

Speaker Biography

MR. RAJENDRA SHENDE,

Mr. Rajendra M. Shende is Paris based diplomat in the United Nations Environment Programme . He is engaged in providing policy advice and technology support to more than 146 developing countries to eliminate use of Ozone Depleting Substances and contribute to mitigation of climate change. He is Head of OzonAction Branch that delivers its activities from six offices world-wide including Bangkok Office of Asia Pacific. His programme has contributed in stabilizing the Ozone Layer and preventing the global colossal catastrophe by enabling the developing countries to comply with the Montreal Protocol which has been considered as the most successful global environmental accord so far.

He was Coordinating Lead Author of IPCC-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 with Al Gore.

He was awarded USA's prestigious Climate Protection award in 2009. His OzonAction Programme in 2005 also became the first ever programme in UN system to ever win USA award. Besides this, he also won the special awards from the Heads of the State of Senegal, Mongolia, Bangladesh and Maldives. Recently, all the 53 African countries together felicitated him for his efforts to assist the African countries in building their capacity to implement the Montreal Protocol. The partnerships that he formed and facilitated with industries and NGOs have also won number of awards at the international for a, including recent one from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in May 2011.

Mr. Shende is Chemical Engineering by qualification from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay. Before joining UN, Mr. Shende had senior management career in the private sector in India and was part of the task force set up by the Government of India to negotiate the multilateral environmental agreement, the Montreal protocol.

Author of numerous published policy papers, Mr. Shende has given various presentations for the public as well as for the universities like MIT-USA, Swiss Technical Institute and Beijing University, INSEAD and HEC-Paris. He has been interviewed for TV, radio and number of international magazines including French and Italian. Use of Social Media networks to outreach environmental messages and engaging media through innovative partnerships has been Mr Shende's recent emerging priorities

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