



Regional Quarterly Update – Oct - Dec 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; 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.

Second Application Workshop on Renewable Energy and Efficient Energy Management - South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE II)

The second women specific workshop on Renewable Energy and Efficient Energy Management was organized by PA Consulting Group and co-sponsored by Bangladesh Renewable Energy Association (BREA) and UNDP in Dhaka was attended by delegates of all eight (8) SARI/Energy countries i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The workshop was held for three days from 17-19 November 2008 had a good turn around of approx 50-60 people including participants and resource persons. During the first SAWIE workshop held at Kerala, Trivandrum in April 2008, four working sub committees have been formed to deal with various issues on efficient energy management and promotion of renewable energy with an objective to mainstream women in the energy sector.

The group works are as follows:

- ◆ Gender streamlining and gender auditing
- ◆ Renewable energy technology and green architecture
- ◆ Micro finance and income generation
- ◆ Capacity building, best practices and information sharing

The objective of the second workshop was to carry forward the initiatives developed in the first workshop.

There were working group presentations by the working group leaders. Various presentations were delivered, including the best practices of Grameen Shakti where significant empowerment of women was evident. The role of local government in promoting renewable energy, energy efficient lighting, green architecture, and CDM financing were other interesting papers presented during the technical sessions. At the closing session, each working group presented their individual action plans for Jan to June 2009, and their progress will be presented in next workshop



Nepal Social Merchant Bank Model Reconnaissance Study

The reconnaissance study was completed by S3IDF and their local partners in Nepal. The study has validated the application of the S3IDF social merchant bank model in Nepal, and the final report is now posted on the SARI/Energy web site.

SARI/Energy Program Brochure

PA is updating the SARI/Energy Program Brochure which would highlight the events of 2008. This is expected to be published by the beginning of 2009.



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India-Afghanistan High Level Power Sector Exchange Program for Capacity Building

SARI/Energy hosted a high level power sector delegation from Afghanistan to visit India during the period Nov 30 to Dec 7, 2008. The purpose of this trip was to meet and discuss with the leading power sector institutions to explore the areas of mutual cooperation towards capacity building in Afghan power sector institutions through experience sharing, and technical exchange.



SARI/Energy and ENERGIA sign a Memorandum of Understanding promoting Women-in-Energy.

SARI/Energy and Energia signed a MOU promoting Women in Energy. The MOU has been designed to promote women in energy programs and mainstreaming policies and applications. UN-ESCAP sponsored the ENERGIA High Level Regional Policy Meeting on Networking towards Gender and Poverty Sensitive Policies, November 3-4, 2008 at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand. Culminating the program was a formal signing of the Memorandum between ENERGIA, represented by Ms. Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGIA International Secretariat; Ms. Beth Hogan, Deputy Mission Director USAID New Delhi, and Michael Ellis, Chief-of-Party for SARI/Energy. As noted in the MOU: "This MoU is intended to provide the Parties with a general framework and a guiding tool in identifying and carrying out specific collaborative projects and activities. ENERGIA brings an established regional network of women professionals and, complimented by the resources of SARI/Energy, will significantly enhance the ability of each organization to reach out to Women in the region."



Nepal Hydro Equity Fund Launch

The Clean Energy Development Bank (CEDB Nepal) has launched the "Nepal Small Hydro Fund" to support private sector financial institutions to enable investment in small and medium-sized hydropower projects in Nepal. USAID provided technical assistance, under the SARI/Energy program, to establish the framework for the Rs. 300 million hydropower deposit fund. The fund was launched November 24th 2008 and the full Rs 300 million was subscribed with a few weeks of the launch.



SARI/Energy Website

The SARI-Energy Website (<http://www.sari-energy.org>) is continuously updated to include the latest information on all of SARI-Energy's many events. Training programs have individual pages that include presentations and other material presented during the program, photo galleries, participant lists and other useful information. These pages can be accessed directly at www.sari-energy.org/PageFiles/What_We_Do/www_Training.asp. The SARI-Energy website is always changing to include more information to serve the needs of the South Asian energy sector and to provide information on the important work in that region to the rest of the world.

