders and CEOs, this Dialogue, will focus on harnessing new sources of information and identifying ways of engaging with various stakeholders.

Speakers at the Summit sessions that will follow include: Dr Ernest Moniz, US Secretary of Energy; Mr Amos Hochstein, Special Envoy and Coordinator, International Energy Affairs, Bureau of Energy Resources, U.S. Dep. of State; Mr Tarun Kapoor, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India; Mr William Sisson, Sustainability Director, United Technologies Corp. Mr Thomas Weber, President, Jupiter Oxygen Corp.; Ms Anita Marangoly George, Senior Director, Energy & Extractives, The World Bank; Dr Charles Ebinger, Sr Fellow, The Brookings Institute; Prof Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Victor Alderson Professor, University of California; Prof Uwe Brandes, Executive Director- Master's Program in Urban & Regional Planning, Georgetown University.

## **SUMMIT BACKGROUND**

The year 2015 marks the setting of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations General Assembly for the global community as a whole. The 21st Conference of Parties (CoP) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is scheduled to be held in Paris towards the end of 2015, and it is expected that a global agreement on climate change would be finalized in this CoP. In this regard, the 6th United States–India Energy Partnership Summit platform would, therefore, provide a unique platform to help lay out strategies for the future. The 6th edition of the US–India Energy Partnership Summit will highlight the collective achievements that have been a result of this bilateral association and attempt to chart the roadmap for future collaborations.

## **ABOUT TERI NORTH AMERICA**

TERI North America is a publically supported, not-for-profit research organization based in Washington, DC, as an initiative of TERI, India. TERI NA's genesis is rooted in the realization that emerging global concerns about energy, environment and sustainable development must bring together new partnerships between the developing and the developed world.

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