SAWIE Activities in Bangladesh

Engr (Ms) Reba Paul

Executive Secretary, Bangladesh Water Partnership
& Joint Secretary and Gender Coordinator of
Bangladesh Renewable Energy Society (BRES) &
Executive Committee (EC) Member, Shubashati

USAID-SARI Energy SAWIE Executive Exchange on Efficient

Organised by
United States Energy Association (USEA)
May 12-20 May, 2009
Bangladesh participated in the First Application Workshop of SAWIE on Efficient Energy Management and Renewable Energy held in Kerala from 21-25 April, 2008. The four women professionals from Bangladesh as mentioned below attended the workshop in Kerala:

1. Ms. Reba Paul, Director Programme, Shubashati
2. Ms. Pallabi Zaman, SAE, Bangladesh Power Development Board
3. Ms. Aziza Haque, Regional Manager, Grameen Shakti
4. Ms. Farzana Rahman, Sr. Investment Officer, IDCOL
Four Working Sub-Group formed

- Renewable Energy Technology/Green Architecture
- Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Auditing
- Micro Finance / Income Generation
- Capacity Building/ Best Practices/Information Sharing

Bangladesh is leading Working Sub-Group on Renewable Energy Technologies/Green Architecture
# Group Members of Renewable Energy Technologies/Green Architecture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Dr. Merle Kindred/ India</th>
<th>6. Ms. Farzana Rahman, Bangladesh</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Ms. Svati Bhogle/ India</td>
<td>7. Ms. Aziza Haque, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>4. Ms. Reba Paul/ Bangladesh</td>
<td>9. Dr. Sanja Gunawardena, SriLanka</td>
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<td>(Team Leader)</td>
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<td>5. Ms. Pallabi Zaman/ Bangladesh</td>
<td>10. Ms. Deki Choden, Bhutan</td>
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<td>11. Ms. Fathimath Rasheedha, Maldives</td>
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Objective of the Group

The objective of the Group is to promote women in sustainable renewable energy Development, efficient energy management, energy conservation and green Architecture building through their own organisations and individual efforts to reach the energy target in the countries of South Asia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Activities of RET/GA Working Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Capacity Building of women</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Build research and studies</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Share knowledge, information, best practices &amp; technologies</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Creating awareness among women</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Advocacy for promotion of women</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Expansion of Group network and safeguarding its continuity</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Prepare a database of energy related organisations in the region</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Development of tools and indicators for successful implementation of RET/GA which focus women.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Fund generation</td>
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New Group Members after Kerala Workshop

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<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arch Madhumita/ India</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ms. Shantha Das/ India</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ms. Soma Dutta/ India</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ms. Farzana Husain, Bangladesh</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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Follow up after Kerala Workshop
Impact Assessment of BPDB RET Project in CHT


A total of 300 Solar Home Systems of 120 WP capacity

A 10 KW Solar Assembly installed to electrify the whole Barkal Upazilla.

A 1kw Solar Water Pump.

30 street lights
Impact of BPDB Rural Electrification Project of BPDB in Barkal, Rangamati

- It has contributed to better life, education, recreation, economy and income generation among women.
- The activities of Barkal Upazilla has increased.
- The street lights have provided safety to people in the area.
- The water pump has reduced the drudgery of women in collecting water.

This shop had no electricity and now they can sell products during evening and thus economy and living status of the people in the area has changed now. The 120wp Solar system covers the electricity requirement of the family as well as help their business.

These three women (Ms. Jahanara, Ms. Hosnerean and Ms. Morium) in Barkal upazila are school teachers. They said they could do their school work during evening now and do recreation watching TV.

The women says that her children now can read in the evening and doing better results.
• We disseminated Thapabharani technology among energy related organisations and donor agencies in Bangladesh by email and at an energy related national Fair so that the concept and technology can be replicated in Bangladesh.

• We disseminated SAWIE initiatives and its outcomes in Kerala.

