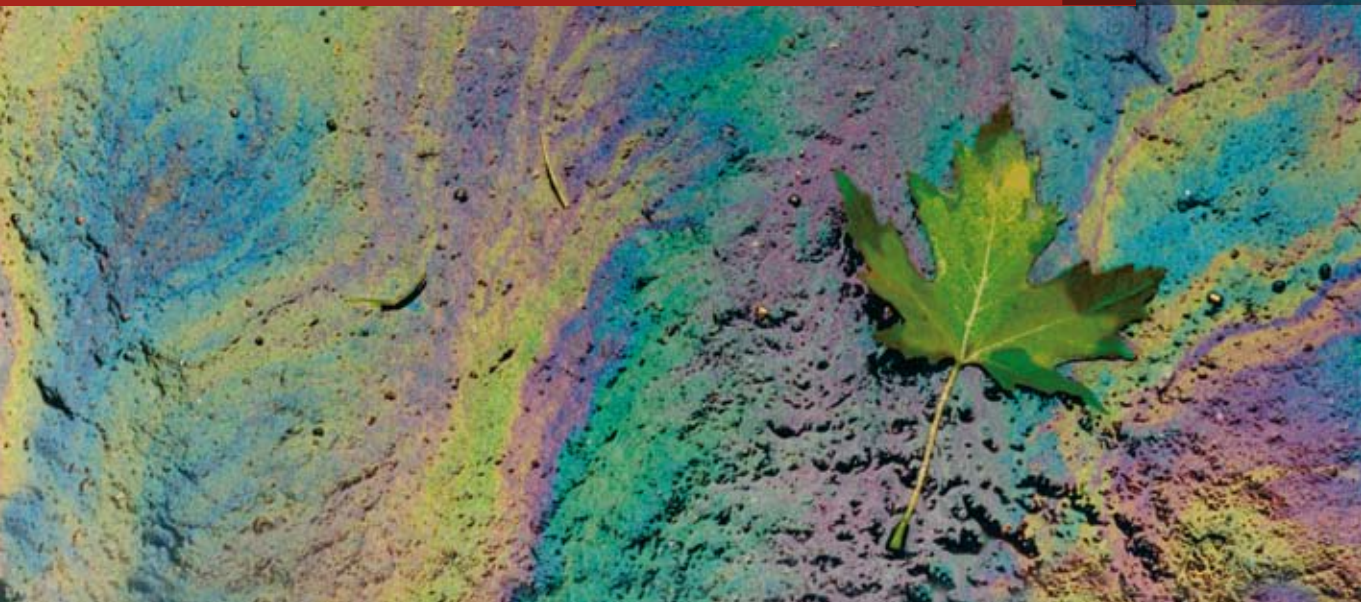


GNESD

GLOBAL NETWORK ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

facilitated by UNEP



3. Edition

GNESD in brief



The Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) is a UNEP facilitated knowledge network of Centres of Excellence and Network Partners acknowledged for their work on energy, development and environmental issues. GNESD is one of the major Type II partnerships in the field of energy that were launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2002. The main objective of GNESD is to work for reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by:

- Working for a better understanding of the links between sustainable energy and other development and environment priorities, and technology and policy options leading to better formulation of practical policies that can be adopted to promote and highlight the crucial role of energy for sustainable development.
- Working to provide analytical input for Governments to consider in formulating their policies and programmes, and the private sector to attract investments in the energy sector, so that these favour energy sector growth for sustainable development especially for the poor in the developing countries
- Promoting a communication infrastructure for Members to share experiences and draw on each other's strengths, expertise, and skills.
- Strengthening South-South and North-South exchange of knowledge and collaboration on energy issues.

Strength through networking



Presently, GNESD is comprised of twenty-one member centres, 11 from developing countries and 10 from industrialized countries covering most continents of the world. One common denominator is the firm belief that access to affordable modern energy is a pre-requisite for sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty. The Centres share the knowledge generated within the network and put it to use by targeting policy makers, decision makers, energy policy analysts, NGOs and researchers.

The twenty-one Member Centres are:

Africa:

Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA-TM), Senegal.

The African Energy Policy Research Network/Foundation for Woodstove Dissemination (AFREPREN/FWD), Kenya.

The Energy Research Centre (ERC), South Africa.

Mediterranean Renewable Energy Centre (MEDREC),

Tunisia.

Europe:

AEA Technology, Future Energy Solutions (FES), UK.

KFA Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Policies (EPE), Production and International Integration

Economics Laboratory (LEPII), Uni. Pierre Mendès, France.

The Energy Research Center of the Netherlands (ECN),

The Netherlands.

The Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE), Germany.

The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) at Lund Uni., Sweden.

UNEP RISØ Centre (URC), Denmark.

North and South America, The Pacific:

The Institute for Energy Economics at Fundación Bariloche (IDEE/FB), Argentina.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), USA.

The Stockholm Environment Institute's Boston Center (SEI-B), USA.

The University of the South Pacific (USP), Fiji.

CentroClima at the Federal Uni. of Rio de

Janeiro and CENBIO at the Uni. of São Paulo in conjunction, Brazil.

Middle East and Asia:

Institute of Energy Economics (IEEJ), Japan.

The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India.

The Energy Research Group (ERG) at The American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon.

The Energy Research Institute (ERI) of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China.

