



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Regional Workshop on “Enhancing South – South Cooperation and Public – Private Partnerships in Renewable Energy Projects for Rural Development” on 27 November 2012, in Beirut, Republic of Lebanon and International Conference on "Renewable Energy for Developing Countries" on 28 & 29 November 2012, Beirut, Republic of Lebanon.

INFORMATION NOTE

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is organizing, in collaboration with the Lebanese Association for Energy Saving & Environment (ALMEE), a regional workshop on “Enhancing South – South Cooperation and Public – Private Partnerships in Renewable Energy Projects for Rural Development”, in ESCWA member countries. The Workshop will be held at ESCWA premises on 27 November 2012, prior to the International Conference on "Renewable Energy for Developing Countries", which is being organized by ESCWA, ALMEE, and selected Lebanese universities and concerned European entities, to be held on 28, 29 November 2012, in Beirut, Lebanon.

1. Basic information

In some ESCWA member countries, a large percentage of the population lives in rural communities (according to the World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision, <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wup2007/2007wup.htm>; the rural communities accounted for 68 % of the total population in Yemen, 57 % in Egypt and 55 % in Sudan,...). According to the Statistical Bulletin 2011 issued by the Arab Union of Electricity, 72.2 % of the population in Sudan and 48% in Yemen has no access to electricity services. It mainly depends on traditional biomass (in the form of firewood and charcoal) to meet its energy needs. Consequently, the extreme poverty cycle in terms of social and economic living conditions has been exacerbated in these communities, as well as the prevalence of poverty and diseases. Uncontrolled use of biomass has resulted in deforestation, land degradation with a direct impact on food security and negative impacts on climate change. Renewable energy applications (solar and wind energies) represent an appropriate solution to provide such populations with electric energy and /or other mechanical/thermal energies for water pumping and heating purposes.

It is worth mentioning that Palestinians are severely suffering from the lack of energy supplies due to the Israeli embargo and prevailing unstable security situation. Accordingly, the available local renewable energy resources (solar and wind) represent an excellent option to secure energy supplies and access to modern energy services.

In general, the lack of energy services aggravates the cycle of extreme poverty in the majority of rural areas in developing countries, resulting in poor socio-economic conditions, which has an adverse impact on basic issues such as food security, water supply, health care, social services, education, communication and overall development, the outcome of which would be low income with persistent poor conditions.

On the other hand, many renewable energy technologies are technically mature and their various applications could be widely spread in rural areas. Consequently, relying on such resources represents an attractive solution to provide energy services that would help in developing rural areas that have no regular access to such services in ESCWA member countries.

However, the lack of knowledge in the field of renewable energy is considered one of the factors limiting the enabling conditions that would attract the interest of the private sector to invest in renewable energy projects. Meanwhile, the private sector needs to gather information and knowledge about the renewable energy business before getting involved in the field. Moreover, the related financial and commercial aspects need to be clarified. Accordingly, conducting this workshop comes as an effort to enhance private sector enthusiasm and commitment towards renewable energy projects. As the private sector identifies a commercially and financially viable opportunity, and with clear legal and market structure framework, investors would be willing to enter into new ventures either privately or through public-private partnerships to increase renewable energy projects for rural development in the ESCWA member countries.

Finally, it should be noted that this regional workshop is part of a series of activities specified in the Development Account (DA) project: “Capacity-building on climate change mitigation for poverty alleviation in Western Asia”, undertaken by ESCWA.

2. Regional Workshop on “Enhancing South – South Cooperation and Public – Private Partnerships in Renewable Energy Projects for Rural Development”

Objectives and Topics

The regional workshop aims at enhancing south-south cooperation and public private partnerships for the development of small businesses in the implementation of renewable energy projects for rural development in ESCWA member countries. It also aims at the attraction of potential investors to start small businesses to promote renewable energy applications that can motivate development in rural areas; hence the deployment of these applications is for the sake of sustainable development, energy services accessibility, poverty alleviation, and climate change mitigation.

The regional workshop will focus on the following topics:

- a. Practical policies and regulations to promote renewable energy in rural areas, including the necessary actions to encourage and motivate the private sector to invest in renewable energy in the form of public-private partnership,
- b. Legal and institutional aspects to be taken into consideration when starting a renewable energy project,
- c. Skills needed for managing long term energy projects, with a focus on renewable energy applications that are technically and economically appropriate for use in rural areas, and challenges that need to be tackled,
- d. Financing and public-private partnership models with emphasis on the local and regional needs and specifications, as well as lessons learnt from best practices for the deployment of renewable energy use in rural areas of developing countries.