• We provided microcredit particularly among women for RET promotion and loan for RETs.
The Second Application Workshop of SAWIE on Efficient Energy Management and Renewable Energy was held at Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka 17-19 November, 2008.
20 women professional from Bangladesh attended the workshop

1. Ms. Shireen Kamal Sayeed, Asst Country Representative, UNDP-Dhaka (Speaker)
2. Ms. Asma Haque, Managing Director, PSL (Speaker)
3. Ms. Parveen Sultana, Member, GEN-Bangladesh & Former Deputy Director, REB (Speaker and participant)
4. Ms. Reba Paul, Joint Secretary and Gender Coordinator, BREA (Speaker and participant)
5. Ms. Pallabi Zaman, SAE, Bangladesh Power Development Board
6. Ms. Sabrina Shahbab, Programme Coordinator, Grameen Shakti
7. Ms. Aziza Haque, Regional Manager, Grameen Shakti
8. Ms. Farzana Rahman, Investment Officer, IDCOL
9. Ms. Farhana Yesmin, Research Architect, HBRI
10. Ms. Farzana Hussain, Research Engineer, PSL (Speaker and participants)
12. Ms. Jorifa Khatun, Assistant Engineer (System Planning) BPDB
13. Ms. Kamrun Nahar Sultana, In-Charge Sunamganj GTC, Grameen Shakti
14. Ms. Marufa Yeasmin, Assistant Engineer, REB
15. Ms. Rowshan Akhter, Programme Assistant, USAID D-Bangladesh
16. Ms. Nurun Nahar, Deputy Director (Project Planning), BPDB
17. Ms. Rukhsana Afrooz, In-Charge Mawna GTC, Grameen Shakti
18. Ms. Sultana Razia, Assistant Engineer, REB
19. Ms. Shanjida Khanam, Executive Director, Badhan Society
20. Ms. Tasnima Siddique, Vice President, Shubashati
Key Recommendations of Dhaka Workshop

• Many best practices in the countries of South Asia on application of RETs (like SHSs, Solar pump, solar lantern, community solar clinic, solar heater, domestic and commercial biogas energy from various sources like poultry, cow dung, human excreta, biomass, rice husk), energy conservation like energy clinic programme and efficient energy house building (residential, corporate building, government building) in Kerala, India which could be replicated in non-applicable and potential areas.

• High cost of RE is still a barrier in reaching poor people.

• Huge disparity in energy consumption between rural and urbans. This disparity must be eliminated through effective energy conservation programs using energy efficient bulbs, improved cook stove and efficient energy management in all sectors (domestic, industrial, agriculture, commercial and others) to meet energy targets in the region. The policy makers should give special attention to these efforts.
• Investment should be increased for grid-interactive RETs for rural Electrification.
• RETs should be expanded in education, health, micro enterprise, and telecommunications to benefit the poor.
• CDM and climate fund should be tapped to expand clean energy and energy conservation activities.
• Energy Efficient building and Green Architecture design should not be exacerbated. It should be conducive to nature and environment.

Recognition of SAWIE

• SAWIE is serving as a unique platform to enhance women’s participation in decision making process in the energy sector.

Expectation from SAWIE

• SAWIE can share best practices amongst group members and demonstrate successful gender centric energy projects.
• SAWIE can assist the group members to utilize the small grants fund of USAID SARI/Energy Program for implementing innovative initiatives.
• SAWIE should share knowledge and experience through its website and can develop e-discussion forum on pertinent issues.
Follow up of SAWIE activity in Bangladesh after Dhaka Workshop

Shubashati a partner organisation of Bangladesh Renewable Energy Society (BRES) submitted a proposal on ‘Creating awareness among women on Improved Cook Stove and building their capacity for construction of those” to USAID SARI Energy for small grant.
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<td>Mrs. Parveen Sultana, Member, GEN-Bangladesh and Ex-Deputy Director, REB</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Prof. Mahbuba Nasreen, Department of Sociology, Dhaka University (nm)</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Ms. Sabrina Shahbab, Programme Coordinator, Grameen Shakti (nm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Dr. Tureen Afroz, Barrister-at-Law, Law Dev (Bangladesh) and Professor, BRAC University (nm)</td>
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Formation of GS Women in Energy Network