The way we work



GNESD Secretariat, which is co-located with the UNEP Risø Centre in Denmark facilitates the work of the Centres through research inputs, coordination, dissemination and administration, thereby making it easier for each Member Centre to provide environmentally sound and pro-poor energy policy advice supporting sustainable development. The network carries out an array of activities which all work towards the achievement of the main objective. Activities that can be undertaken by GNESD members are 1) knowledge generation, analysis and studies, 2) policy support, 3) capacity building and 4) advocacy, with a focus on energy for sustainable development and climate change.

The work in GNESD is theme driven and carried out on the basis of ad-hoc Working Groups consisting of representatives from the twenty-one Centres of Excellence. In 2009 GNESD in addition embarked on a new type of activity by producing a series of short term papers providing the ability to respond more rapidly to emerging issues and concerns.

An international Steering Committee, with two leading international experts as co-chairs provides strategic direction and oversight. The Steering Committee is elected at the annual GNESD Assembly. The Steering Committee is comprised of selected GNESD members, donors and UNEP, as observer.

GNESD actively promotes collaboration with other Type II Partnerships and have signed Memorandum of Understanding for general cooperation with REEEP and GVEP. In addition GNESD has entered into joint activities with EUEI and REN 21.

Themes



Energy Access

(EA) and Renewable Energy Technologies (RETS)

The GNESD “Energy Access” and “Renewable Energy Technologies” thematic research were undertaken at the inception of GNESD in 2002 with the aim of responding to two widely asked questions on energy access and the impact of power sector reforms in the developing countries. Have energy policy reforms addressed the “energy access” faced by the poor, or have the reforms actually contributed to the growing problems of inadequate energy services for the poor and on how to improve access for the poor.

The thematic study on RETs was undertaken to respond to the question if RE could contribute to poverty alleviation by examining the real options. The common findings of the Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) theme was the identification of the contribution that RETs can make to poverty alleviation and provided concrete policy guidance and identified the barriers to RETs and how can they be overcome.

Energy Access for Urban and Peri-urban Poor

(UPEA)

Staying on the overall “Energy Access” theme, GNESD has recently completed a thematic study on “Energy Access for Urban and Peri-urban Poor”. This is recognizing the fact that these sections of the population have largely been ignored in the past as far as access to clean energy is concerned. The study was carried on large urban and peri-urban settlements in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some of the common findings of the study and clean energy access were identified as:

- Lack of strategic planning
- Clean fuels inaccessible because of the nature settlements
- Costs can be barrier to access
- Lack of formal monitoring mechanism
- Lack of awareness of using clean energy sources

A special issue of the journal “Energy for Sustainable Development (ESD)” published 7 articles based on this theme of GNESD in December 2008.



Energy Security

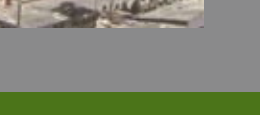
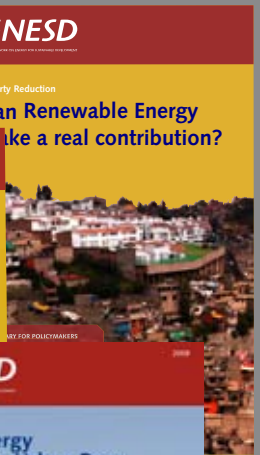
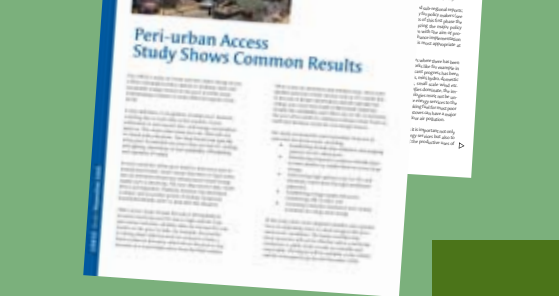
GNESD has finalized a thematic study on Energy Security. The study is examining energy security of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America by using some common indicators to assess the level of energy security in the countries studied. Suggestion has been made on the potentials of diversification of energy sources to increase energy security. The study has taken a dual approach of investigating Energy Security from a national macro-economic perspective and at household at the micro level.

Bioenergy

GNESD has initiated a new thematic area of bioenergy. The study will specifically focus on "Bioenergy and Rural Development for Poverty Alleviation". It is intended that each GNESD centre will study three to four forms of bioenergy that have most potential for rural development in the countries/regions.

Future theme


GNESD is preparing the next thematic study on "Electrification for urban and peri-urban poor-Climate Change implication". The study will build on the previous theme of Energy access for urban and peri-urban poor but will focus on electricity only to give a more in-depth and comprehensive view and analysis of the sector that has tremendous impact on climate change strategies the developing countries will need to adopt in the near future.



Future GNESD activities taking shape

The Road Ahead





In the coming years GNESD will continue to concentrate on working towards supporting the achievement of the MDGs. In addition there will be focus on Energy related Climate Change issues. In the process GNESD will continue to produce well documented and high standard policy analysis which may be actively used to facilitate a change to benefit the world's poor to achieve adequate access to cleaner energy services and help the developing countries in moving towards low carbon economies.


The governments of Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and Denmark have along with UN Foundation provided support to the Network. UNDP has in addition supported regional workshop outreach activities in the past and is now considering supporting innovative ways of carrying out outreach activities. REEEP has also supported outreach activities.

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