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Cleaner technologies need of the hour

Energy advisor calls for spreading awareness among the people



HYDERABAD: Adoption of cleaner technologies through Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) to reduce emissions and conserve environment is the best gift for the future world, says energy advisor S. Padmanaban.

Energy conservation

The Deputy Director and Senior Energy Advisor at the Office of Environment, Energy and Enterprise, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was in town after receiving the World Energy Award for his contribution to energy conservation in the services, trade and marketing sector in Basel, Switzerland last week. Over three decades, he has worked in the National Productivity Council in India, the private sector in the USA and the World Bank before joining USAID.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he says increased consumption and efficiency while doing so would improve quality of life in India. Citing statistics, he says energy consumption in the USA was now about 18,000 kilowatt hours per capita, against just 610 in India. Even if it could be scaled up, to between 1,500 and 2,000-kilowatt hours per capita, living standards could be improved significantly. The challenge though laid not in increasing per capita consumption but in maintaining, rather improving efficiency levels.

On energy conservation systems in other countries, Mr. Padmanaban said the USA had made a name for itself, showing the

way forward for the world. Cleaner technologies apart, USA were known for its products in the value-add sector, especially with clean technologies for use in steel and cement industries, he said. Countries like Switzerland were paving the way forward, he added.

The situation in India was definitely promising. “Government policies, their implementation and NGO intervention apart, this is the time for every Indian to come forward and spread awareness. There is no other way out, except to implement and propagate cleaner technologies”, Mr. Padmanaban sums up. (END)

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USAID expert gets World Clean Energy Award

New Delhi, Jun 16 (PTI) A senior energy adviser with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Srinivasan Padmanaban has been presented the 'World Clean Energy Award'.

Padmanaban, who is based in Delhi, was given the award in Basel, Switzerland, yesterday for his contributions to the Green Business Centre and the Water-Energy Nexus Activity in India, according to a release from the US Embassy.

He was the architect of the two projects, both funded by USAID.

The award is given by the Swiss-based Transatlantic21 Association to honour mainstream applications of clean technology.

The Water-Energy Nexus Activity works with government, private sector and non-government organisations to help communities develop appropriate solutions for groundwater and energy problems. The Green Business Centre, based in Hyderabad, fosters excellence in energy efficiency, recycling, renewable energy and water management in Indian industry.