

“GTU Board for Environment and Green Technology”

With an increasing pressure on climate change policies all over the world, the notion of “Green Energy” is gathering momentum. Fossil fuel in the form of power stations, industrial needs and transportation being the major issues, there is a substantial increase being recorded in the generation of Renewable Energy (RE) sources on the global scale. In fact, a stage has now come when conventional coal based power plants in many countries are being closed and new RE based power plants are being set up. Sustained growth in RE power generation is required for changing the scene to have cleaner and non-polluting energy for the betterment of human beings and the environment.

The rate at which this growth is being forecast can be judged from some of the figures made available by the World Watch Institute, a US based research institute. The wind power industry, it says, employs some 3,00,000 people in the USA and the figure keeps on increasing rapidly. Similarly the solar PV manning requirements account for 1,70,000 men at its minimum and the solar thermal energy system employs at least 6,40,000. More than a million are also working on Bio-mass and Bio-fuel sectors there. In short in the years to come, millions of trained personnel in RE disciplines will be needed on a global scale. If we can provide qualified RE Engineers, they will be helpful not only to our country but the whole of the mankind.

Gujarat state has yet another advantage, unlike most other states in India. We in our state have a very high wind resource and also a high solar resource. Again, in the whole of India, there are only three places of known ocean energy resource out of which two are in Gujarat viz Khambhat (7000MW) and Kutch.(900MW). It is therefore important to realize that in the next generation, there will be more of RE available in Gujarat for use for satisfying the power needs of our country.

As mentioned earlier, we shall have to gear up ourselves for training engineers right NOW. Some of the important areas in this regard include:

1 Energy, Environment and Renewable Resources, 2 Wind Energy Technologies, 3 Solar Energy Technologies , 4 Bio-mass, Bio-gas and Bio-fuels, 5 Ocean based energy systems, 6 Geothermal Energy , 7 Other new emerging technologies like Hydrogen Power and Fuel Cells etc.

Gujarat Technical University is setting up a Board for Environmental and Green Technology to establish research and development and to start the education in this area. This is designed to ensure that the industry in this area gets the knowledge support. The Board will also start a trainer’s training program so that education in this field can be started at multiple places within GTU.

The first meeting of the board is scheduled to be held at GTU conference hall on Wednesday 22nd December 2010. Please contact Priyanka Trivedi at events@gtucolleges.in , if you have an interest in this field so that you may be invited to the meeting.