



Regional Quarterly Update – Jan – Mar 2009

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; works 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 support to partners and stakeholders on pre-feasibility studies, technical assistance, advisory services, training, peer exchanges, mapping and project development in each of the three core areas.

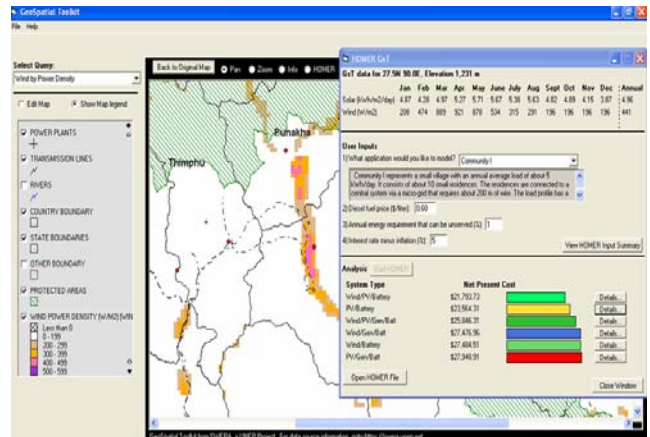
Pakistan Participation in Utility Placement Program

American Electric Power (AEP) hosted Mr. Saif Ullah, Engineering Adviser (Power) for the Government of Pakistan and Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan, Director (Hydel) of Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority January 12 – 23, 2009. AEP ranks among the largest generators of electricity in the U.S., owning nearly 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP also owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system. During the program, the delegates were exposed to AEP's environmental policy; sustainability practices; resource planning, load forecasting, acquisition strategies, etc. Besides, they had an extensive overview of AEP's commercial operations and market operations. AEP also introduced the executives to regulatory structures and market models and how they apply to the utility's operations. This experience led to an improved understanding of the processes involved in capacity acquisition and operations under today's more strenuous regulatory efficiency demands



Renewable Energy Development Training for Bhutan

The US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) rolled out a renewable energy development training program, held at Thimphu, Bhutan during March 31-April 3, 2009, building on the recently developed solar and wind resource data for the country. The workshop covered topics such as energy situation in Bhutan, the resources available to generate additional energy resources. NREL conducted this training workshop for policy makers, project developers and investors, and educators from both the public and private sectors. The workshop familiarized participants with renewable energy resources and technologies, hybrid power systems, and provided hands-on experience using Geospatial Toolkit and HOMER computer software for economic and performance evaluation of small power systems.



SARI/Energy Program Brochure

The updated SARI/Energy brochure is expected to be available and released during the 2nd quarter 2009. This brochure is a compilation of past and current SARI/Energy activities.

Afghanistan Power Sector Capacity Building Program

SARI/Energy, and PA staff, made several field trips to Kabul to finalize the upcoming Power Sector Capacity Building Program. USAID and the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) have agreed on an 18 month program of capacity building for the Afghanistan power sector. This initiative will draw upon best practices in electricity distribution in India and the rest of the South Asia (SA) region. The Program will have a broad range of capacity building activities, including: post-graduate course in energy management, post-graduate course in transmission and distribution, train-the-trainer courses for technicians and engineers, short term technical courses for technicians and engineers, distance learning, utility and regulatory institutional twinning activities, and a micro-hydro training exchange with Nepal. PA has begun planning the first few Programs, in conjunction with Indian institutions, and these are expected to begin in July 2009.

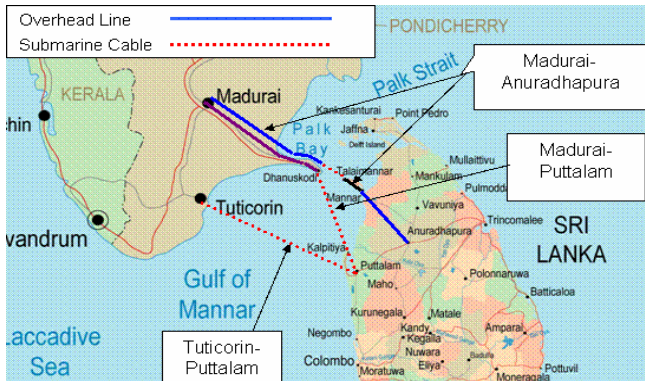


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SARI/Energy expects several hundred energy sector professionals to participate in a wide range of education, distance learning, and in-country training programs over the course of the next 18 to 24 months.

India - Sri Lanka Submarine Cable

SARI/Energy has initiated a system reliability study for CEB which will assess the system interconnection requirements to the India grid. PA will field a team to work with CEB and develop their capacity in simulation software and expertise. The study will be completed over the next 6 months.



CASA 1000 Pakistan Advisory Services

Work continues to support the Government of Pakistan on legal, financial, commercial, and technical issues surrounding the feasibility of the proposed project. PA and Hagler Bailly Pakistan staff have been working closely with the Ministry of Water and Power and NTDC to finalize the feasibility study.

Regional Centre for Excellence in Energy Efficient Lighting, Sri Lanka

USAID and the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) of Sri-Lanka have signed an MOU for long term cooperation in establishing this regional Centre. A business plan is now approved and SARI/Energy has begun providing technical assistance. SEA, the Lighting Research Centre of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and PA have begun preparations for the formal launch of the Center, together with organization of a regional workshop on Energy Efficiency Lighting in Colombo on 27-30, April 2009.

