



Engineering for the Developing World Seminar Series.



"Sustainability and Innovation in Developing Countries"

Dr. Atul Wad

2.00 - 3.00 pm, Tuesday 8th April, 2008,
Room 2053, Materials Research Laboratory.

Abstract:

Developing countries are faced with serious social, environmental and economic challenges today. Even though countries such as India, China and Brazil have experienced dynamic economic growth in the past fifteen or so years, they face major challenges in terms of environmental degradation, health, access to clean water, poverty and economic inequality. In parallel, increasing attention is being given to the importance of science, technology and innovation to produce solutions to these problems. To address these problems new approaches to innovation, based upon the concepts of sustainability need to be undertaken.

The lecture will focus on the three, not necessarily convergent dynamics of economic growth, sustainability and innovation to provide a framework for understanding the barriers to, and opportunities for sustainable innovation. Case studies from India will be presented to elaborate the complex set of factors that influence the nature and form of sustainable innovation.

Brief Biography

Dr. Wad is President of Sustainable Technology Ventures, a newly formed company focusing on the design, development and implementation (incubation) of commercial ventures in emerging markets based upon the principles of sustainability and resource optimization, and involving the deployment of innovative technologies. He has over twenty five years of experience in technology and corporate strategy, global competitiveness, sustainable business development, technology and trade in emerging markets in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean as a consultant, entrepreneur and academic. He has been involved with Northwestern University and the Kellogg Graduate School of Management as well as several United Nations agencies, including UNIDO, UNESCO, World Bank, UNDP and UNFSSTD. He was also chief external advisor for the Biotechnology Incubator and Technology Park initiative in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa.

Host: Professor Roy Smith (roy@ece.ucsb.edu)