

Asia urged to make commitments towards 2030 sustainable energy

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NEW DELHI, 1 FEB: Mr Kandeh K Yumkella, director-general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and Chair of UN-Energy, today urged countries across Asia to commit to achieving sustainable energy for all by 2030 by increasing access to energy, improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewables.

Mr Yumkella, who also co-chairs the UN Secretary-General's high-level group on sustainable energy for all, told participants at a conference here that new commitments and investments in sustainable energy were critical for Asia's development.

"Reaching the goal of sustainable energy for all will require action by all countries and all sectors to shape the policy and investment decisions needed for a brighter

energy future. Industrialised countries must accelerate the transition to low-emission technologies. Developing countries, many of them growing rapidly and at large scale, have the opportunity to leapfrog conventional energy options and move directly to cleaner energy alternatives that will enhance economic and social development," said Mr Yumkella at the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

Globally, one person in five lacks access to modern electricity and twice that number, three billion people, rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. In developed countries, the problem is a substantial waste of energy.

"I strongly believe that now more than ever, the world needs to ensure that the benefits of modern energy are available to

all and that energy is provided as cleanly and efficiently as possible. This is a matter of equity, first and foremost, but it is also an issue of urgent practical importance," said Mr Yumkella.

Other participants included Dr Farooq Abdullah, minister of new and renewable energy; Peter Bakker, president, World Business Council on Sustainable Development; Patrice Couer-Bizot, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, India; Bindu N. Lohani, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank; Rajendra K. Pachauri, TERI Director-General; David Sandalow, Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, US Department of Energy; and Erik Solheim, Norwegian Minister of Environment and International Development.