

Article # 26

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Life Long Learning (3L) Programme

Dear friends,

We have asked our readers about their preferences for the upcoming Bureau of Energy Efficiency “3L” Programme. Of main interest to us was what delivery mechanism should be used to teach, learn and exchange information. The clear winners are the option of distant learning over the website (27%) and workshops organised by BEE (20%). The preference for distant learning through the Internet is supported by the not so surprising result that an affordable price tag of participation in 3L is viewed with participation fee of less than of Rs. 5,000 and between Rs. 5,000 -10,000 by 47% and 39% respectively of the respondents.

What comes a little but as a surprise are the preferences concerning learning content. Clear winners are topics such as (i) cogeneration and waste heat recovery (ii), energy efficiency in electrical systems and as no surprise (iii) benchmarking and consumption indicators. A little bit worrisome is the low scoring of the subject “newest Indian policies”. We wrongly anticipated this to be a “hot” topic. My basket of philosophical, cynical, esoteric explanations are zeroing in on a perhaps chronic dispute i.e. “Private sector enterprises interests versus mighty Government stick and carrot approaches”. Government policies may be viewed as basically flawed, and therefore no efforts are undertaken by the private sector to perhaps appreciate the positive side of Government intervention. Therefore opportunities are missed by enterprises to take advantage or discuss Government intervention. I stick to my belief that the policies under the Energy Conservation Act are a way to force firms to make more profit. Many more firms should take advantage of it. Of course, one could argue why Government should be concerned that firms make more profit? There is a simple answer to it: Government of India does not yet tax losses.

More details about the survey are published (<http://www.energymanagertraining.com/announcements/3L/3LFeedback2005.ppt>). We have also got the message and will experiment with an internet based distant learning strategy and 1-2 day BEE Workshops. See you soon online.