

# GNESD News

April 2003

GLOBAL NETWORK ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT— A NETWORK FACILITATED BY UNEP

## GNESD - a World Summit Initiative

The Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) was launched as a Type II initiative at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been instrumental in launching GNESD which is aimed at promoting sustainable development through policies and solutions that expand access for the poor to environmentally sound energy services.

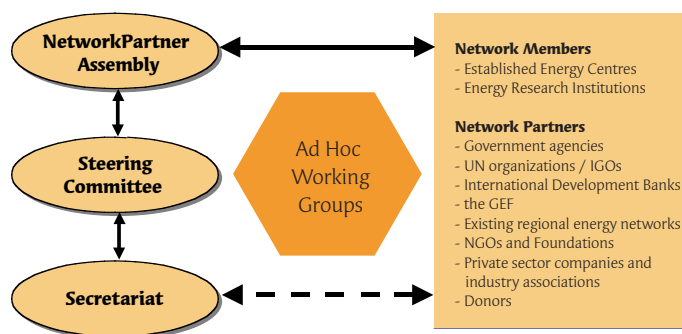
To accomplish this, GNESD is coordinating joint activities to share information, undertaking analytical studies and supporting policy development. GNESD's core is a number of 'Centres of Excellence' in developing countries noted for their outstanding work on energy, development and environment issues. GNESD creates links between these centres, regional networks and international organisations, including governments, financial institutions, private sector companies, industry associations and other interested parties.

GNESD is directed by an interim Steering Committee (see box below) which has set a number of goals for the first year of operation, including:

- Make the GNESD network operational and with a broad membership.
- Establish a website with comprehensive information to complement and build on other partnerships' information dissemination and other means of communication.
- Move forward on the first priority theme on "Energy Access", focussing on policy, national and regional differences/similarities and opportunities to share experiences.
- Ensure impacts of the Network are visible; for example, on developing relations and cooperation with other key partnerships and relevant international programmes.
- Ensure the Network is able to provide relevant regional overviews of policy options to address specific aspects of energy access.

- Identify proven policy measures for improving energy access and analyse their potential to be replicated.

The GNESD interim Steering Committee has chosen "Energy Access" as the first work theme, which is described in more detail on page three of this newsletter. Possible subsequent themes include the use of biomass to achieve modern energy services for rural poor and an assessment of the potential role of renewable energy in sustainable development.



*The structure for the Network emphasizes the role of existing institutions and the importance of a structure that avoids unnecessary bureaucracy.*

GNESD was created in response to United Nations General Assembly resolutions, recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries. The creation of GNESD is also consistent with recommendations in the G8 Renewable Energy Task Force Report (2001).

### The GNESD interim Steering Committee

An international interim Steering Committee representing the GNESD partners was created at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to provide strategic direction and oversight of the Network. The Committee includes donors and beneficiaries within the field of energy and sustainable development. The GNESD donor countries and organisations include Denmark, France, Germany, United Kingdom, USA, United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The European Union (EU) and UNEP are also members of the interim Steering Committee, which is jointly chaired by Thomas B. Johansson of IIIIEE, Sweden and Ogunlade Davidson of EDRC, South Africa. The participating Centres of Excellence currently include: African Energy Policy Research Network (AFREPREN) in Kenya, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand, the University of São Paulo (IEE/USP) in

conjunction with the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (COPPE/UFRJ) in Brazil, Energy & Development Research Centre (EDRC) in South Africa, Environnement et développement du tiers-monde (ENDA-TM) in Senegal, The Energy Research Institute (ERI) in China, the Bariloche Foundation (FB) in Argentina and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in India.

# Current Centres of Excellence

AFREPREN/FWD



The African Energy Policy Research Network, AFREPREN, brings together 106 African energy researchers and policy makers who have conducted policy studies in 19 African countries.

The key objective of AFREPREN is to strengthen local capacity for energy policy and planning. Initiated in 1987, AFREPREN is a collective regional response to the widespread concern over the weak link between energy research and the formulation and implementation of energy policy in Africa.



Two Brazilian centres have joined forces to participate in GNESD. The team in Rio de Janeiro is within Center for Integrated Studies on Climate Change and the Environment (Centro Clima). In São Paulo, GNESD is hosted by CENBIO – National Reference Centre on Biomass. These are located at the Institute for Research and Postgraduate Studies of Engineering of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (COPPE/UFRJ) and at the Institute for Electrotechnics and Engineering - University of São Paulo (IEE/USP), respectively.

