

Tihar Jail to be developed as modular energy saving building: Deepak Gupta

-Ministry willing to work with industry for providing renewable energy to remote villages-

Big buildings, developers, SEZ should be genuinely green. To this regard, Tihar Jail will be developed as a model establishment for saving energy by getting solar setup for hot water, cooking and processing of waste, said Mr. Deepak Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India. The secretary also said that the ministry is willing to work with various sectors of industry for providing renewable energy to remote villages.

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 & Technology, Government of India; National Foundation for Corporate Governance (NFCG), InWEnt and WWF. The session focused on balancing economic growth with natural resources and explored the challenges, solutions & suggestions on achieving high economic growth balanced with the nature.

He further added that practices of energy conservation and energy efficiency are a moral imperative on businesses. Maximizing the usage of renewable energy can be harnessed in a decentralized way, which ensures low emissions energy development pathway for the nation.

Dr. Nik Senapati, Managing Director, Rio Tinto India stated that Indian companies have joined hands to form the Sustainable Mining Initiative. The initiative envisages ethical mining practices, focus on environment, health, biodiversity and safety, community improvement and development. Global transition to sustainable development will demonstrate value creation for the betterment of the society at large, he added.

Outlining the ongoing sustainability drive as the third industrial revolution, Mr. Marcel Engel, Managing Director, World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) said that tremendous challenge and great opportunities is available for the business community. With increasing awareness amongst businesses, sustainable development should be supplemented with funding, breakthrough technologies and PPP arrangements. Mechanisms to transfer clean energy to developing economies should be explored.

Mr. David Hillyard, International Director of Partnerships, Earthwatch Institute said that the need of the hour is to witness a transformational change in the way business are conducted, and economy & society is managed. Leaders should have distinct knowledge on complexities, context and connectedness related to sustainable development.

Mr. Roop Salotra, President & CEO (CB & PFB) SRF Ltd said that by looking at sustainability in a broader sense, the economy can ensure growth without straining the natural resources. There have been island of excellent practices but an urgent acceleration and scaling is required.

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