

Session On
“US and India: Tackling Climate Change Together”
At
3.30 pm: October 1st, 2010
WWF Auditorium, Lodi Estate, New Delhi

On 1st of October, 2010, Aspen Institute India organised a panel discussion on “ US and India: Tackling Climate Change Together ”with John Podesta, President & CEO of The Centre for American Progress, Jonathan Lash, President, World Resources Institute, Jamshyd N Godrej, Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd and Suresh Prabhu, former Minister of Industry Environment Forest & Power.



Ravi Singh, Secretary General & CEO WWF India, moderated the session. **Mr. Podesta** stated that the US has made some important investment towards clean energy and to reduce carbon emissions. This has been achieved through investing in smart grids, electrical efficiency & renewable energy. In addition US has formulated policies to reduce emission and even without passing legislation, its highly probable that emission will probably go down by the next ten years.

Mr. Lash was of the view that even though Copenhagen has had a negative response, the dialogue between President Obama and the BASIC countries has opened a new avenue to help these nations understand their positions better.

Mr. **Prabhu** felt that the US must take the lead in these negotiations. He further said that climate change issue needs serious attention and particular attention needs to be taken in the fields of agriculture and water resources. He also added that irrespective of the outcome of the negotiations, India would stand by its voluntary domestic target of reducing the carbon emission by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the level achieved in 2005.

Jamshyd N Godrej emphasized that developing new fuel energy which is renewable and cleaner than fossil fuel, recognition of water as resource, the need to monitor emissions and mandatory labelling of home appliances would go a long way in helping India meet its emissions target.