Their common approach to GNESD is to take advantage of the expertise in renewable energy accumulated by two of the most active Brazilian academic institutions in this field.



Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA-TM) is a Non Governmental Organisation based in Dakar, Senegal.

The objectives and activities of ENDA's Energy Program include contributing to a better technical, economic and socio-cultural understanding of energy issues in African countries and identifying conditions needed for widening access to affordable energy services, and the most efficient energy technologies, for the most underprivileged groups. In addition ENDA-TM also works to assist energy professionals and strengthen co-operation and dialogue between countries.



The Bariloche Foundation is a private, non-profit institute, founded in 1963 for the purpose of furthering research, training, technical assistance, diffusion and other creative activities in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina. It is supported by private and public, national and international sources.

The Bariloche Foundation is member of the GNESD through its associated Institute for Energy Economics (IDEE/FB), and is responsible for basic and applied research activities, training, and technical assistance in the field of Energy Economics and Planning and Sustainable Energy Policies.

IDEE/FB has until now published more than 500 research documents and developed some 80 texts of teaching material.



The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), based in Thailand, is an international postgraduate institution with a mission to develop highly qualified and committed professionals who will play a leading role in the sustainable development of the Asian region and its integration into the global economy. AIT is organized into four schools, including the School of Environment, Resources and Development (SERD) which undertakes research and training on energy and the environment. This includes renewable energy technologies, energy conservation, cleaner production, energy economics and planning, energy and environmental policies, power sector restructuring, environmental engineering and management, and climate change studies.



The Energy and Development Research Centre (EDRC) is based in South Africa and seeks to be a leading-edge African energy and energy-environment policy, development and capacity building institution. To achieve this goal, EDRC:

- Undertakes research to deepen knowledge and understanding of the energy needs, problems and challenges in South Africa and the rest of Africa,
- Contributes to the transformation and improved social equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability in the energy sector,
- Educates, trains and develops human resources in the energy sector.



TERI was established in 1974 and is located in New Delhi, India. While in the initial period the focus was mainly on documentation and information dissemination activities, research activities in the fields of energy, environment, and sustainable development were initiated towards the end of 1982.

TERI is committed to every aspect of sustainable development and is the largest developing-country institution working to move human society towards a sustainable future.

TERI makes effective use of the latest developments in modern information technology in both its in-house and outreach activities.



Energy Research Institute (ERI) of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) is the governmental energy economics and policy study institute at national level in China. The research fields of ERI cover all energy policy issues, including energy strategy development, energy demand and supply balance analysis, energy safety policy, energy pricing, energy conservation potential and policy, environmental protection related to energy, rural energy development, renewable energy, and energy modeling. ERI is the major supporting group in Climate Change policy making in China and active in many international cooperative projects with both bilateral and multilateral parties.



*First Theme:*

## Energy Access for the Poor

A key distinguishing feature of the world's poor is their lack of access to adequate energy services. In this group of almost half the world's population, people earn less than US\$ 2 per day and rely on traditional biofuels to meet most of their energy needs. In excess of 1 billion of these people have little or no access to electricity and a significant portion have limited or no access to cleaner and more modern fuels such as kerosene, LPG and natural gas to satisfy their energy needs. The significant time needed to collect traditional fuels each day, primarily by women and children, limits more productive time for education, family care and activities that generate income. Moreover, the current form of energy use has adverse environmental impacts at the local, regional, and global levels, including air and water pollution, erosion and climate change. Providing sustainable energy solutions to these people is therefore a major challenge confronting governments, the private sector and the science and technology community.



In the last two decades, developing countries have implemented a wide range of energy sector reforms that were expected to address some of the above concerns. However, a wide range of developing countries report that these reforms have not significantly improved access to cleaner energy services by their poor. Of particular concern is the deterioration in the quality and reliability of energy services available to the poor seen in some areas. This is especially the case in sub-Saharan Africa (and parts of Latin America & the Caribbean, Middle East and South Asia) where reliance on traditional biofuels is increasing and the proportion of the people with no access to electricity continues to increase.

### The Energy Access Working Group

GNESD is theme driven with the work carried out by ad-hoc Working Groups composed of representatives from participating Centres of Excellence. The objective of the GNESD's first Working Group on "Energy Access" is to examine the impact of energy reforms on energy access for the poor by addressing two key questions:

- How have previous energy policy reforms addressed the "Energy Access" challenge facing the poor and how have the reforms contributed to the growing problem of inadequate energy services for the poor in the developing world?
- Based on a rigorous analysis, what are the proven policy options that lead to improved, cleaner and more sustainable energy services for the poor in developing countries?