3. International Conference on “Renewable Energies for Developing Countries”:

Objectives and Topics

ESCWA is cooperating with the Lebanese Center for Environment and Energy Conservation (ALMEE), Saint Joseph University (USJ), Lebanese University, Notre Dame University-LOUAZE, the Lebanese order of Engineers, the Industrial Electronics Society (ies), the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and the European Community’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007 – 2013) in organizing the International Conference on “Renewable Energies for Developing Countries”, to be held on 28, 29 November 2012, in Beirut (conference’s website: <http://www.redec2012.ressol-medbuild.eu/>).

The conference’s aim is to benefit from international expertise in the field of renewable energies at both the economic and scientific levels, to discuss the innovative scientific solutions that developing countries can adapt, to present the most efficient ways for investing in renewable energies, to exchange opinions on laws and regulations for easy penetration of renewable energies, and to draw outcomes from case studies on successful solutions and supporting programs in some countries.

The conference’s topics –are as follows:

1. Renewable Energy resources in developing countries
2. Technologies related to Renewable Energy sources in developing countries
3. Energy saving and energy efficiency measures
4. Energy management.
5. Policy, regulations and laws related to an effective role of Renewable Energies in developing countries.
6. Capacity and institutional building for the specific needs of Renewable Energy penetration in developing countries.
7. Educational and research programs in the domain of Renewable Energies.
8. Regional & International support programs for renewable energy applications in developing countries.

4. Participants

Participants representing governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as private sector will be invited.

Participants are welcome to deliver presentations based on the relevant national experience in their own countries within the framework of the themes of the workshop, or relevant to the topics of the international conference.

5. Date and Venue

The workshop will be held on 27 November 2012 at ESCWA premises in Beirut (registration is at 9:00 am; opening ceremony is at 9:30 am). Meanwhile, the venue of the international conference on “Renewable Energies for Developing Countries” will be Le Meridien Comodore Hotel, Hamra area, Beirut, on 28 & 29 November 2012 (registration is at 8:30 am; opening ceremony is at 9:00 am).

6. Language of the Workshop

Workshop's documents will be presented in either Arabic or English. Simultaneous interpretation from and to each of the two languages will be available. The language of the international conference will be English

7. Accommodation and transportation

ESCWA will bear the expenses of participation in the workshop of only one participant designated from the concerned governmental entity and of one participant from the private sector, from each of its Member Countries. Participation expenses –for each one of these two participants- include the established Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) in Beirut, Lebanon for a period of four days, the terminal expenses according to UN rules and regulations, airline reservations and an economy class two-way airline ticket. ESCWA also, welcomes the participation of other experts in this event, given that they do so at their own expense.

Each participant shall undertake the following preparations related to his/her participation: Securing a hotel reservation, visa, and any other requirements for traveling to Beirut. Participants should also handle care their own transportation within Beirut, Lebanon.

8. Entry Visas

Participants can obtain their entry visa to Lebanon from the Lebanese embassy in their respective countries, and may obtain additional information by visiting: <http://www.general-security.gov.lb>.

If necessary, ESCWA may assist in obtaining the entry visa to Lebanon, and for those interested, a clear scanned colored copy of their passport and of the attached registration form should be sent to ESCWA at the below address:

9. Correspondences

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

Dr. Walid DEGHAILI Chief, Energy Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD) ESCWA United Nations House, Riad El-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon Tel.(Direct): + 961 1 978527 Mobile: +961 3 550446 Fax: + 961 1 981510/1/2 Email: degghaili@un.org	Ms. Bothayna Rashed Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Section, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division (SDPD) ESCWA United Nations House, Riad El-Solh Square, Beirut, Lebanon Tel.(Direct): + 961 1 978571 Mobile: +961 71499003 Fax: + 961 1 981510/1/2 Email: rashed@un.org
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Registration Form – استمارة التسجيل

Participant’s Name (as written in the Passport):	اسم المشارك (كما هو مسجل في جواز السفر):
Country /Organization/ Establishment who has nominated the participant:	الدولة/المنظمة/ المؤسسة التي سمت المشارك:
Website:	عنوان موقعها على الإنترنت:
<u>Information related to participant:</u>	<u>معلومات عن المشارك:</u>
Place and date of birth:	مكان وتاريخ الميلاد:
Job title:	المسمى الوظيفي:
Postal address:	العنوان البريدي:
Tel.:	الهاتف الثابت:
Cellular:	الخليوي:
Fax.:	الفاكس:
E-mail:	البريد الإلكتروني:
The participant will give: Power Point Presentation: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	سيقوم المشارك بتقديم: عرض مرئي: نعم <input type="checkbox"/> لا <input type="checkbox"/>

Please fill in the form clearly and send it with a colored copy of your passport & an electronic photo passport (jpeg) to either of the ESCWA contact point, previously mentioned, no later than 9 November 2012