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Study energised

CURTIN University PhD student Shaji Mathews has been awarded a renewable energy scholarship to help conduct research into supplying remote locations.

With \$20,000 per year of funding provided by renewable energy systems developer Regen Power, Mr Mathews said he would conduct research into providing cheap and environmentally friendly electricity to remote communities.

“Currently the only way for many remote communities around the world to access electricity is through diesel generators,” he said.

“These are expensive to fuel and maintain, and are bad for the environment.”

Mr Mathews said the units he was developing would be powered by solar or wind depending on local conditions. They would use diesel power as a backup.

“This technology can benefit remote mining

camp in Australia, communities on islands or isolated locations in developing nations such as India,” he said.

Mr Mathews is being supervised by Curtin’s Electrical and Renewable Energy Engineering Professor and Regen Power chief technology officer Chem Nayar.

Professor Nayar said his company provided the scholarship to give back to the university after many years of research support.

“Research conducted at Curtin helped build Regen into a successful supplier of renewable power systems throughout the Asia-Pacific,” he said.

“A rising demand for energy and the threat of climate change are significant challenges for all humanity. With an increasing global population and diminishing reserves of fossil fuel, the need to develop solutions to these issues is more urgent than ever.”