

Talk on “How much energy and emissions does India need for decent living”?

Date: 27 January 2017

Venue: CSTEP, Bengaluru

Dr. Narasimha Rao, Project Lead and Research Scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), discussed key results and analysis from a recently concluded modelling study to explain “How much energy and emissions does India ‘need’ for decent living?” In the context of India’s climate policy, Dr. Rao spoke of key analytical results on what could be material requirements for eliminating hunger, providing shelter, adequate education, healthcare and mobility, and the associated energy needs and impact on emissions growth. He presented the need to capture associated environmental externalities, embodied energy in the value chain and the impact of trade flows on boundary considerations in a rigorous manner. He also added that modelling the energy system–economy–equity considerations in an integrated and consistent manner is important and requires bottom-up analysis. He advised CSTEP researchers to tease out assumptions derived from empirical analysis in other countries and discussed the challenges in linking relevant conceptual frameworks to data and analysis in climate change and development due to paucity of research and data on the latter. Illustratively, estimating the demand for energy services for clean cooking is straightforward, but development goals like education, housing and transportation access do not have clearly defined indicators which are acceptable for the Indian context. Dr. Rao discussed ongoing projects at CSTEP and appreciated the complementarity of analysis on climate change and sustainable development.