



Regional Quarterly Update – January to March 2008

The USAID/SARI/Energy program promotes energy security in South Asia through three activity areas:

- (1) Cross border energy trade,
- (2) Energy market formation, and
- (3) Regional clean energy development.

Through these activities SARI/Energy facilitates more efficient regional energy resource utilization; work towards transparent and profitable energy practices, mitigates the environmental impacts of energy production, and increases regional access to energy.

SARI/Energy countries include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. SARI/Energy Implementing Partners include PA Consulting Group (PA), The United States Energy Association (USEA) and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

SARI/Energy provides pre-feasibility studies, technical assistance, advisory services, training, peer exchanges, mapping and project development in each of the three core areas.

Energy Markets:

India – Global Energy Markets Trade Program

Feb 25 – 29, 2008. The training program focused on the key issues facing the global energy sector as it relates to South Asian economies. International trade of energy commodities, cross-border arrangements for energy services, pricing of energy commodities and services were explained based on fundamental cost economics of building energy infrastructure across the value chain from upstream oil and gas to end use. A team of thirty one executives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the USAID SARI/Energy core team and Country Coordinators (CCOs) attended the program. Enrollment in the program was limited to foster interaction and networking among energy sector professionals.

The program was inaugurated with a Welcome address by George Deikun, Mission Director, USAID, New Delhi followed by key note address by Steven White, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, New Delhi. This followed addresses by senior representatives from SARI/Energy countries.



The five-day program included:

Presentations by key instructors and invited guest speakers including key instructors:

- Dr. Mariano Gurfinkel, Senior Engineer and Associate Head, Center for Energy Economics, (CEE) University of Texas at Austin
- Dr. Gürcan Gülen, Senior Energy Economist, Center for Energy Economics, University of Texas at Austin
- Mr. William Dunn, Senior Advisor, Sunset Point LLC
- Regional Experts

South Asia Regional Energy Security Report Quarterly Discussion

PA conducted a roundtable discussion among USAID, CCOs, CEE, and Sunset Point staff on the first issue of the Energy Security Report on February 27th 2008. CEE presented the findings and methodology for determining energy security indicators, and the participants offered recommendations for the next report.

Global Energy markets Trade Program (II)

PA solicited feedback for the next GEMTP (II) program which will be held later in 2008. This next program will likely focus on electricity markets and regional electricity trade.

Outcome of the Programme: South Asian executives benefited from close interaction with instructors and industry experts, networking with other program delegates, and access to extensive program materials and reference manuals.



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Other SARI/Energy Activities:

Nepal Hydro Equity Fund

PA completed the draft offering memorandum and operational guidelines for the proposed Nepal Hydro Equity Fund. A presentation was made for USAID Nepal and the Clean Energy Development Bank, in Kathmandu. PA is currently finalizing the reports in anticipation of a 2nd quarter fund launch.

Regional Centre for Excellence in Energy Efficient Lighting

PA has developed a task order to establish a Regional Centre for Excellence in Energy Efficient Lighting in Colombo Sri Lanka, in conjunction with the Lighting Research Centre at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute New York. A field trip is planned in April to initiate the task order.

Bhutan wind and solar assessment and Geospatial Toolkit

NREL has commenced work on a Bhutan wind and solar assessment and geospatial toolkit. Subcontracts for conducting some aspects of both the wind and solar mapping have been issued. A detailed work plan and schedule has been developed, and communications with country partners have been initiated. The work is expected to be completed by September 30, 2008.

Afghanistan and Pakistan wind and solar data and maps for 2007

The wind and solar maps and data sets developed for Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2007 have been posted to the United Nations Environment Program's Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment Website at <http://www.swera.net>, in addition to the NREL and the SARI-Energy websites.

South Asia Regional Energy Security Quarterly Report

The first issue of Energy Security Quarterly Report has been released and circulated among USAID Country Coordinators and also handed over to the participants of Global Energy Markets Trade Program at New Delhi.

Updated SARI/Energy Program Brochure:

The new version is printed and circulated to all USAID SARI/Energy missions for local distribution. The same can also be viewed on the SARI/E website.

SARI/Energy Advisory Board Meeting:

SARI/Energy Advisory Board Meeting was held on 26th February 2008 at New Delhi, India .

SARI/Energy Country Coordinator's Meeting:

SARI/Energy Country Coordinators' meeting was held at New Delhi, India on 29 February 2008 to review status of current activities and brainstorm on activities for the next year.

SARI/Energy activities planned for 2008

Trivandrum, Kerala, India

Application Workshop on Efficient Energy Management and Renewable Energy for South Asian Women, April 21- 25, 2008.

USAID/SARI/Energy is organizing a five day women-specific Application Workshop on 'clean and efficient energy management' for the South Asian women. This will enable them to interact with women from other countries in the region and exchange ideas and transfer best practices in energy conservation and efficiency.

Nepal Hydro Equity Fund

Launch of the fund is expected during the 2nd quarter, PA will be providing experts to assist CEDB with the initial offering.

Global Energy Markets Trade Programme – II

The next GEMTP program is expected to concentrate on regional electricity markets and is currently under development considering the feedback and recommendations discussed in this program

Regional Centre for Excellence in Small Hydropower Development

PA will be developing a task order to consider the feasibility of promoting a Regional Centre for Excellence in Small Hydropower Development in Kathmandu Nepal.

United States

Executive Peer Exchange on the Use & Integration of Renewable Energy in the Power Sector, April 19-30, 2008. Executive from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka will meet in California, Colorado and Washington, D.C. with state and federal policymakers, regulatory agencies, and utilities to examine the use of renewable energy in the U.S. power sector market. The primary objectives of this meeting are



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to learn (1) government policies that promote renewable energy, (2) strategies and incentives for project financing, including credit guarantees and income tax provisions, (3) the use of portfolio standards to expand renewable energy deployment, and (4) to analyze commercially proven renewable energy technologies.

Australia

India & Sri Lanka Submarine Interconnection Task Forces Executive Exchange Visit of the Basslink Submarine Electricity Interconnection, May 5-9, 2008 Executives from India and Sri Lanka will travel to Australia to examine the HVDC link crossing Bass Strait, connecting the Loy Yang Power Station, Victoria on the Australian mainland to the George Town substation in northern Tasmania. Basslink is a monopolar HVDC operating at a nominal voltage of 400 kV DC. The nominal rating of the link is 500 MW although it is capable of transmitting 630 megawatts from George Town to Loy Yang for up to 6 hours. The cable has a 290 km underwater section. The Indian and Sri Lankan executives hope to learn technical and operational methods potentially applicable to the submarine interconnection electricity link planned between India and Sri Lanka.

Nepal

Workshop on India's Current Market Structure, June 2008. Executives from Nepal utilities, regulatory agencies and government will participate in a two-day workshop to review India's current electricity market structure and to discuss policies that may affect bilateral trading between India and Nepal. Presentations will be provided by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, National Thermal Power Corporation, and Power Grid Corporation of India.

Sri Lanka

Workshop on India's Current Market Structure, June 2008. Executives from Sri Lanka utilities, regulatory agencies and government will participate in a two-day workshop to review India's current electricity market structure and to discuss policies that may affect bilateral trading between India and Sri Lanka. Presentations will be provided by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, National Thermal Power Corporation, and Power Grid Corporation of India.

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