

## Energy and Renaissance



The word *Renaissance* literally translates into *rebirth* or *revival*. With the prolonged energy crisis that the world has been facing due to limited sources of fossil fuels and other political, economic, political barriers, we are forced to renew the means by which we meet our energy demands. Therefore, the theme for REtopia 2017, '*21st Century Energy Renaissance through Renewable Energy*' very aptly emphasises the revival of energy through renewable energy sources. Before inventions and technology invaded our life, we relied entirely on nature to meet our energy needs. Now, once again the interest in using renewable sources has given a new lease of life for this energy-starved world.

There are 1.3 billion people in the world without the access to power, out of which about 300 million people live in India. The Government of India has set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy to be achieved by 2022. Barely five years from now, will we have a clear picture of how far we have travelled in this nearly impossible journey? We do not know! The problem is, we know our destination and the mode of transport, but we are clueless about the road to be taken.

Nevertheless, the world is looking up to renewable energy as the warrior in green armour who can save us from the perils of fossil fuels and nuclear energy. Yet, it is fundamental to understand that manufacturing of renewable energy equipment leaves behind a large carbon footprint which cannot be brushed under the carpet. The disposal of electronic waste generated by these equipment also needs to be addressed. If we do not ask some awkward questions and

try to answer them, we will be committing the same mistake our forefathers committed while welcoming fossil fuels with open arms.

There can be no debate over the truth that renewable energy is going to lead the way in providing access to electricity for every citizen of this world. But we cannot make an immediate transition to renewable energy as the majority of energy produced in the world is from fossil fuels. The unreliability and inconsistency in the generation of renewable energy makes it a poor, yet a dauntless competitor against the conventional energy sources.

REtopia has always been a prominent congregation of industry experts, entrepreneurs, academicians, students and working professionals who share a common interest in Renewable Energy. The participants get an opportunity to interact with industry experts and academicians for better understanding of this steadily growing industry. Students gain a rich learning experience through the discussions and competitions which are designed to put their skills to test against worthy competitors. We are glad to announce that REtopia 2017 will be a 2-day event marked with informative panel discussions, interactive sessions with entrepreneurs and exciting competitions with cash prizes to be won. The details of this event will be published shortly. If you are someone who wants to know how renewable energy can touch lives, then do not miss REtopia 2017 at TERI University!