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Ramakumar Serves on International Renewable Energy Expert Panel

(STILLWATER, Okla., May 2, 2012) –Rama Ramakumar, Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor at Oklahoma State University, holds a long-standing legacy of expertise for renewable energy in Oklahoma as well as the United States. Yet, his valuable insight to this global concern lead him to Italy in April to participate in an international expert panel, being the only from the U.S.

“The purpose of the expert group meeting was to discuss the state of the art and formulate future scenarios and pathways for renewable energy options in off-grid areas in Africa and the importance of mini-grid energy systems,” said Ramakumar.

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The group analyzed both technical and social aspects related to this issue. A total of 13 experts from around the world were invited for this collaboration, as well as leading officials and consultants for the International Center for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

“Being the only one invited from the US was significant and it provided an opportunity to discuss and highlight the approach we at OSU have been developing and advocating for many years,” said Ramakumar. “It involves expanding the ‘electrification’ approach that is so prevalent by ‘energization’ to provide not only electricity, but also other critical needs such as energy for cooking, potable water, small-scale industries, cold storage, etc.”

During the meeting, Ramakumar delivered a presentation on Integrated Renewable Energy Systems. A topic he has researching and developing at OSU for over three decades.

Ramakumar said it was very satisfying to see the OSU approach finally receiving some global attention. By the end of the meeting, IRES and ‘energization’ (terms coined at OSU) were mentioned by the ICS-UNIDO hierarchy prominently.

“Hopefully, it will lead to collaborative activities in the future,” said Ramakumar. “It may also lead to some student exchanges between Politecnico of Milan and OSU.”

For additional information about the on renewable energy research at OSU, or the College of Engineering Architecture and Technology call 405-744-5152.

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