



### **KAPIL MOHAN, 2009 INDIA**

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Kapil Mohan believes electricity must be available to all in order for there to be sustainable and equitable development in India. When he was selected for the 2009 Eisenhower Fellowship as part of the “Fueling Growth Program”, he took this opportunity as a step toward this challenging goal.

At the time of his fellowship, Mohan was the director at the Ministry of Power, in charge of electricity distribution. He managed a budget of \$7 billion to provide electricity across the country, including over 100,000 villages and 75 million households. The Indian Government, as well as Mohan, were grappling with the twin challenges of providing electricity access to rural households without electricity connections, and improving the efficiency of the electrical grid, which was losing one-third of the electricity input. The massive expansion of the rural grid gave an opportunity to plan for an efficient grid, which would utilize information and communication technologies to monitor the electrical energy flows and bring about efficiency in operations.



Throughout his fellowship, Mohan used these two challenges as catalysts for “fueling growth”. He took the opportunity, which he described as “exhilarating”, to visit electricity distribution companies across the U.S., to meet policy makers in Washington, D.C., and state capitals, and to interact with various regulating agencies and industries involved in development and operation of the electrical grid across the country. Mohan’s fellowship also fell at an opportune time as the Obama Administration launched the development of smart grids as one of the measures to revive the American economy in 2009.

Mohan recognized the need for India to plan for an intelligent electrical grid that was reactive to changes occurring around it based on the integrated information and communication technologies that he witnessed on his fellowship. He said, “my exposure to advanced technologies under development, as well as my discussions with leading thinkers on the subject and interaction with the business leaders in the field, have enriched my knowledge base and also made me more confident in making decisions, particularly those relating to the use, selection and adoption of technologies in the future. This experience is timely, as India is in the process of rolling out power distribution efficiency initiatives. I am thus uniquely placed to exploit the potential of my fellowship learnings.”

Upon Mohan’s return to India, he established two institutions to promote the development of smart grids. The first one, [India Smart Grid Forum](#) (ISGF), is an inter-Ministerial task force of the federal Government, which tackles issues experienced among the various departments of the Indian Government. It now has more than 100 global members representing electrical utilities and the IT sector. The Forum is a vibrant organization charting the future development of the electrical grid in India in step with the latest development of technologies. The forum represents a huge success in combining public sector vision with private sector dynamism.

The second institution is the [Smart Grid Federation of India](#) (SGFI), a public private partnership venture that helps the Indian power sector deploy smart grid technologies in an efficient, cost effective, innovative and scalable manner by bringing together all key stakeholders and enabling technologies. The institution also undertakes research work and other efforts such as scoping the capabilities of smart grids in the Indian context through case studies, cost-benefit framework, and technical advancements in the renewable energy source; as well as providing advice to Government, Regulators and Utilities.

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