

RSDD EMINENT SPEAKER'S FORUM



RK Pachauri

Dr Rajendra K Pachauri assumed his current responsibilities as the head of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) in 1981, first as Director and, since April 2001, as Director-General. TERI does original research and provides professional support in the areas of energy, environment, forestry, biotechnology, and the conservation of natural resources to governments, institutions, and corporate organizations worldwide. In April 2002, Dr Pachauri was elected the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in 1988. He has been active in several international forums dealing with the subject of climate change and its policy dimensions.

To acknowledge his immense contributions to the field of environment, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the President of India in January 2001.

Commencing his career with the Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, where he held several managerial positions, Dr Pachauri joined the North Carolina State University in Raleigh, USA, where he obtained an MS in industrial engineering in 1972, a Ph.D. in industrial engineering and a Ph.D. in economics. He also served as Assistant Professor (August 1974-May 1975) and Visiting Faculty Member (Summer 1976 and 1977) in the Department of Economics and Business.

On his return to India, he joined the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, as Member Senior Faculty (June 1975-June 1979) and went on to become Director, Consulting and Applied Research Division (July 1979-March 1981). He joined TERI as Director in April 1981.

He has also been a Visiting Professor, Resource Economics, at the College of Mineral and Energy Resources, West Virginia University (August 1981-August 1982); Senior Visiting Fellow, Resource Systems Institute, East-West Center, USA (May-June 1982); and Visiting Research Fellow, The World Bank, Washington, DC (June-September 1990). Recognizing his vast knowledge and experience in the energy-environment field, the United Nations Development Programme appointed him as part-time adviser to its Administrator in the fields of energy and sustainable management of natural resources (1994-99).

Dr Pachauri's wide-ranging expertise has resulted in his membership of various international and national committees and boards. At the international level, these include his positions as Member, Board of the International Solar Energy Society (1991-97); Member, World Resources Institute Council (1992); Chairman, Work Group A, World Energy Council Committee on Developing Countries (1993-95); President and Chairman, International Association for Energy Economics, Washington, D C (1988, 1989-90, respectively); and President, Asian Energy Institute (1992 onwards).

The committees of the Government of India to which he has contributed include the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India (July 2001 to April 2005); Panel of Eminent

Persons on Power, Ministry of Power; Delhi Vision - Core Planning Group; Advisory Board on Energy, reporting directly to the Prime Minister (1983-88); National Environmental Council, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister (November 1993 and April 1999); and Oil Industry Restructuring Group, 'R' Group, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (1994).

Dr Pachauri has also been associated with academic and research institutes. He was on the Board of Directors of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (January 1999 to September 2003); Board of Directors of GAIL (India) Ltd. (April 2003 to October 2004); National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (August 2002 to August 2005); the Board of Governors, Shriram Scientific and Industrial Research Foundation (September 1987); the Executive Committee of the India International Centre, New Delhi (1985 onwards); the Governing Council of the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (October 1987 onwards); and the Court of Governors, Administrative Staff College of India (1979-81).

In September 1999, he was appointed Chairman of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Heritage Foundation. Earlier, in April 1999, he was appointed Member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Environment Agency, Government of Japan, for three years. He is President, India Habitat Centre – September 2004 onwards.

Dr Pachauri taught at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, USA, as a McCluskey Fellow during 6 September-8 December 2000. He has also authored 23 books and several papers and articles.