Regional Centre for Excellence in Micro-Hydropower, Nepal

SARI/Energy and the Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) have agreed on a work plan to establish this Centre in Kathmandu, Nepal. AEPC has assigned a Director for the Centre and PA is assisting with work plan development and a slate of upcoming activities.

Regional Centre for Excellence in Rural Electrification, Bangladesh

SARI/Energy, and PA staff, made field trips to Bangladesh to seek mutual cooperation on the establishment of a Regional Centre for Excellence for Rural Electrification. The Rural Electrification Board (REB) has tentatively agreed to explore the concept of establishing the Centre at REB. PA will now initiate the development of a work plan and business plan, in conjunction with REB

SARI/Energy Small Grants Program

The SARI/Energy small grants program is now up and fully operational with the current solicitation cycle posted on the SARI/Energy website. Initial solicitations have been received via the South Asia Women in Energy program. These applications were evaluated within the context of the small grants application process and several applications selected for approval and follow-up development. SARI/Energy encourages further applications from qualified entities who are eligible to apply for small grants and promote clean energy access.

South Asia Regional Energy Transmission Partnership Executive Exchange on the Cross Border Exchange of Electricity

USEA has organized an executive exchange as part of the Regional Energy Transmission Partnership, on March 30 – April 2, 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The executive exchange, focused on the exchange of electricity across borders, and included participation from ministry officials and transmission operators from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Key focus areas included the Nepal-India interconnection, the South African Power Pool, and the status of cross border trade of electricity in Central Asia.

Forthcoming SARI/Energy activities

Cross Border Trade Infrastructure

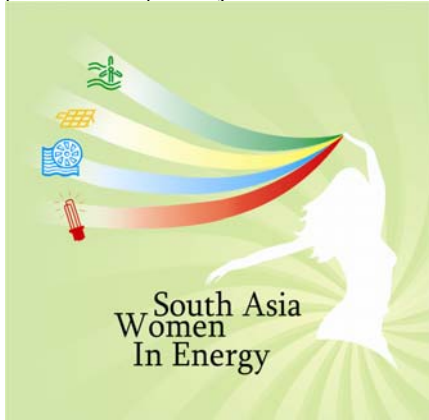
SARI/Energy continues to work on several cross border infrastructure projects, including: advisory services to Pakistan in support of the CASA 1000 High Voltage Transmission Project which will connect South Asia and Central Asia, a system reliability study for the Ceylon Electricity Board in support of the India – Sri-Lanka Submarine Cable Interconnection Project, and the determination of conducting a Submarine Cable Interconnection Pre-Feasibility Study for the Maldives. In addition, SARI/Energy continues to promote regional cooperation in clean coal technologies and the establishment of energy markets as a vehicle to encourage investment in cross border infrastructure.



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Peer Exchange Program South Asia Women in Energy 12-19, May 2009, USA

USEA is organizing the third meeting of the South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE), May 12 – 19, 2009 in Washington, D.C. The executive exchange, involving all eight of the SARI/Energy countries, will focus on efficient energy management and renewable energy directed towards better equipping South Asian women with the required skills to meet the challenges of limited access of energy resources to rural women and to improve their role as contributors to family subsistence. SAWIE hopes to expose participants to best approaches in energy conservation and energy efficiency used in the U.S. for application in the region. USEA has recruited a wide range of energy sector professionals, primarily Women, for this most prestigious event.



The South Asia Energy Daily Online News Roundup

USEA distributes a daily bulletin of energy-related news from the SARI/Energy countries, along with notices of SARI/Energy activities and special events. The bulletin is distributed via email and includes web links to related articles. **To receive the South Asia Energy Daily Online News Roundup contact:** sarienews@usea.org

Contacts for SARI/ENERGY:

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Mr. S. Padmanaban - spadmanaban@usaid.gov

DEPUTY PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Mr. Chinmaya Acharya - cacharya@usaid.gov

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

Ms. Mercy Thomas - methomas@usaid.gov

COUNTRY COORDINATORS:

1. Afghanistan – Mr. Abdul Rasool Wardak - RWardak@usaid.gov
2. Bangladesh – Mr. A.K.D. Sher Mohammad Khan - sher khan@usaid.gov
3. Bhutan - Mr. Chinmaya Acharya - cacharya@usaid.gov
4. India - Mr. Chinmaya Acharya - cacharya@usaid.gov
5. Maldives - Ms. Peiris Salma- speiris@usaid.gov / Mr. Timothy Ong - tong@usaid.gov
6. Nepal – Mr. Shankar Khagi - skhagi@usaid.gov
7. Pakistan - Mr. Syed Farrukh Hussain - sfhussain@dsl.net.pk
8. Sri Lanka – Ms. Peiris Salma- speiris@usaid.gov / Mr. Timothy Ong - tong@usaid.gov

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

1. PA Consulting Group – Mr. Michael Ellis – Chief of Party - Michael.ellis@paconsulting.com
2. U.S. Energy Association – Mr. John Hammond - Program Manager - JHammond@usea.org
3. National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Ms. Shannon Cowlin - Project Manager, Shannon_Cowlin@nrel.gov

For more information: www.sari-energy.org