



ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE IN COLD REGIONS

LADAKH - APRIL 2009

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REGIONAL SEMINAR

Meeting the challenge of development in energy-related projects and climate change adaptation strategies: Impacts and best practises in cold regions of Asia

CONTEXT

Populations of high altitude mountains and cold desert areas of Asia face very harsh living conditions and are among the most vulnerable in the world. Physically isolated, marginalised, with limited access to natural resources, an important number of people still rely on traditional energy resources -mainly biomass- which sometimes leads to the deterioration of this fragile environment.

Beside preservation of the environment, access to sustainable energy-providing services is a critical factor in achieving major development goals: it provides better education and health services, improves women life conditions, helps the development of economic activities, increases agriculture productivity, etc.

Mountain areas are also particularly affected by climate change as relatively small changes in temperatures have severe impacts on water supply, agriculture-based livelihoods and infrastructures. Thus, addressing issues concerning adaptation strategy choices has become a primary objective for mountain populations.



For these reasons, energy as well as climate change issues have to play a particular role within development strategies and this requires active synergies between the public, local community, private and non-governmental actors. But as mountain ranges frequently act as natural borders, and are often shared between countries, if successful experiences do exist, exchange of information and networking between countries is very poor. Transnational exchange of knowledge is then particularly relevant for up-scaling best practices.

OBJECTIVE OF THE SEMINAR

To share successful experiences, best practices and policies concerning social, economical and environmental impacts of energy-related projects and adaptation to climate change in cold areas of Asia.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- To gather best case-studies and lessons learned.
- To discuss impacts on economic, social and environmental dimensions of local livelihoods.
- To identify dissemination processes for best methodologies and the conditions needed for scaling-up mechanisms.
- To develop experience-sharing among key players (donors/investors, private sector, NGOs, local communities; governments and multi/bilateral organizations) and initiate a community of practice.



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TARGETED COUNTRIES

Nepal, Bhutan, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

PROGRAM

The seminar will be held from 21 to 24 April 2009 in Leh (Ladakh, India) in a unique environment at 3,500 m above sea level in the Transhimalaya. It will consist of three days of working sessions and a one-day field visit. The sessions will include plenary presentations of recognized international experts and working groups on topics mentioned in the three following sections.

I. IMPACTS OF ENERGY PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

1. Decentralised Rural Electrification
2. Energy and Agriculture
3. Energy and Productive Activities
4. Energy in Public Building
5. Energy and Household

II. ADAPTATION STRATEGIES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Climate Change and Natural Resources
2. Climate Change and Livelihood
3. Resilience to Extreme Weather Events

III. FINANCING ISSUES

1. Role and experiences of financing institutions in the implementation of energy-related development projects
2. Role of carbon market in catalyzing revenues for clean energy investments
3. Role of civil society in capitalizing the carbon market

PAPERS

Contributions should be sent by email at: info.india@geres.eu until Monday 16 February 2009.

PRE-REGISTRATION

For people interested in attending the seminar, pre-registration will be received until Monday 16 February 2009.



CONTACTS

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