

## **Leaders, distinguished speakers pledge to work towards clean energy at ‘Eve of Hope’**

*On the occasion, TERI NA also released its publication entitled “**Clean Energy Solutions: A Compilation of Studies from TERI India**”.*

**Washington DC: May 13, 2013:** The fourth edition of the US-India Energy Partnership Summit entitled “**Stimulating Technology, Trade and Development**”, jointly organized by TERI North America and Yale University was kickstarted with a glittering ceremony at the Washington Marriott today.

Delivering the keynote address at the “Eve of Hope”, **Mr. Al Gore, Former Vice President, United States of America & Co-Founder and Chairman, Generation Investment Management**, said the crisis of the environment was a crisis of democracy and of capitalism – two systems that are supposed to draw on the “wisdom of the crowds” and ideally drive human development.

In an emotional speech, he said that in tackling the crises of environment and global warming, “We are failing because democracy has been hacked – American democracy has been hacked.” Special interests have hacked it and because of that there can be no change if it runs counter to those special interests. Similarly, he added, “Capitalism has been hacked.” It is driven by quarterly reports and the hedge funds that run on derivatives. Therefore, they are not able to respond to needs of the people and the looming environmental issues, he said. Referring to the United States, he said, “I speak critically of our government; our business are failing us.”

Referring to the Lighting a Billion Lives initiative of TERI, which brings solar lamps to villages without electricity, he called it “a wonderful visionary project.” He added that India is a crucial player in solving the crisis we face.

Giving the Special Address, **HE Ms Nirupama Rao, Ambassador, Embassy of India to USA** said, innovative technologies and programs are crucial for the future of the people of India.

**Dr. R K Pachauri President, TERI-North America** said “Lighting a Billion Lives campaign has been an extremely heartwarming initiative for all of us in TERI, and a transformational change for those million+ people in India and other countries who are benefitting from this innovation. The extent to which the lives of beneficiaries of this

programme improve radically is an amazing discovery which goes far beyond our most optimistic expectations”.

He further added that the Summit has become a major defining activity that brings the two great democracies together.

**Dr. Farooq Abdullah**, Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, affirming India's commitment to renewable energy, said that there was a need for technology to achieve this goal and called for easy transfer of technology. He pointed out that 40 per cent of the Indian people don't know what is electricity and 80 per cent of the energy needs of India in the form of inputs like coal, gas and petroleum is important. Renewable sources of energy are essential for both national energy security as well as for development.

**Dr Mangapati Pallam Raju**, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India, pointed to the Lighting a Billion Lives project said, “We have to collectively move faster.” Reflecting on the results achieved by the program where it has been in operation, he added, “I have been wondering why in a country like India we have not done enough.”

The proceeds from the Summit's signature event went towards TERI's global campaign, *Lighting a Billion Lives* (LaBL) which endeavours to provide clean lighting and cook-stoves to remote corners of rural India and other countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa that have no access to electricity.

On the occasion, TERI-NA also released its publication entitled “**Clean Energy Solutions: A Compilation of Studies from TERI India**”. The topics covered by TERI researchers in the publication deal with subjects such as the potential applications of smartgrids, the challenge of universal energy access, knowledge flows in the field of industrial ecology, how to design policies for improved environmental governance and other topics. These subjects have very high policy relevance, not only for India but also for other emerging economies and even developed countries that need to make major changes to the direction of their energy development.

**Dr Pachauri thanked Mr Sanjiv Mehra, Managing Director at Goldman Sachs, and his wife, Mrs Karen Petersen Mehra, who made the publication possible.**

The “Eve of Hope” was preceded by a High Level CEO Dialogue entitled “**The Energy and Development Nexus: A New Era of Corporate Leadership**.”

Delivering the key note address, **Mr. Sam Pitroda**, Chairman, National Innovation Council & Adviser to the Prime Minister of India on Public Information Infrastructure & Innovations said, “The lessons from the telecommunication revolution should be applied to energy development”.

He further added “The growth of the telecommunications sector can be ascribed to, among other things, the regulation, the opening to the private sector, the scalability and

technological innovations that brought down costs significantly. Original thinking can bring these factors to bear upon the energy sector to achieve breakthrough”.

**Mr Pitroda** further said that distributed technology is the only way to go for energy efficiency in the power sector following the breakthrough in the telecommunications sector that has scaled up the number of telephones in India to almost a billion.

**Dr R. K. Pachauri**, the President of TERI-North America, said that the private sector has a vital role to play in the energy sector. Huge benefits will accrue to society from the sustainable and efficient development of the energy sector, he said. He called for initiatives in this area by the world's two largest democracies, India and the U.S. For this to happen, he said, the industry and business will have to come together.

**Mr. Robert Blake**, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, said that under President Barack Obama, the U.S. has placed great importance on cooperation in the clean energy sector. He said that under U.S.-India cooperation, \$1.75 billion is being allocated to clean energy program and \$1.25 million for research.

The CEO Roundtable provided an opportunity for corporate leaders from both countries to discuss, develop insights and new perspectives on how cooperation between the two countries on energy issues can lead to competitive advantage in domestic and global markets.

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