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South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) Executive Exchange and Third Application Workshop on “Efficient Energy Management and Renewable Energy” 12-20 May 2009, Washington DC. USA

SAWIE – The Growing Baby



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New Delhi, India
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Challenges

- ❑ Lack of access to clean energy – makes life extraordinarily difficult for many women in South Asia. Household chores become far more labour-intensive, depriving time from women that could be better spent on family life or income-generation activities.
- ❑ The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) South Asia Regional Initiative/Energy (SARI/Energy) program is working to change this situation through its South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) activity



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Background

- ❑ Women play a crucial role in the household energy sector.
- ❑ SAWIE is designed as a women specific activity which encourages energy conservation and energy efficiency thru renewable energy.
- ❑ SAWIE Brings together women energy sector professionals from 8 South Asian countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



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Objectives

- ❑ **To equip and sensitize women reps** from South Asia with the skills and knowledge of efficient energy management and empower them to influence policy makers in their home countries
- ❑ **Familiarize the rural women on best practices** available in the South Asia region on energy efficiency and renewable energy
- ❑ **To understand, identify and evolve best approaches** to provide low cost efficient energy services including renewable energy applications
- ❑ **Income Generation Activities for rural women:** Through access to clean energy, encourage rural women for income generation activities
- ❑ **Enhance the role of women** in energy sector decision making process



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Milestones

- ❑ SAWIE launch in April 2008 in Kerala/India
- ❑ SAWIE Network formed
- ❑ 4 working groups set up to take the lead in pursuing the SAWIE objectives
- ❑ MOU signed between SARI/E and Energia
- ❑ Follow on workshop in Dhaka/Bangladesh in November 2008
- ❑ Small Grants program launched and active



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Outreach Activities

- ❑ In December 2008, SAWIE participated in a Conference on Beyond Firewood: Exploring Alternative Fuels and Energy Technologies in Humanitarian Settings organized by Women's Council, USA, in New Delhi, India.

- ❑ In Feb 2009, SAWIE contributed to a survey conducted by Students of Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health, on Community Needs Assessment of organizations working in fuel efficient Stove Programs.

- ❑ In March 2009, SAWIE participated in a SAARC Women Conference: Partners in Development.



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Upcoming Activities/Events

- ❑ Possibilities of setting up a Regional Center of Excellence for SAWIE
- ❑ National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Workshop on "Distributed Energy and Poverty Alleviation" in Johannesburg, South Africa on 10-11 October 2009.
- ❑ Training of Trainers on 'Gender and Climate Change organized by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Bonn June 2009 and Copenhagen December 2009.



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Purpose of this EE

- ❑ Broaden the understanding among women groups in South Asia of energy issues, specifically energy efficiency and renewables from the perspective and experiences of women and other groups in North America.
- ❑ Acquaint the SAWIE participants to understand the issues discussed and debated in the US on the role of women in advancing sustainable development.
- ❑ The balanced approach of class room topics and practical site visits will strengthen the skills of the SAWIE participants to meet the SAWIE objectives in South Asia.



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Expected Outcome

- Each working group/country comes up with a future strategy/action plan which they would pursue in their home countries.



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Future Strategy

- ❑ Pursue aggressively on expanding SAWIE Network
- ❑ Cost sharing/leveraging in future SAWIE events
- ❑ SAWIE should be self-sustainable even after USAID support is withdrawn
- ❑ Involving private sector and women entrepreneurs in SAWIE who takes the ownership of the Network
- ❑ When CoE is set up, it will become the home for SAWIE activities
- ❑ SARI/Energy will be looking at options of setting up other Networks eg. "Youth in Energy"



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Thank You.....