



Press Release

Place New Delhi

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India and Switzerland Signs MoU for a Joint Project on Building Energy Efficiency in India

Mr Philippe Welty, Ambassador of Switzerland in India and Mr Devinder Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India signed an MoU for a joint project on building energy efficiency in India, in the presence of Mr P Umashanker, Secretary, Ministry of Power at Delhi on 8th November. The MoU which is for a period of 5 years, aims at reducing energy consumption in new buildings in India. The specific objective of the initiative is to build capacities and knowledge of builders, architects, engineers, labs, institutions and others, in the area of building energy efficiency in India by utilizing Swiss experience and expertise, and by following a multi-stakeholders cooperation process

Buildings are one of the largest consumers of energy. World wide 30-40% of the total primary energy is used in buildings. It is estimated that in India about 8 % of the total electricity is being used in commercial buildings and the demand for electricity in commercial buildings is growing at a rate of 13% every year. It is foreseen the building built-up area would increase by three times by 2030 making buildings one of the largest energy consumers of energy in the country.

Buildings offer a large potential for energy savings. Designing a commercial building as per Energy Conservation Building Codes as recommended by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is expected to reduce the energy consumption by 30-40%. Some high performance buildings claim to have achieved energy savings of up to 60%. As a majority of buildings that would exist in 2030 would have been constructed between now and 2030, it is possible for India to have an energy-efficient building stock.

Switzerland has a long-history of implementing successful building energy efficiency programmes dating back to 1970s. The first building code addressing energy efficiency aspects were introduced in the year 1979. Since then the building codes have seen major revisions and have become more and more stringent. The Swiss experience shows that implementation of energy conservation building codes is a long-continuous process. Effective implementation of regulations requires capacity building of different stakeholders and leads to development of market for energy-efficiency services and products.

A number of senior officials from both the countries were present on the occasion. They include:

- Mr Ashok Lavasa, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power
- Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- Ms Abha Shukla, Secretary, Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- Mr Sanjeev Kumar, Director, Energy Conservation, Ministry of Power
- Dr Gerolf Weigel, Counsellor and Head of Climate Change and Development, Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi
- Dr Veena Joshi, Senior Advisor (Energy), Climate Change and Development Division, Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi



Left to right : Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Mr Devinder Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, HE Ambassador Philippe Welti, Embassy of Switzerland in India, Mr P Uma Shankar, Secretary, Ministry of Power, Dr Gerolf Weigel, Counselor and Head Climate Change and Development Division, Embassy of Switzerland in India, Mr Ashok Lavasa, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power

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