



CONCEPT NOTE

Capacity Development Seminar “Powering the Future We Want - Recognizing Innovative Practices in Energy for Sustainable Development” 2015 UNDESA Grant

BACKGROUND

During the Rio+20 Conference, Member States recognized the critical role that energy plays in the development process, as access to sustainable modern energy services contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health and helps provide for basic human needs. They stressed that these services are essential to social inclusion and gender equality, and that energy is also a key input to economic production. They committed to facilitate support for access to these services to 2.8 billion people worldwide who are currently without them, recognizing that access to these services is critical for achieving sustainable development.

Also during the Rio+20 Conference, Member States realized that there had been success stories in advancing sustainable development. Nevertheless, the international community is not doing enough to replicate and scale up best practices and lessons learned from successful experiences. Member States encouraged the United Nations system to do more to identify and publicize best practices and lessons learned, in collaboration with Governments, business, civil society and other stakeholders. In response to this call, the UN system was called upon, in cooperation with relevant donors and international organizations, to coordinate and promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

In this context, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the China Energy Fund Committee (CEFC), agreed to collaborate on a joint programme to promote success stories and best practices in the priority challenge area of energy for sustainable development. As part of the promotion of best practices, it was agreed to provide grants to individuals and/or institutions demonstrating leadership and ingenuity on critical energy issues.

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. The project is being implemented for an initial period of 5 years, from 2015 until 2019.

This Capacity Development Seminar provides an opportunity for the finalists of the 2015 Grant programme to disseminate their experiences and knowledge in the implementation of successful projects that promote energy for sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this seminar will be to build capacities on best practices and successful implementation of sustainable energy development projects and programmes in developing countries, and challenges related to achieving global energy objectives including the proposed sustainable development goal and targets on energy of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

At the conclusion of this capacity development seminar, it is anticipated that the participants will gain: (i) knowledge of successful projects of various scales promoting sustainable energy development; (ii) enhanced understanding of the issues faced by organizations and/or individuals implementing sustainable energy projects; and (iii) awareness of major technical, managerial and financial challenges related to the implementation of these projects in developing countries.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include representatives from the top institutions that successfully reached the last stage of the evaluation process. Additional participants will include members of the Advisory Council, United Nations staff, representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations, international and national development organizations, and academia and students from universities.

LOCATION

The Workshop will be held in Conference Room # 8 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 14-15 September 2015.