



### **Readout from C3E event at CEM4 on 16 April 2013**

The C3E initiative held a great event on Tuesday evening. It was standing room only crowd, and it was remarkable for the fact that there were as many men there as women – including (but not limited to) Secretary Chu, Deputy Chairman Ahluwalia, and Member (Energy) Chaturvedi.

The U.S. Department of Energy, as leads of the C3E initiative, together with TERI, convened an engaging discussion about women in clean energy innovation.

Dr Syeda Hameed of the Planning Commission gave keynote remarks, saying the issue of women and energy was close to her heart. She questioned the traditional approach to energy policy has assumed gender neutrality and that benefits would trickle down to women and men equally.

Minister Dipuo Peters of South Africa gave a rousing speech, saying that women hold up half the sky and when you empower a woman, you empower a nation. She described her dedicated efforts to make sure that women are part of the clean energy revolution. Her government has made a concerted effort to develop women entrepreneurs who can be competitive in future rounds of the country's renewable energy procurement, after two rounds where none of the candidates that qualified were women-driven.

A brief inspiring film on the mission and structure of the U.S. C3E program was screened.

Minister of Power Jyotiraditia Scindia made a special guest appearance to help launch the C3E initiative's C3Enet.org new international peer-to-peer networking website, and it was hoped that women in clean energy from all CEM countries would join the network.

Leena Srivastava of TERI then moderated an excellent panel that included Joint Secretary Jyoti Arora and Dr Chu (the *other* Dr Chu – Dr Mrs Chu). Energy access was a key thread. Panelists highlighted the energy need to bring women to energy as well as the need to bring energy to women. Another thread was the underrepresentation of women on corporate boards of energy companies, and it was suggested that progress on this front be tracked. All agreed that the C3E mission of advancing women in clean energy takes different forms in different country contexts.

While in developed countries like the U.S., C3E has been focused on women in clean energy careers, many agreed that in India, the C3E focus would be more focused on women in an energy access context, as beneficiaries of clean energy for lighting and for cooking.