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Renewable energy scholarship to develop remote power solutions

Curtin University of Technology PhD student Shaji Mathews is the recipient of a renewable energy scholarship valued at \$20,000 per year.

Provided by Perth-based renewable energy systems developer Regen Power, the scholarship will help Mr Mathews conduct research into renewable energy supply for remote locations.

Mr Mathews said his research focused on making affordable systems using renewable power to provide 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 camps in Australia, communities on islands or isolated locations in developing nations such as India,” he said.

Mr Mathews is being supervised by Curtin Professor of Electrical and Renewable Energy Engineering, and founder and Chief Technology Officer of Regen Power, Professor 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.

“This scholarship will help strengthen Curtin’s renewable energy research and help solve these problems.”

Curtin’s Head of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Professor Kevin Fynn, said the scholarship would help build capacity in a critical research area.

“We appreciate Professor Nayar’s generosity, which will provide Mr Mathews with more time to focus on his research and will help to build Curtin as a centre of excellence in renewable energy research.”

Contact: Shaun Ratcliff; Public Relations Coordinator; Curtin; 08 9266 9085; 0401 103 755;
s.ratcliff@curtin.edu.au

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