ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Regional Workshop on: « Developing a Regional Energy Efficiency Investment Pipeline »
19-20 June 2014, El-Gouna, Hurghada, Egypt

INFORMATION NOTE

The economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing, in collaboration with the Department of Energy of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS), a regional workshop on energy efficiency (EE) investment projects pipeline in the ESCWA region with the aim to provide capacity building material and hands on training to participants, covering EE in all economic sectors, with special emphasis on the projects that were identified in the pipeline of EE investments. The workshop will be held in El-Gouna, Hourghada, Egypt, on the 19th and 20st of June 2014.

1. Background Information

The present workshop is an activity scheduled in the UN Development Account (DA) project on “Promoting Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation & Sustainable Development” designed to promote energy efficiency investment projects in the region.

The overall goal of the DA project is to strengthen capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attract investments in energy efficiency projects in the context of climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

This DA project is an inter-regional initiative involving the five UN Regional Commissions: the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) with a contribution from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), with a leading role played by the UN-ECE, to benefit the other RCs of the experience acquired by UNECE from EE projects that combines technical assistance in design and implementation of investment projects, advice on policy and institutional reforms, and direct links with financial institutions (e.g. banks and investment funds) in order to establish mechanisms, which are able to fast-track the development of self-sustained markets for energy efficiency.
Through its planned activities, the current DA project intends to (a) develop the skills of the public and private sectors at the national level to identify, develop and implement EE investment projects; (b) provide assistance to authorities to introduce regulatory and institutional reforms needed to support these investment projects; and (c) enhance financing of energy efficiency projects at national level.

One of the project's activities is building up an EE Investment projects pipeline and providing assistance to energy efficiency project developers / project sponsors from the region to produce bankable project proposals. In that respect, a Call for Proposals was sent to ESCWA Member Countries, institutions, civil societies and the private sector to submit projects proposals to be included in the EE investment projects pipeline. The project nomination process will be conducted amongst ESCWA Member Countries to build a pipeline of energy efficiency investment projects at national levels and consolidate these pipelines into an ESCWA energy efficiency pipeline portfolio.

During the development of the EE projects pipeline, the project will provide technical assistance to energy efficiency project developers / sponsors from the region, and will contribute to their capacity building in project development, finance and business planning. This activity will be carried out through the development and dissemination of an EE project development guidebook document, and a close follow up of selected project developers / sponsors that will be assisted using the material included in the guidebook as a basis for establishing their projects’ documents. This regional workshop forms a milestone in providing the intended technical assistance.

2. **Objectives and Topics of the Workshop**

The objective of this regional workshop is to provide capacity building material and hands on training to participants, covering EE in all economic sectors, with special emphasis on the projects that were identified in the pipeline of EE investments. These projects will be discussed in the workshop, providing training on the way forward and building on the experience of the UNECE FEEI project.

The regional workshop will focus on the following topics:

1. Regulatory and policy requirements for promoting EE investments at the national level, discussing adopted frameworks in selected countries and outlining key regulatory and policy options.

2. Presentation of the ESCWA EE project development guidebook document.

3. Hands on training on the use of the ESCWA guidebook for the preparation of project proposals from MCs.

4. Dissemination of UNECE experience acquired in implementing the FEEI Project to stakeholders, including feedbacks from the business and banking sectors.

3. **Participants**

In order to engage a dialogue between public, private, investment and national & international financial institutions in charge of developing and implementing energy efficiency investment projects in their respective countries, participants in the workshop will be invited from public institutions and selected EE investment projects' owners/sponsors/consultant. The participants will include some designated key persons from public and private sectors stakeholders, from ESCWA member countries, that are involved in the preparation of their respective national EE investment pipeline.
ESCWA welcomes the participation of additional representatives, and participants from the concerned private sector. Participants from regional and international organisms wishing to take part of this workshop are also encouraged to attend.

Participants are encouraged to propose working papers related to experiences carried out in their own countries that are associated with the topics of this workshop.

4. **Date and Venue**

The workshop will be held in El-Gouna, Hourghada, Egypt on the 19th and 20st of June 2014 at El Gouna Movenpick Hotel.

The workshop is held back-to-back with the Second Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) Arab Forum on “Enhancing Small and Medium Enterprises-SMEs”, scheduled on 18 & 19 June 2014.

5. **Language of the Workshop**

Workshop materials will be presented in either Arabic or English. Simultaneous translation from and to each of the two languages is available.

6. **Accommodations and Entry Visas**

Each participant shall undertake the following preparation related to his/her participation: Securing hotel reservation in the venue location, visa, and any other requirements for travelling to Egypt.

Participants can obtain their entry visa into Egypt from the Egyptian embassy to their respective countries.

If necessary, ESCWA may assist in obtaining the entry visa into Tunisia. For those interested, please send a clear scanned color copy of the passport, and include all essential personal data, to the concerned at ESCWA.

7. **Correspondence**

All correspondence related to the workshop is to be sent to either of the two addresses:

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