

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Ajay Mathur, DG, Bureau of Energy Efficiency honoured by global alliance as visionary**

- ASE awards given to four energy efficiency visionaries from different continents
- Award recognises India's efforts towards energy efficiency

**New Delhi, May 12, 2010:** Washington DC., US-based Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) has honoured Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), a statutory body, under Union Ministry of Power. Dr Mathur received the Energy Efficiency Visionary Award along with three others from across four continents in a ceremony held in Washington. The other award winners include Jimena Bronfman, Chile's Vice Minister of Energy, on behalf of the Programa Pais de Eficiencia Energetica (PPEE); Jonas Hafstrom, Swedish Ambassador to the United States, on behalf of the Kingdom of Sweden; and Dr. Joseph Oteng-Adjei, Minister for Energy, Republic of Ghana. The winners were selected by the ASE's EE Global International Steering Committee (ISC).

The **Alliance to Save Energy** is a coalition of prominent business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy worldwide. It advocates energy-efficiency policies that minimize costs to society and individual consumers, and that lessen greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on the global climate. Alliance President Kateri Callahan, said, "We are pleased to recognize Vice Minister Bronfman, Ambassador Hafström, Director General Mathur and Minister Oteng-Adjei for their outstanding contribution to the global advancement of energy efficiency – a key mission of the Alliance to Save Energy"

The BEE, under the Ministry of Power, was set up to institutionalize and strengthen delivery mechanism for energy efficiency policies services in the country and carry out coordination between the various entities.

"Receiving the Alliance award is a great honour. It is recognition of our country's efforts towards managing our energy demands. With the growth of the Indian economy, the demand for energy is growing substantially. In such a scenario efficient use of energy resources and their conservation assume tremendous significance and it is essential to curtail wasteful consumption so as to enable sustainable development. At BEE we are focused on rationalizing energy consumption across India in all sectors of the economy, and this award is a great boost to our programmes," said Dr Mathur upon receiving the award.

Dr Mathur, also a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, has led the Bureau in driving India's market transformation towards energy efficiency. Prior to joining BEE, Dr. Mathur, worked on energy research, financing and implementation; headed the World Bank's Climate Change Team in Washington, D.C., and the Energy Engineering Division of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) in New Delhi; and was president of Suzlon Energy Limited. He is the co author of three books and a lead author of IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports.

BEE has launched India's standards and labelling program for equipment and appliances, its energy conservation building code and programs for industrial energy efficiency and demand-side management in the buildings, lighting, and municipal sectors. More recently, the BEE's Bachat Lamp Yojana has become the world's biggest clean development mechanism (CDM) to get approved by the UNFCCC.

BEE's energy saving measures have shown desired effects. During 2007-08 and 2008-09, they resulted in direct verified savings of 10,259 million units of electricity, and 5 million tons oil-equivalent of fuel savings. With the new programs on the anvil, focussing on large industries and on super-efficient appliances, more is likely to be achieved in the medium to long term.

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