PARTNERSHIPS for SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Wire
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CSD Partnerships Fair Opens with Discussion on Partnering Solutions to Growing Energy Demands

(Left to right) Dr. **Markku Nurmi,** Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America, **Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado** (Vice-Chair CSD-15), **Touria Dafrallah**, Environmental Development Action in the Third World, Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development, **Zoe Dawson**, Alliance to Save Energy, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership.

Mr. Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil), Vice-Chair of CSD-15 opened the Partnerships Fair on 30 April in Conference room 7. Welcoming CSD participants to the first interactive discussion session of the Partnerships Fair programme, Vice-Chair Figueiredo stressed that these sessions were being organized by the CSD Secretariat to foster open discussion on practical issues related to partnerships, based on the real experiences of CSD-registered partnerships.

Ms. Zoe Dawson, representing the North American secretariat of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) began her presentation with a brief overview of the history of REEEP, a Partnership that was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and has since grown to include over 200 partners from NGOs, international organizations, private sector and governments, and with 10 governments providing the funding.

She defined the vision of the partnership, which is to focus on both the supply and the demand for energy, and to actively promote projects in both renewable energy and energy efficiency. She emphasized that is it important to consider the policy or regulatory barriers, as well as the financial barriers that exist towards expanding the market for renewable energy or energy efficient technologies. The aim, Ms. Dawson added, is to go beyond the pilot phase and to build upon their most successful projects by replicating them in other places.

Ms. Dawson explained the structure of REEEP, which has a secretariat in Vienna and delivers its services through regional secretariats throughout the world. She highlighted one of REEEP's value service tools called REEGLE, an online search tool of best practices, key contacts and financing tools for energy efficiency, which can be found at: www.reegle.info.

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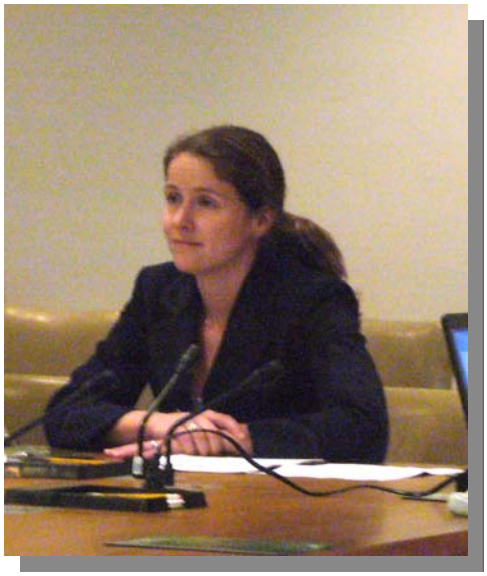

Ms. Dawson explains REEEP's focus on developing innovative financing tools for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

REEEP's major activity area, Ms. Dawson added, is the funding of projects, with currently 50 projects in 40 countries. She described REEEP's criteria for projects, which must be replicable and easily scaled up, with the possibility to leverage funds and with the emphasis on impacts such as the amount of energy saved, rather than on project outputs.

Ms. Dawson highlighted several REEEP projects to demonstrate the broad range of project areas, from small to large scale, such as residential energy efficiency projects in Eastern Europe, energy efficient water services in South Africa, market assessments for Latin America and the Caribbean, and large-scale energy efficiency projects for commercial buildings.

Recognizing the financial barriers to investing in energy technologies, Ms. Dawson added, that REEEP has also focused on innovative financing options, such as financing for solar water heating in low-income homes in Africa or for municipalities in India with limited liquidity in their budgets that are now making investments in efficient public lighting systems with the help of ESCOs (Energy Service Companies).

She provided an update on REEEP's latest call for proposals, which is the largest to date, with 3 million euros, for 30 projects, targeting India, China and Brazil, and is currently in the short-list stage, with contracts to be announced in July 2007.

