

South Asia has to explore export potential of bio-energy: SCCI chief

Himalayan News Service

Kathmandu, April 19

South Asia has to explore export potential of bio-energy, said secretary general of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Islamabad, M Iqbal Tabish, speaking on workshop on sustainable bio-energy and trade opportunities, organised by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), in cooperation with the Swedish Standards Institute (SIS) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

However, executive chairman of SAWTEE Dr Posh Raj Pandey doubted if South Asia could exploit it.

The three-day workshop on

Strengthening Institutional Capacity on Sustainability Criteria for Bio-energy that started here in Kathmandu today will last till Thursday.

At a time when the global energy demand is increasing and environment is threatened by the fossile fuel, bio-energy can help reduce dependence on the scarce fossile fuels, they said.

"The global economy is threatened by the rising fuel prices," Pandey said adding that the removal of trade barriers and sufficient logistics will help the trade of bio-energy.

"But still the certification will be key where international agencies like Swedish Standards Institute and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency can help us,"

he added.

The three-day workshop is being organised against the backdrop of the setting of ISO standards on sustainability criteria for bio-energy.

The objectives of the workshop are to involve key stakeholders from the regions (South and Southeast Asia) in the process of setting standards on sustainability criteria for Bio-energy (ISO 13065); identify related regional needs and priorities; and make a substantial regional influence on the development of the new ISO 13065 standard.

About 40 participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka in South Asia and Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam in South East Asian participated in the workshop.



Executive chairman of SAWTEE Dr Posh Raj Pandey (centre) at a workshop on sustainable bio-energy and trade opportunities, organised in Kathmandu on Tuesday.