



## Regional Quarterly Update – April to June 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.

### Application Workshop on Efficient Energy Management and Renewable Energy.

21 - 25, April, Kerala, India

PA Consulting Group organized a five day workshop on clean and efficient energy management for South Asian women, in knowledge partnership with the Energy Management Center (EMC) of Kerala. SARI/Energy sponsored this workshop as a first-of-its-kind event to bring together women energy professionals from the SARI/E region.



The workshop provided female energy professionals from the region, an opportunity to exchange ideas and share best practices in energy conservation and efficiency. Participants learnt methods for providing low cost efficient energy to the urban and rural poor, with a specific focus on women because of their unique role in the household energy sector. The workshop was organized to achieve the following objectives:-

- Equip the women representatives from South Asia with the necessary skills and knowledge of efficient energy management at household and community level.
- Familiarize the women on best practices in energy efficiency and energy conservation especially for household gadgets, and using those in the right methods to reduce energy wastage.
- Introduce them to renewable energy applications (solar cooker, solar lighting etc.)
- Encourage these women in maintaining sustainability and strengthen them in income generation activities
- Familiarize the women in enhancing their social status, women empowerment, and their role 'as agents of change'

**Outcomes of the Workshop:** Four working groups were formed with participants from the South Asia region led by a team leader, in four core areas identified by the participants viz. Renewable Energy Technologies/Green Architecture; Gender Streamlining/ Gender Auditing; Microfinance/Income Generation; and Capacity Building/Best Practices/Information Sharing. A women network is formed i.e. 'South Asia Women In Energy (SAWIE) to take the momentum forward. A follow up workshop of the SAWIE is planned to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in November 2008.





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### Executive Peer Exchange on the Use & Integration of Renewable Energy in the Power Sector April 21- 30, 2008, USA

Under the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/Energy) Partnership Program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), eleven executives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka met in the U.S, April 21 – 30, 2008 to review the use and integration of renewable energy in the U.S. power sector. During the eight-day exchange, the South Asian delegates visited with representatives from state and federal government agencies and advocacy organizations to discuss government policies, strategies and incentives for project financing, and the use of portfolio standards to expand renewable energy deployment, as well as commercially proven renewable energy technologies.



#### Outcomes of the Exchange:

The SARI/Energy executives will be able to apply numerous lessons-learned in the process of moving to a electricity market that encourages development of renewable power. The executive exchange provided models on regulation of renewable energy, technology applications such as small-scale grid-tied PV systems, financial strategies including tax incentives, and strategies for formulating energy security that incorporate renewable energy.



### Sri Lanka Submarine Interconnection Task Force Sri Lanka Submarine Interconnection Task Force Executive Exchange Visit of the Basslink Interconnection

#### May 5 – 9, 2008, Australia

Under the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/Energy) Partnership Program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), five members of the Sri Lanka Submarine Interconnection Steering Committee and Task Force traveled to Australia May 5 – 9, 2008 to examine the Basslink interconnection between Victoria and Tasmania states. The visit was conducted to facilitate the ongoing efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka on the implementation of the India –Sri Lanka electricity interconnection.

Recent feasibility studies carried out under SARI/Energy, point to the potential for a short term link of 500MW and a medium and long term link of 1000MW between the two countries. It is expected that there are significant benefits to both India and Sri Lanka through such power exchanges using an interconnection. It is against this backdrop that the technical visit of the Australian electricity interconnection was arranged. The proposed interconnection includes a 185km 400kV HVDC overhead line from Madurai to Rameshwaran on the Indian Sea Coast, a 50 km 400kV HVDC cable from the Indian Sea Coast to Thalaimannar on the Sri Lankan Sea Coast, and a 150km 400kV HVDC overhead line from the Sri Lankan Sea Coast to Anuradhapura. The tentative total cost for the project is US \$430 million



#### Outcomes of the Exchanges:

The Sri Lankan Steering Committee & Task Forces discussed the technicalities of construction and operation issues of a submarine cable, cable failures and repairs; procedures of the transmission system operator; and the policy development and oversight of the cross-border



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connection. This exchange led to an improved understanding of the processes involved in forming a submarine interconnection and provided application to the planned interconnection between India and Sri Lanka. The delegates gained insight on the various risks such as construction risk, operating risk and market risk and allocation of such risks to various parties through contracts. Specific recommendations included the importance of a strong regulatory framework and detailed agreements to ensure successful implementation of a regional electricity interconnection

### SARI/Energy Annual Report

SARI/Energy completed its first year of operation and issued the Annual Report of accomplishments to USAID.

### Nepal Hydro Equity Fund

PA is currently finalizing the legal framework documents in conjunction with the Clean Energy Development Bank in anticipation of a 3rd quarter fund launch.

### Regional Centre for Excellence in Energy Efficient Lighting

PA, along with staff from the Lighting Research Center Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) conducted a week long field trip to Colombo to meet with stakeholders and define the establishment of a Regional Centre for Excellence in Energy Efficient Lighting in Colombo Sri Lanka. The outcome will be a recommended structure and implementation framework for the center.

### Forthcoming SARI/Energy activities

#### Signing of MOU between USAID and Royal Government of Bhutan, July 10, 2008

An MOU will be signed between USAID/SARI/Energy and the Royal Government of Bhutan to implement Solar and Wind Resource Assessment Project in Bhutan. The signing is scheduled to be held in Thimphu on July 10, 2008 by the USAID/India Director, and Department of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan. This Project will help Bhutan to identify and obtain wind and solar measurement data.

#### Electricity Markets Development Program (EMDP) - August 5 - 22, 2008, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

Following the successful GEMTP I, PA has designed to implement a follow-up training program to familiarize key stakeholders in SARI/Energy member countries with electricity markets. The program will be presented in a

phased approach to account for the varying state of electricity markets throughout the region. The goal of each phase is to present electricity market principles, best practices, and relevant case studies to the stakeholder group. This program will support initiatives to address these issues both by country and regionally. The 1<sup>st</sup> program is scheduled in Nepal from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Aug'08, followed by similar program in Bangladesh from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Aug'08 and then at Sri Lanka from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug'08. The knowledge partner of this program is Energy Market Group (EMG), USA. The last day program at Nepal and Sri Lanka will however be focused on Current Status of the Indian Electricity Market, organized by USEA.

#### Regional Clean Coal Partnership in South Asia. September 16-19, 2008, Kolkata, India

The objective of this program is to conduct an initial workshop to establish of Regional Clean Coal Partnership (RCCP) in the South Asia. The Workshop would be for duration of four days and will include presentations on relevant topics facing the coal industry today and two days site visit wherein all the participants would be visiting to Dhanbad, which boasts of both premier Coal institution of the country i.e Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI) & Central Mining Research Institute (CMRI). The program is scheduled to be organized in Kolkata, India from 16th to 19th Sept'08

#### CASA 1000 Pakistan Advisory Services

PA developed a task order to assist the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with evaluation of the proposed CASA 1000 high voltage transmission project from Central Asia. Pending consensus among stakeholders, PA plans to initiate this work in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2008.

#### Transferability of Merchant Bank Model

PA has an approved task order to investigate the transferability of the S3IDF Merchant Bank Model for small scale renewable energy to Nepal. Our knowledge partner, S3IDF, plans to initiate work in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2008.

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