

PRESS RELEASE

Launch of the
Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy (GCoE-ACE)
at IIT Dharwad.

A virtual function was held to mark the launch of the Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy (GCoE-ACE) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Dharwad (IITDh), Karnataka on Friday, 28th January 2022 in the presence of, Chief Guest, Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India. The programme was presided over by Shri Vinayak Chatterjee, Chairman Board of Governors, IIT Dharwad. Other dignitaries present were Mr. Ashish Gaikwad, Country President, Honeywell, and Director, HHSIF; Prof P. Seshu, Director, IIT Dharwad; Mr. Pratap Samuel, President, Honeywell Technology Solutions Lab; Dr. Harish Hande, Chief Executive Officer, and Founder, SELCO Foundation; Prof. SRM Prasanna, Dean (R&D), IIT Dharwad; Ms. Pooja Thakran, Sr. Director - Corporate Comms and CSR, Honeywell India and HHSIF; Ms. Huda Jaffar, Director, SELCO Foundation, Board members, and faculty members from IIT Dharwad.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**GLOBAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
AT IIT DHARWAD, KARNATAKA
INAUGURATION**

CHIEF GUEST
PROF. K. VIJAYRAGHAVAN
PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR,
GOVT. OF INDIA

PRESIDED OVER BY
MR. VINAYAK CHATTERJEE
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS,
IIT DHARWAD

28
JANUARY 2022

2:00 - 2:30 PM

IN VIRTUAL MODE

Honeywell

Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser
to the Government of India

SELCO
FOUNDATION

The partners for this center are the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt. of India, Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF), SELCO Foundation, and IIT Dharwad.

The center is supported by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donation from HHSIF. The first phase of the CSR project with HHSIF is to establish equipment for the GCoE-ACE mainly as skill development, fabrication, and R&D equipment. The subsequent phases are envisaged to encourage innovation and to provide incubation support for the solutions to the grass-root problem statements in the affordable and clean-energy domain.

A welcome and brief introduction to the center was given by **Prof. SRM Prasanna**. He mentioned that India is blessed with many renewable energy sources like solar, wind, biomass, and such affordable technologies for clean energy can be developed and optimized, which will precisely be the scope of this center.

Prof. K. VijayRaghavan mentioned that energy and energy solutions are a critical part of the adaptation and mitigation of climate change. He added that in the past two decades, there has been an enormous increase in the research on Solar, Wind, Nuclear, and other forms of energy and the results of such research are yet to come to the market more effectively. IIT Dharwad will be one of the very few institutions in the country which is joining hands with industry partners such as Honeywell in training the young generation to address the complex problems of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. As the global temperature rises, there are big challenges ahead in high temperature and high humidity areas which make people dysfunctional. Secondly, energy availability for farming is another big challenge, further energy availability for the health sector, education sector with 24x7 accessible education for all are some of the important challenges that this GCoE needs to address. Finally, he added, the Government has launched a hydrogen mission and one of the objectives is to use the energy required for its generation from clean energy sources such as solar and wind energy hence calling it green hydrogen energy. The center's research & development efforts may go in that direction too. With these points, the PSA to Govt. of India congratulated all the stakeholders IIT Dharwad, Honeywell, and SELCO Foundation for establishing one of its kind GCoE in Affordable and Clean Energy.

Shri Vinayak Chatterjee mentioned that the launch of the Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy is a historical milestone for IIT Dharwad. The center proposes to put the academic involvements, research & developments in the lab for field tests in the countryside. The work at the center would make a long-lasting impact on the daily lives of our country at large.

"Honeywell is committed to creating solutions to help communities meet challenges in energy, water, and air. Our partnership with IIT Dharwad seeks to find affordable and sustainable technology-driven solutions in clean energy for the betterment of our rural communities. This also dovetails with the Government's goal of meeting 50% of the country's energy requirement from renewables by 2030," said **Ashish Gaikwad**, President, Honeywell India, and Director, HHSIF.

Prof. Seshu expressed his gratitude to Prof. VijayRaghavan for gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest to launch this unique Centre of Excellence on Affordable and Clean Energy. He said that our Hon'ble Prime Minister has succinctly articulated the Nation's aspirations for IITs when he said that IITs must become India's Instruments of Transformation. He assured that the

center will work towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goal - 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy and contribute to the goal set by Hon'ble PM to achieve net-zero emissions. Affordable and Clean Energy is the perfect field for this as it has a multiplier effect on many aspects. Apart from technology development and pilot-scale deployment, the team has plans for contributing to the capacity and capability building in this critical field. He wished for the wholesome success of this initiative.

The grassroots level problem identification/implementation partner for the center will be SELCO Foundation. **Dr. Harish Hande** emphasized how the center is crucial as it opens up a support system for need-based impact-driven technology innovation for health and livelihoods that focus on low-income communities. He added that the bold step taken by the leadership of IIT Dharwad to open the doors of IIT to innovators and entrepreneurs from non-IIT backgrounds would be a game-changing precedent for other IITs as well.

Ms. Pooja Thakran thanked all the dignitaries.