

Want a solution to climate change? Bring the ‘power’ of development to those who need it most.

22-23 October, New Delhi - The only sure way to answer the climate challenge is to invest heavily in renewable energy technologies - lowering their cost and making them available in developing countries; literally bringing the power of development to the poor and vulnerable.

This was a main theme echoed by many at the recent Delhi High-Level Conference on *Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer*. The meeting, organized jointly by the Government of India and the United Nations, brought delegates from nearly 60 countries one step closer to consensus on how to address climate change by fostering the transfer of critical technologies around the world.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and United Nations Undersecretary General Sha Zukang highlighted that suitable means had to be found to provide incentives for developing new technologies and for facilitating their deployment in developing countries at affordable costs.

Participants also expressed frustration over the abstract and non-specific manner in which the issues of technology development, deployment, diffusion and transfer had been taken up in the climate negotiations thus far. Their message was very simple; be concrete; focus on particular technologies; identify specific mechanisms that can help diffuse and reduce the expense of technologies for those who need them.

These outcomes, along with conference proceedings, will bring the latest information to climate negotiators, advancing discussions in Barcelona and ultimately, Copenhagen.

The Conference was also an opportunity for many stakeholders to suggest concrete actions for improving the availability of climate technologies around the world. A ‘big push’ of investment - one such idea - could help bring down the costs of already commercially viable technologies, many of which are starting to benefit from economies of scale, learning by doing, and advancing R&D. With focused international cooperation, such an investment push could make renewables truly competitive with fossil fuels. With this very goal in sight, Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh proposed that the Copenhagen agreement have a dedicated dispensation for renewable energy.

Another widely supported idea built on the lessons learned from the 1960s Green Revolution in South Asia. This was an enormously successful model of international cooperation and technology diffusion, where a mosaic of interlocking institutions for research, education, credit, marketing, inputs and extension was used to overcome

barriers to the dissemination of food technologies. The approach enabled millions of farmers, the vast majority of whom were illiterate, to radically improve their food security and their livelihoods.

That employing this model in the area of energy efficiency could bring similarly fantastic results in the fight against climate change and poverty - was echoed at the highest level.

In his inaugural address, President Nasheed of the Maldives called for India to lead the way to a Green Energy Revolution, while Minister Ramesh proposed that the technology chapter of the climate agreement create a system resembling that of the Green Revolution for climate-friendly technologies. Also in sync with this approach, an Indian proposal to establish "technology innovation centers" gained momentum at the conference.

The conference attracted nearly 500 participants, including 30 ministers, climate negotiators, diplomats, senior UN Officials, 30 experts, and representatives of business, academia, and the media. It was accompanied by an impressive Clean Technology Exhibition, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and featuring products and services from nearly 150 companies from around the world.

A background paper, official summary and other information on this important Conference may be accessed on the [Division for Sustainable Development's website](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_conf1009.shtml) at http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_conf1009.shtml.