Ms. Dawson indicated that there is an effort in this round to balance the REEEP portfolio with more energy efficiency projects, and more innovative financing solutions.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Dawson said that the internal structure of REEEP, with its many regional secretariats, helps to guarantee good governance of the partnership. She added that REEEP leverages as much as possible with other major partnerships, such as the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP), the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development, and others, to avoid duplication and to generate synergies with partners.

Ms. Touria Dafrallah representing the Environmental Development Action (ENDA) in the Third World, and the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD), provided a brief history of the partnership, which was launched at the WSSD and is facilitated by UNEP. She described GNESD as a knowledge network of developing world Centres of Excellence and partners, composed of 20 partner institutions, based around the world in Latin America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, the US, Africa and the Middle East.

Ms. Dafrallah indicated that the primary objective of the GNESD is to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through sustainable energy for poverty alleviation, both through changing production and consumption patterns. The network acts upon this goal, she explained, by expanding the knowledge base about environmentally sound provisions of energy services as well as though research, capacity building, policy dialogue, regional workshops, advocacy and information exchange.

Ms. Dafrallah highlighted the four primary themes of the GNESD: Access to Energy, Renewable Energy, Urban and Peri-Urban Energy, and Energy Security and Efficiency. She expanded an international study related to renewable energy and poverty alleviation, which aimed to identify opportunities for productive use of energy and job creation, evaluate past approaches, identify main barriers for renewable energy technologies, and propose policy guidance for the expansion of renewables.

The policy recommendations from this study, Ms. Dafrallah added, addressed the selection and detailed assessment of main niches for renewables, the development of policies and instruments for their promotion and the concrete actions to be taken in order to develop specific renewable niches. The niches that were studied

"60% of energy consumption in Africa is from traditional biomass sources"

Touria Dafrallah, GNESD

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by GNESD around the world were wind pumps, photovoltaic, biofuels, solar water heaters, improved cook stoves, solar dryers, charcoal production, biogas, micro-hydro and wind turbines.

Ms. Dafrallah outlined the primary challenges the study identified in the application of these technologies, which included: high upfront costs, inadequate policies to promote the technologies, lack of R&D, lack of awareness or negative perception and lack of coordination between producers and consumers. She identified the recommendations to address high cost of renewable technologies, which included: incentives to consumers, renewable industry support and the introduction of quality standards.

The study also offered recommendations to address policy and regulatory weaknesses, she indicated, such as, public-private partnerships, capacity building, and the development of national strategies. The study also determined, Ms. Dafrallah explained, that additional efforts should be made to build the capacity of local technicians and to raise the awareness of renewables among targeted populations, encourage more research and involvement of the universities as well as better coordination between producers and end-users.

Ms. Dafrallah provided additional detail about a case study for an improved cook stove in Africa, noting that 70% of household energy in Senegal is from the burning of traditional biomass. She stressed that improved coordination and better awareness among all stakeholders, including financial institutions, Governments, producers and consumers could help to promote the dissemination of improved cook stoves.

In conclusion, Ms. Dafrallah emphasized the relationship that GNESD has developed to support the work of other energy partnerships, such as GVEP, REEEP, and the EU Energy Initiative. She encouraged participants to visit the GNESD website for additional information on the GNESD studies (www.gnesd.org)

"The level of involvement of the Kuna Indian community in their photovoltaic project will help to contribute to its sustainability "

Dr. Markku Nurmi, EEP

Dr. Markku Nurmi, from the Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America (EEP) opened his presentation with an overview of his partnership, which was also launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2002. EEP is now a public-private partnership, composed of several Governments, companies, and majors groups.

Dr. Nurmi stressed that the partnership has been designed for flexibility, with a steering committee which has the power to make decisions and avoids delays in waiting for approvals from each Government before a project can be started.

Dr. Nurmi pointed out that the main objectives of the partnership are to promote the use of renewable energy sources and clean technologies, to make energy services more accessible to the poor as well as to help combat climate change. He explained that these goals are primarily reached through demonstration projects and regional forums.

