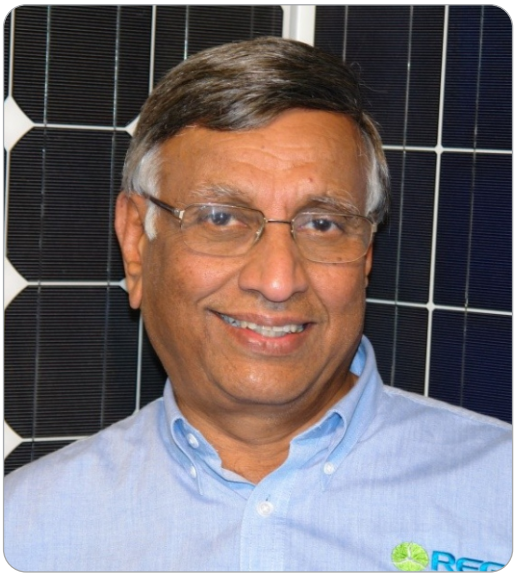
Prof Chem Nayar, Erudite Scholar

At Cochin University Of Science & Technology





Prof Chem Nayar, Emeritus Professor, Curtin University and Managing Director, Regen Power has been named as the Erudite Scholar at the Division of Electrical Engineering, School of Engineering Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT).

The Erudite Program of the Higher Education Council, Government of Kerala, India brings in distinguished scholars from abroad to the campuses of Kerala State Universities to interact with faculty and students in order to promote excellence in graduate research. The Erudite Programme aims at providing the teachers and students an opportunity to interact with eminent academicians including Nobel laureates. Professor Nayar is the first person from Australia to participate in this program. He will be working in close association with Prof. C. A. Babu, Professor & Head of the Division of Electrical Engineering at CUSAT who initiated the steps to get the approval for the Erudite program by the Kerala State Higher Education Council.

Professor Nayar has been involved in several conferences and workshops in India funded by Government of India Technical Education Improvement Programme (TEQIP). There are more than 3000 engineering institutions in India which offer undergraduate degree programmes. However, the number of quality graduates has not been in relation to the exponential growth. Restricted availability of qualified faculty, teaching-learning and

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training facilities are the reasons behind this problem. There is a wide gap between the quality of engineering graduates required by the industry and those produced by these engineering institutions . The World Bank took keen interest in systemic transformation of the country's technical education system to make it globally competitive and showed willingness to assist the Government of India to launch the Technical Education Improvement Programme (TEQIP) as a long term programme of 10-12 years and in three phases.

Professor Nayar was the General Chair for the International Conference on Emerging Trends in Smart Grid Technologies by the Electrical & Electronics Department, College of Engineering, Trikaripur, Kasargod, Kerala, India supported by TEQIP. He was also invited speaker for several conferences /seminars/workshops held in Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka.

Regen Power, established by Professor Nayar, is a leading renewable energy company in Australia having installed thousands of residential and commercial solar rooftop systems for on-grid and off-grid applications. India's solar ambitions have received a major boost with the World Bank approving a US $625 million loan to support the installation of rooftop solar power systems across the country. The Government of India's National Solar Mission has set a goal of installing 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022, 40 GW of which is designated for rooftop solar. The World Bank project will be implemented by the State Bank of India (SBI), and will support a range of rooftop solar options; including commercial and industrial PV systems.

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