In this quarter dedicated web pages were created for the SAWIE Second Application Workshop on Efficient Energy Management and Renewable Energy in Dhaka, Bangladesh November 17-19,

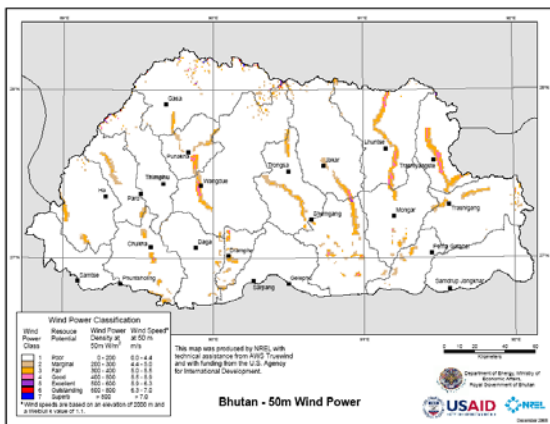
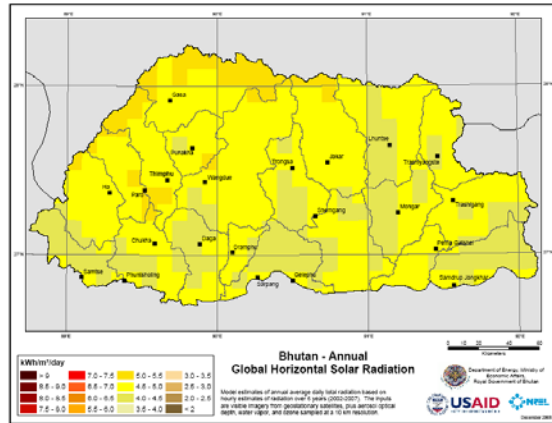


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2008; the Executive Exchange on Coordinated Cross Border Transmission of Electricity – an Examination of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium September 22-26, 2008; and the Regional Clean Coal Partnership Program (RCCPP) in Kolkata, India September 16-19, 2008. Additionally, the photo gallery tab of the navigation tabs at the top of the entire website was populated with links to photo galleries of past activities and a new link was created in the Energy Links tab in the Other Regional Energy Partners section to link Energia's website to the SARI-Energy website.

Solar and Wind Resource Assessment for Bhutan

The US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory has finalized maps of the solar and wind resources available in Bhutan. These results were developed using numerical models combined with satellite and other weather data by NREL partner agencies State University of New York at Albany and AWS True wind. The final results have been validated by NREL resource assessment experts. These products will increase understanding of wind and solar resources available in Bhutan for off-grid and grid-tied applications. These data are also the basis for a Geospatial Toolkit (GsT) for Bhutan, which allows policy makers, developers, and others to investigate the wind and solar resources in relation to other geospatially relevant features. The GsT also links the solar and wind resource data to HOMER, NREL's micro power optimization model. The data and tools will serve as the basis for a NREL-led training event to be held next year with Bhutanese stakeholders.



India - Sri Lanka Submarine Cable

SARI/Energy held meetings with the Ceylon Electricity Board and refined the system stability study that SARI/Energy will be supporting the first quarter 2009.



CASA 1000 Pakistan Advisory Services

SARI/Energy continues to provide advisory services to the Government of Pakistan for technical, financial, and legal matters pertaining to the design and operation of the proposed HVDC transmission system linking Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Regional Centre for Excellence in Energy Efficient Lighting, Sri Lanka

SARI/Energy held meetings with the Sustainable Energy Authority (Sri-Lanka) in order to develop and refine the workplan for establishing the Centre.



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Forthcoming SARI/Energy activities

SARI/Energy continues to implement the aforementioned programs and provide regular updates via the daily news roundup and quarterly reports. Coming soon will be a Business Opportunities section of the web site which will list various opportunities for services to SARI/Energy.

Regulatory and Policy Framework for Market Development for Renewable Energy

PA will facilitate (8) delegates, 2 each from Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka to attend the two day Regulatory and Policy Framework for Market Development for Renewable Energy program conducted by World Institute of Sustainable Energy (WISE) in Trivandrum India, 15-16 January 2009.

Pakistan Participation in Utility Placement Program

As part of a new SARI/Energy capacity building program designed to improve the technical and managerial skills of professional staff in South Asian utilities, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will be hosting Mr. Nisar Akhtar, Deputy Manager and Mr. Shahbaz Ahmed, Assistant Manager of Pakistan's National Transmission and Dispatch Centre, January 12 – 23, 2009 to study BPA's transmission system planning and operations. During this same timeframe, American Electric Power (AEP) will be hosting 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. AEP will be sharing their experience in capacity acquisition and planning.

Clean Energy Applications (CEA) Workshops

USEA will be conducting Clean Energy Applications (CEA) Workshops in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in February – March 2009. The focus of each workshop will be to examine policy & regulatory issues, technology and market development involved in clean energy applications. Presentations would address the role of demand side management, energy conservation and renewable energy to maximize economic efficiency of assets and to promote the utilization of alternative energy sources.

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

For more information: www.sari-energy.org

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