Dr. Nurmi highlighted several of the 119 EEP projects in 21 different regions in Central America. He mentioned a plantation and processing of Jatropha Curcas for biofuel in Guatemala and in El Salvador; photovoltaic systems in six

Mayan villages; feasibility studies for wind power projects in Panama and Guatemala, and small-scale wind and hydroelectric projects in Nicaragua.

Dr. Nurmi provided further examples of EEP projects such as the Rio Blanco project in Honduras, which was the first ever small-scale CDM project; eco-stoves and solar water pumping in rural El Salvador and Honduras; a hog farm methane project in Panama and a feasibility study for sugar industry cogeneration and hydroelectric potential in Belize. Dr. Nurmi noted in particular, a photovoltaic project in a Kuna Indian community, in Panama, where the Kuna community was especially involved, adding to the sustainability and the potential for replication of the project.

In addition to the list of innovative projects, Dr. Nurmi outlined other activities of the EEP, in particular, the publication of the Central American Carbon Finance Guide, in English and Spanish, as well as the biannual regional forums, which have grown in number, drawing up to 500 participants. He added that the presentations from the

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forums are accessible via their website at: http://www.sica.int/energia/.

Dr. Nurmi concluded his presentation with an update on recent events in the partnership, including the addition of Austria as a new funding partner in EEP, as well as planned regional forums for the next 2 years on the topics of the sugar industry, biomass, forestry, off-grid systems and high-tech renewables.

Vice-Chair Figueiredo summarized the presentations indicating some commonalities among the panelists related to the high level of interest within communities for energy projects, not always requiring a high level of investment on the part of the partnership to have a meaningful impact on access to energy for communities.

When he opened the floor for discussion, participants in the session asked questions related to overcoming the barriers of working with communities with severely limited capacity to pay for projects. One response, Ms. Dawson suggested, is to help improve the systems that are in place to which community members are already contributing, such as water pumping equipment, as well as to reduce the operating costs in order to generate savings. She also highlighted

several of the programs that REEEP promotes to establish innovative financing mechanisms for the most vulnerable.

Another audience member asked how EEP is sustainable, given the cost-sharing approach used in the project. Dr. Nurmi responded that a subsidy is provided to help demonstrate the concept and applicability of renewable energy technologies, which are often quite affordable in a small scale, but are not generally promoted by Governments. The EEP approach, he added, is to then promote best project ideas at regional forums.

In response to the Ms. Dafrallah's case study in Africa, one audience member explained that in the attempt to promote improved cook stoves in Nepal, it was found to be necessary to go door-to-door to share information about the benefits of the technology.

"Partnerships can have a large impact with even small investments because the levels of community interest in energy projects are very high."

Vice-Chair Figueiredo

Other participants emphasized that it was necessary to better match end-users with manufacturers of improved efficiency technologies for these technologies to be meaningful and applicable.

Try the new CSD Touch Screen Terminals

As a new addition to the CSD this year, the Division for Sustainable Development, with the generous support of the European Foundation for E-Government, has installed five touch screen terminals in the Neck Area.

During negotiations, members of delegations as well as representatives of major groups and UN organizations would be able to access the entire UN DESA/DSD website, in particular download all CSD official documentation on USB keys, check the latest information on the CSD calendar of events, Partnerships Fair, Major Groups as well as send e-mails. We encourage CSD participants to take advantage of this new and innovative way to support and facilitate your work. Please send us your feedback on this new service.

CSD-15 Partnerships Fair Information Desks Tuesday, 1 May

Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategy Project

International Solar Energy Society

Euphrates-Tigris Initiative for Cooperation

World Nuclear University

In the Partnerships Fair Today (Wednesday May 2)

Benefits of Partnering to Address Climate Change Challenges

- Tanya Imola, Cities for Climate Protection
- Kevin Conrad, Coalition for Rainforest Nations
- Erin Birgfeld, Methane to Markets
- Matthew Quinn, Network of Regional Government for Sustainable Development, Wales

10:30 am - 12:30 pm Conference Room 7