

IRG'S MATTHEW MENDIS CALLS FOR PLAN TO OPEN ENERGY MARKETS IN SOUTH ASIA

South Asia Conference Focuses on Renewable Energy Options

International Resources Group Corporate Vice President, Matthew S. Mendis, joined senior government officials, corporate leaders, policy makers, financial institutions, technology providers and NGOs April 18-19th at the South Asia Conference on Renewable Energy, held in New Delhi.

The conference focused on an international and regional exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices in the field of renewable energy. Highlighting the two-day forum, the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Kalam, issued a call for India to aggressively develop its renewable and clean energy resources in order to achieve energy independence by 2030.

Addressing the plenary session, Mendis, an energy and environmental management expert, detailed policy, institutional and financial options for reducing barriers to renewable energy resources.

"Renewable energy can play an important role in increasing energy supply, access and security in South Asia," Mendis said. "But national and regional policies are needed to encourage and accelerate the development of renewable energy and to open cross-border and regional energy markets if its potential is to be realized."

Mendis added that "leveraging public-private partnerships and investments including attracting external capital is essential to accelerating development of renewable energy in South Asia."

Also delivering the conference summary speech, Mendis noted that President Kalam's goal of energy independence would not be easy. He recommended that members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation convene a Ministerial level forum to develop and adopt a regional road map for clean energy development, that it be compatible with open markets and that it encourage the use of clean energy resources within the region.

Mendis said that research and development partnerships should focus on the next generation of clean energy technologies "that will increase efficiency and reduce costs." "Finally, energy markets must be liberalized," Mendis said. "They must also be rationalized and privatized to open market access and improve market efficiency."

For further information, contact Matthew S. Mendis, International Resources Group at mmendis@irgltd.com. For a summary of conference results, go to <http://www.assochem.org>.



From top to bottom: (1) IRG's Matthew Mendis meeting the Honorable President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Next to Mendis is USAID India Mission Director George Deikun. To the left of President Kalam is Mr. Rakesh Bakshi the Managing Director of Vestas RRB India, Ltd.; (2) speaking at the South Asia Conference on Renewable Energy 2006; (3) receiving a memento from the Honorable Minister of State for Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Shri Vilas Muttemwar.