• A Meeting was conducted by Ms. Reba Paul with Grameen Shakti HQ office to discuss the women activities of GS and how to promote those activities with support from SAWIE.
• 9 women representatives from nine GTC in various districts outside Dhaka attended the meeting.
• A GS Women in Energy Network was formed in the meeting. The following officials attended the Meeting:

1. Ms. Champa Akter, Mawna GTC (Diploma – electrical engineer)
2. Ms. Sabina Jahan Marin, Jamalpur GTC (Diploma – electrical engineer)
3. Ms. Nasrin Amin, Netrokona GTC (Diploma – electrical engineer)
4. Ms. Mosa Jumur Begum, Barguna GTC (Electronics Engineer)
5. Ms. Rowsan Ara Begum, Kalapara GTC (Electronics Engineer)
6. Ms. Hemani Chakma, Matiranaa GTC (Electronics Engineer)
7. Ms. Suraiya Paruin, Pirojpur GTC (Electronics Engineer)
8. Ms. Seema Akter, Mongla GTC, (Electrical Engineer)
9. Ms. Shuly Jahan, Pathargata GTC (Computer Engineer)
10. Ms. Reba Paul, Executive Secretary, BWP and Joint Secretary, BRES
11. Ms. Sabrina Shahbab, Grameen Shakti, HQ
12. Mr. Firoj Mollik, Gramneen Shakti HQ.
Objectives of GS women in energy network

- Capacity building
- Knowledge and experience sharing
- Fund raising
- Interaction between GTC women and national level women professionals in energy sector.
- Promote GTC women managers through linkage with SAWIE.
Gaps identified for GTC women officials:

- Need support for refresher trainings.
- Needs support for other technical trainings.
- Need support to entrepreneurs with tools and other accessories to repair SHSs.
- Survey on women technicians

A database of women officials and women technicians of GTCs of GS is under preparation.
GEN-Bangladesh has expressed to work with SAWIE jointly.
Consumers Round Table 2009: One Bulb matters

- Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BREC) facilitated the Consumers Round Table 2009 held on 7 April, 2009 organised by and ICEA (Improved Capacity for Energy Access) and USAID-Dhaka in which Ms. Farzana Hussain played an important role. She presented a paper on Energy and Cost Savings associated with Rural Demand Side Management in the seminar. The Team Leader Ms. Reba Paul of SAWIE Working Group on Renewable Energy/ Green Architecture was invited to attend the Round Table. The other women professionals in energy sector who attended the Round Table are:

1. Ms. Asma Khan, Executive Director, PSL
2. Dr. Tureen Afroz, Barrister-at-Law, Law Dev (Bangladesh) and Professor, BRAC University
3. Prof. Mahbuba Nasreen, Department of Sociology, Dhaka University
4. Ms. Parveen Sultana, Member, GEN-Bangladesh
5. Prof. Salma Mamtaz, Chittagong University
6. Ms. Aniqa Oishi, Legal Officer, Law Dev (Bangladesh)
7. Ms. Runu Khan, President, UBOMUS
8. Ms. Kelly D Hewitt, ICEA

The Sl No 2, 3 and 4 have joined SAWIE Working Group on Renewable Energy Technology/ Green Architecture.

The Round Table emphasized on formation of a single public utility regulatory commission (PURC) in the place of separate commissions for separate utility services to ensure better services to the public. Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) Chairman and former Finance Adviser, Government of Bangladesh Dr Akbar Ali Khan stressed on increasing public access to electricity and commented that electricity is more necessary than democracy for the people. “Because, development cannot take place without electricity and democracy is meaningless without development.”
Women when together, are powerful.
Thank you for your kind attention!