

German Consul General on 'global energy crisis'

BY SPJS STUDENTS

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There is a general global crisis regarding energy resources, and even the so-called developed countries are yet to switch to cleaner, renewable sources of energy, said by Mr Rainer Schmiedchen, Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kolkata, while interacting with the students of the Statesman Print Journalism School (SPJS) at the Consulate here.

He said that Germany, which has fewer natural resources and which used to generate nearly thirty per cent of its energy requirement from nuclear energy, has begun to invest in the renewable energy sector, particularly the solar and wind energy, following the decision by Mrs Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, in the wake of the devastation at Japan's Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant in 2011.

Mr Schmiedchen said that the power issue, right now, is the most important



Rainer Schmiedchen

in Germany and is set to be resolved by 2020.

Following a short film presentation on Germany as a land of ideas for people from different parts of the world, he also said that Germany has now relaxed its stricter approach to immigration since the mid-1990s, resulting in a more multicultural Germany than ever before.

The ageing population of Germany may be one of the reasons behind such a change in their foreign policy. However, the immigrating population has also resulted in a number of problems that Germany never had to face earlier, he said.

Mr Schmiedchen also spoke at length about the economic difficulties that Ger-

many and other countries in the European Union faced since the Euro as the one currency for EU was introduced. Yet, owing to its political stability and proper social planning, Germany found the strength to overcome the Euro crisis successfully. He said, however, plans like the "minimum wage for all," for example, can make matters difficult even for the best of administrators.

Answering questions on women's safety, one of the most relevant of topics in India, Mr Schmiedchen said that Germany is quite safe because of a stringent legal system and a general sense of emancipation that financially independent German women have.

He also talked about the conflict between various religious groups that is becoming a contentious issue in the country, especially for a predominantly Christian nation, though modern Germany is not particularly religious in its outlook.