

Nations sharing beliefs for pollution free tomorrow should unite & get heard at the Copenhagen summit: Dr. Farooq Abdullah

Negotiations at the Copenhagen Summit will not be an easy job. Nations sharing beliefs for pollution free tomorrow should unite and get themselves heard, opined Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy.

He was speaking at the 4th Sustainability Summit: Asia 2009 'Winning Strategies for a Sustainable World' ,organized by CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development in partnership with Ministries of Corporate Affairs, External Affairs, Environment & Forests, Science and Technology, Government of India; National Foundation for Corporate Governance (NFCG), InWEnt and WWF.

Counting clean energy initiatives undertaken by the ministry, Dr. Abdulla outlined the National Solar Mission aiming at 20 GW solar capacities by 2022. India has achieved 15,500 MW of grid interactive installed renewable power, which is around 8% of the total installed grid capacity of the country. India secures fourth global position with about 10,890 MW wind power. With the entry of foreign players in wind sector, the ministry has come out with a policy of generation based incentive on electric generation by wind power projects.

He further added that his ministry has been instrumental in raising awareness and accelerating development of all renewable energy sources to realize the vast potential resting within the country. He listed the projections made in the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) which reveal that India would rely increasingly on imported oil, gas and coal in the medium term. Against this backdrop, the role of new and renewable energy assumes added significance.

Dr Abdullah stated that renewable energy SEZs at Nagpur and Hyderabad have world class manufacturing bases, and attract investments of several thousand crores in manufacturing strategically important input materials, process and tests equipments, devices and system components.

Mr. Y C Deveshwar, Past President, CII, Chairman, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Chairman ITC Ltd. stated that global warming and climate change makes future progress unsustainable. Sustainability therefore should be made an integral part of economic development. Aligning the efforts of the government with the business community is imperative in drafting a setup for a low carbon, clean energy economy.

Mr. Ricardo Young, President of the Ethos Institute, Brazil stated that sustainable businesses are partners to build a sustainable and fair society. He outlined Brazil's efforts in reducing deforestation, saving the Amazon forests and proper utilization of water resources.

Mr. A L Kapur, Managing Director, Ambuja Cement stated that the world will not go a long way unless each one of us take responsibility for a cleaner tomorrow. The society should not look at the government to provide a framework, it should rather take proactive actions.

**25th November 2009
New Delhi**