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## PROMOTING ENERGY FOR ALL

INTERVIEW WITH SH. SUBRAMANYAM PULIPAKA, CEO, NSEFI



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## PROMOTING ENERGY FOR ALL

INTERVIEW WITH SH. SUBRAMANYAM PULIPAKA, CEO,  
NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY FOUNDATION OF INDIA (NSEFI)

Since TICE 4 i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> TILA International Conference on Energy 2019 is scheduled on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Silver Oak, India Habitat Center, New Delhi, by **Dr. Gopal Energy Foundation (DGEF)**. We decided to understand the idea and motive behind the conference through *Sh. Shubramanyam Pulipaka, CEO, National Solar Energy Foundation of India (NSEFI), Chairman of India Africa Youth Energy Forum and Co-convenor of TICE 4.*

- 1. United Nations SDG Goal 7 aims to achieve Affordable and Clean Energy by 2030. Will India be able to contribute? As statistics shows that nearly 200 million people do not have access to electricity.**

Yes. I would say the narrative about clean energy access is slowly changing in India. While it is a given fact that 200 million people are deprived with access to electricity, governments schemes aiming at 100% electrification are slowly giving results. Schemes like SAUBHAGYA, KUSUM and erstwhile DDUGY are good examples for this.

- 2. What is National Solar Mission all about? Are there any other initiatives by Government of India?**

In India's 11th Five-Year Plan – spanning 2007–12 – it was believed solar could be important in attaining energy independence and could help the country reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The National Action Plan on Climate Change proposed in June 2008 identified development of solar energy technologies in the country as a national mission. In early 2010, the union government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission setting targets for India's solar capacity addition. Over the last decade, we have been revisiting our goals and increasing the target from 20 GW to 100 GW by 2022 and also aiming ambitiously to achieve 40% of our generation through Renewables by 2030.

- 3. India is blessed with abundant resources yet electrification of rural sector has always been a concern. What do you think?**

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While there is no doubt that India is blessed with resources, the electricity penetration has been mainly centralized. In one way, after colonialization, we haven't had the time to revisit and appreciate the decentralized energy proliferation until renewables came into the picture. If we make it a mission to pursue distributed generation, where electricity is produced at the same place it is consumed, solving the puzzle of electrification will not be that difficult.

**4. Do you agree that there is unequal distribution of energy in India?**

Yes. In-line with my statement for the previous question, unequal distribution is the result of unequal and centralized generation. Even today, renewables are installed at large scale in centralized locations which is only contributing to the growth. Spread however is not achieved. For uniform spread, we need distributed solar generation across the rural areas independent of the grid.

**5. Thus keeping in mind of the unequal distribution of energy we at TICE aim to propose "Right to Energy" as a basic fundamental right under Article 21 and as a part of universal human rights. What are your thoughts?**

I had the wonderful fortune of introducing "Right to Energy" resolution on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Banasthali Vidyapith last year. I truly believe that Right to Energy is a basic fundamental right and hasn't got its due credit. An interesting way of looking at it is that Right to Energy will both directly and indirectly affect the standards of living of people across the world. Like I always say, people look at SDG 7 in isolation, which is not true. SDG 7 is an interlinking factor for all other SDGs. If you are able to achieve it, you have almost achieving everything else. That's where RTE becomes important.

**6. To accomplish "Energy for All" it seems more weightage is being given to the production of Renewable Energy. Am I right?**

It's natural and logical to weigh in for renewables. When we talk about Right to Energy, we are emphasizing on access to clean energy because energy access should never be a burden on the climate. While achieving universal electricity access it's equally important to be climate

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conscious. Additionally, as mentioned before, RTE is only possible through decentralization and renewables are exclusively decentralized.

**7. Is Renewable Energy = energy security (promoting diversity, efficiency, flexibility & reliability)**

The concept of energy security evolves from the fact that we are dependent on resource rich countries for energy needs like oil, coal, gas etc. Renewable energy sources are universal and hence with no doubt we can say RE = Energy Security.

**8. As a co-convener how has been your journey from TICE 1 to TICE 4? What does the graph look like?**

My experience as co-convener has been more than enthralling since last two years. Working under the able leadership of Mr. Raj Singh Niranjana is nothing but pure joy. I enjoyed every minute of panel discussions in the last edition. It would be wrong on my part if I don't acknowledge the support and encouragement given by the entire TILA team. Overall, as years pass by, I believe all the co-conveners are increasingly contributing in making TICE a world class event.

**9. So to conclude does TICE seem to be contributing to forthcoming future of India on the national and international footing in being able to provide *Energy for All*? How promising it is?**

Through TICE in the last years, we have been able to bring unconventional topics into mainstream discussion and provide meaningful disclosure to the industry. India is at the growth phase of what one can call as solar energy revolution of the century. We will be installing, operating and maintaining 1/5<sup>th</sup> of world's solar capacity and almost 1/8<sup>th</sup> of world's renewable capacity in next 4 years. Platforms like TICE are key enablers for giving direction to Indian market and players. By bringing stakeholders onto a single platform TICE is doing a tremendous job. Additionally, I am also happy to note increasing international participation at TICE. Last year, we (At India Africa Youth Energy Forum) have rolled out a joint capacity building

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program in Africa at TICE with DGEF. This is bringing a lot of positive impact among youth in Africa. This year at TICE we will also be focusing on BRICS Energy outlook and how India Africa energy ties are important. Overall, I have no doubt in saying that very soon TICE will be the premier platform for global energy thought leaders and industry professionals, who will use this platform to set the course of energy development across the world.

### FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT

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