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The fifth lecture of the
Innovation and Technology Enterprise
Lecture Series

&

Dr. R.A. Mashelkar Endowment Lecture on
Advanced Materials

Is solar expensive and does it make sense for the poor of our country?

by

Dr. Harish Hande

Founder and Managing Director,
Solar Electric Light Company,
(SELCO-India), Bangalore

on

Sunday, 1 April 2012

at 1130 hrs in the
NCL Auditorium

National Chemical Laboratory
Pashan Road, Pune - 411008

Lecture is open to all. Visitors to carry photo ID card.
Event is open to all. First-come-first-serve seating.
Tea shall be served at 11 am

Dr. Harish Hande



Dr. Harish Hande

Abstract: With more than half the population still without electricity in the 21st century - we have few options in front of us. One of it is – decentralized energy. Many say it is expensive but is it? We say solar is expensive for the rich and affordable for the poor. As one goes deeper into the economic strata the percentage expenditure on basic energy increases. The barrier is not technology. It is the lack of eco-system that makes the energy service unaffordable. Building the eco-system is not difficult - it needs the right policies and little bit of passion among the young entrepreneurs

About the speaker: Dr Harish Hande is an Indian social entrepreneur, who founded Selco India, a solar electric light company in 1995, which over the years has emerged as India's leading solar technology firm. SELCO India provides affordable energy solutions for rural customers. He was awarded with Asia's prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2011, also sometimes referred to as Asia's Nobel Prize, for "his pragmatic efforts to put solar power technology in the hands of the poor, through his social enterprise SELCO India".

Dr Hande was born in Handattu, Kundapura Taluk, Udupi District, Karnataka and raised in Rourkela, Orissa, India. After completing his basic schooling in Orissa, he went to IIT Kharagpur for his undergraduate studies in Energy Engineering. He then graduated with a Master's and later a PhD in Energy Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dr. Hande co-founded SELCO INDIA (in 1995), a social enterprise, to eradicate poverty by promoting sustainable technologies in rural India. With its headquarters in Bangalore, SELCO has 25 branches in Karnataka and Gujarat. Today SELCO INDIA has installed solar lighting systems in over 120,000 households in the rural areas of these states.

Dr. Hande is recipient of many awards including the Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy 2005 and Tech Museum Award 2005. Hande has also received the world's leading green energy award from Prince Charles in 2005. In 2007 SELCO INDIA won the Outstanding Achievement Award from Ashden Awards. The award was presented by Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States of America. Hande was named the Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2007 by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and the Nand & Jeet Khemka Foundation. He was also the featured attendee and speaker at the Clinton Global Initiative 2007. In 2008, Dr. Hande was chosen by Business Today as one of the 21 young leaders for India's 21st century. In mid 2008, India Today named him one of the 50 pioneers of change in India.