These questions are addressed through a systematic and empirically based study of the impact of power sector reforms on the poor in different developing countries. The study is based on a common and comparable set of impact indicators, ensuring commonality among the findings and facilitating useful recommendations. The participating Centres of Excellence in the ad hoc Working Group all have international experience and recognition with:

- **Demonstrated expertise in energy for sustainable development issues,**
- **Policy-level focus and engagement,**
- **An influence that extends to the sub-regional, regional and global level,**
- **Existing strong links to local, national and international institutions,**
- **Willingness to contribute to the Network by providing in-kind goods or services.**

Coordination of work within the "Energy Access" theme is carried out by AFREPREN in cooperation with the GNESD Secretariat.

### Results late 2003

The results of the Working Group will be presented at the first annual partner assembly in the second half of 2003 and at a planned policy dialogue workshop. The final output of the Working Group is aimed at policy makers in the developing world as well as decision-makers in agencies and banks involved in international and regional development. The outputs will also be of interest to energy policy analysts and researchers in developed and developing countries.

*Firewood is the sole energy option for millions of rural and urban poor.*



In addition to GNESD, the World Summit on Sustainable Development also created a number of related Type II initiatives. GNESD will collaborate with these where possible and links are already established with:

**The Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP)**

This initiative brings together developing and industrialized country governments, public and private organizations, multilateral institutions, consumers and others to ensure the poor have access to modern energy services. Technical Secretariat: UNDP/World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program. [www.gvep.org](http://www.gvep.org)

**EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development**

This initiative aims to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people in extreme poverty by 2015 through the provision of adequate, affordable, sustainable energy services. EU donors (Member States and European Commission) work in partnership with developing countries and other stakeholders. Initiative Secretariat: European Commission. <dev-eu-energy-initiative@cec.eu.int>

**The LPG Challenge**

The LPG Challenge is bringing Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) to rural populations in developing countries by linking UNDP's knowledge and experience in rural development and community consultation to industry suppliers of LPG and the appliances required for its utilization. Lead partner: UNDP. [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

# GNESD

**Secretariat:**

The GNESD Secretariat is located at Risø National Laboratory (RNL), Denmark, which is also the host of the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment (UCCEE).

GNESD Secretariat  
 Risø National Laboratory, Bldg. 142  
 Frederiksborgvej 399  
 P.O. Box 49  
 DK 4000 Roskilde  
[gnesd@risoe.dk](mailto:gnesd@risoe.dk)  
 Tel: +45 4677 5131 Fax: +45 4632 1999

A dedicated web site for the GNESD is located at [www.gnesd.org](http://www.gnesd.org). This newsletter provides information on the activities of GNESD and the views expressed do not necessarily represent those of UNEP or Risø National Laboratory. For additional information or comments please contact the editor, Per Kolbeck ([per.kolbeck@risoe.dk](mailto:per.kolbeck@risoe.dk)). GNESD is printed on 100% recycled, chlorine-free paper. Layout by Finn Hagen Madsen ([finn@studio8.dk](mailto:finn@studio8.dk))

## Contact GNESD

Use the form to contact the Secretariat for the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development.

**Please tick the appropriate box**

- I would like to know more about GNESD. Please contact me
- Please sign me up for the free GNESD electronic Newsletter
- I would like to learn more about how to become a Network Partner

Network Partner status will be considered for parties in both developing and industrialized countries who have signed the GNESD Statement of Commitment. GNESD Network Partners may include international organizations, governments, financial institutions, private-sector companys, industrial associations and other parties who share the overall goal of promoting energy for sustainable development.

**Please fill in**

Name of organization / company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Web site \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tick the appropriate box characterising your organisation / company**

- Existing centre working on energy for sustainable development.
- Existing sectoral network for agriculture, water, education, and rural entrepreneurship linked to energy and sustainable development.
- NGOs and foundations with expertise in related policy, technical, and project implementation areas.
- Government and government agency, both from developing and industrialized countries.
- Global and regional inter-governmental organisations.
- Development banks, and other international financial institutions.
- The private sector, industry or trade associations.
- Other. Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:**  
 GNESD Secretariat  
 Risø National Laboratory,  
 P.O. Box 49  
 DK 4000 Roskilde, Denmark

[gnesd@risoe.dk](mailto:gnesd@risoe.dk)  
 Fax: +45 4632 1999