

India and US pledge to co-lead global energy initiative

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In the recently concluded Global Ministerial Meet on Clean Energy in Washington D.C. on July 19-20, India, along with other nations, took on a leading role towards future efforts to achieve greater global energy efficiency. **An important initiative launched in this conference was the Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) Initiative, for which India and the United States will be co-leaders at the international level.** In the Ministerial, India also contributed on-ground experiences of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, a statutory body under the Ministry of Power, on achieving energy efficiency. **Another key initiative launched at this meet was the Global Superior Energy Performance Partnership (GSEP), an initiative focussing on increasing energy efficiency in commercial establishments.**

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairperson of India's Planning Commission led the Indian delegation.

SEAD will work towards increasing market demand on super-efficient appliances and equipment through international cooperation on manufacture incentives and R&D investments. It will also augment cooperation for phasing out of inefficient equipments, mainly by setting minimum efficiency standards. It is estimated that a global collaboration on raising appliance efficiency can potentially obviate the need for around 1300 mid-sized power plants by 2030.

SEAD's initial focus will be on televisions and lighting as they make up for around 15% of household electricity and their homogeneity across the world makes collaboration easier. In addition, policy toolkits and efficiency awards will be developed to facilitate and incentivise actions on increasing energy efficiency.

SEAD would help internationalise the Indian Super Efficient Equipment Programme (SEEP), which is currently under development. SEEP could gain from the cost-effectiveness due to multi-country participation in promoting the development of agreed super efficient TVs and LED lights, and the experience in the development and implementation of SEEP could inform similar programmes in other countries.

GSEP's main focus is on accelerating energy efficiency in commercial buildings and industrial blocks, both of which together account for about 60% of global energy consumption. A main component through which GSEP plans to achieve its goals is instituting a certification process for buildings and industries to set up efficient Energy Management Systems (EMS). Setting up public-private partnerships for the same will also be promoted. India, through its Energy Conservation Act of 2001, already requires most commercial and industrial facilities to institutionalise efficient energy management.

India also signed on to the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN) and, the Solar and LED (SLED) Access Initiative and agreed to be part of the Working Group on Solar and Wind Energy, and of the initiative on Capacity Building for Developing Country Policymakers.

Other participants included governments of Australia, Canada, EU, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.