



CONCEPT NOTE
Capacity Development Seminar
on
Energy for providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and
sustainable transport systems for all

Organized by the Division for Sustainable Development of UN DESA,
In Cooperation with SINTEF

UN DESA Energy Grant
Powering the Future We Want

16 - 17 October 2017

SINTEF

Strindveien 4

Meeting Room A-B

Trondheim, Norway

BACKGROUND

In September 2015, Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 inter-linked targets.¹

In the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognizing the importance of advancing implementation in sustainable development through partnership initiatives to address gaps in implementation, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the China Energy Fund Committee, have agreed to collaborate on a joint programme to promote success stories and best practices in diverse priority challenge areas related to energy including: access, affordability, reliability, sustainability, the transport sector, poverty eradication, and sustainable cities and urbanization.

The programme entitled “Powering the Future We Want - Recognizing Innovative Practices in Energy for Sustainable Development,” offers annual grants with the objective of funding future capacity development activities and innovative practices in energy for sustainable development, each year with a particular theme. The programme is being implemented for an initial period of 5 years, from 2015 until 2019.

¹ General Assembly Resolution 70/1, Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/70/L.1 (25-27 September 2015) UNHQ, New York.

In 2016, the thematic focus for the Energy Grant was “Energy for Sustainable Transport”, which addresses both SDG7 and Target 11.2 of SDG11. SDG7 calls to “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.” Target 11.2 of SDG11 calls to “provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, ...”. UN DESA recognizes that energy and transport are intrinsically intertwined.

The second cycle of the Energy Grant was completed in 2016, and the Grant recipient, SINTEF, was chosen at an award ceremony in December at United Nations Headquarters, New York. Following the award ceremony, the UN DESA Energy Grant Secretariat hosted a Capacity Development Seminar on 14-15 December. This was an opportunity for the finalists of the 2016 Grant programme to disseminate their experiences and knowledge in the implementation of successful projects that promote energy for sustainable transport. The participating panelists shared the work of their organizations and openly discussed many of the challenges that they face.

This seminar taking place in Norway is a direct output of the second cycle of the *Powering the Future We Want* Energy Grant and a capacity building initiative in support of achieving SDG 7 on Energy and Target 11.2 on transport of SDG11. The participants invited to the Seminar are recognized for their contribution towards this nexus of energy and transport.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this seminar will be to build capacities on best practices and successful implementation of sustainable energy transport projects and programmes in developed and developing countries, and to address challenges related to providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all. It is intended to bring participants of the 2016 Grant Cycle together to share new ideas, highlight groundbreaking innovations, build networks, discuss business models and development tools and increase knowledge of United Nations initiatives in energy for sustainable transport.

At the conclusion of this Capacity Development Seminar, it is anticipated that the participants will gain: (1) knowledge of successful projects of various scales and new and innovative models for promoting sustainable transport; (2) enhanced understanding of the issues faced by organizations and/or individuals implementing sustainable transport projects; (3) awareness of major technical, managerial and financial challenges related to the implementation of these projects; and (4) familiarity with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDG 7 and SDG 11 goals and targets, the 3 dimensions of energy for sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and the nexus of energy and transport.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include representatives from the top 12 institutions that successfully reached the final stages of the 2016 grant evaluation process. Additional participants may include experts in energy for sustainable transport from United Nations agencies and other international organizations, including from public, private and non-profit sectors involved in the research, development, management and implementation of energy for sustainable transport projects. In addition, experts from SINTEF and representatives from Norway are expected to participate in this event.

LOCATION

The Seminar will be held at SINTEF facilities, Strindveien 4, Meeting Room A-B, in Trondheim, Norway.