KERALA DECLARATION 25TH APRIL 2008
USAID - SARIE : WOMEN IN ENERGY APPLICATION

WORKSHOP ON
EFFICIENT ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

1. `Women in Energy' is the outcome of an understanding of the urgent need for the active participation and leadership of women in the field of energy. This has led to an application Workshop on efficient energy management and renewable energy during 21st to 25th April 2008 with the knowledge partnership of Energy Management Centre – Kerala. The workshop was based on the awareness that empowering women in efficient use of energy leads to improvement of quality of life, empowerment of the family and eventually leading to a sustainable socio economic order.

2. The programme aims at addressing the key thrust areas which needs attention in the South Asia under the leader ship of USAID / SARIE Programme - creating networks, advocating best policies and energy conservation measures.

3. The constraints in South Asian countries are several and one of them is the inability of programmes to reach out to women.

4. Innovative methods through social transformations to reach out to women and to build their capacities to implement sustainable energy efficiency and renewable energy programme need to be prioritised.

5. Supplementing the gender mainstreaming as one of the key activities can be taken up as a major step in Women in Energy programme.

6. The economic constraints have been identified as one of the major areas and this has to be addressed at country specific level.

7. Innovative financing methods such as "supply merchant model" may be reviewed.

8. Setting up an effective networking platform is one of the thrust areas.

9. Decentrailised planning and implementation is an acceptable method in our countries. The platform of USAID / SARIE can help in developing a platform for policy framework towards adopting decentrailised planning in the countries where there is no existing policy framework. Involving various stakeholders such as policy-makers, economic decision-makers, administrators and students are found to be essential.

10. Developing multi functional platforms and using high-end technologies which were proven to be successful need to be adopted in our countries ensuring the involvement of women from the design to implementation stage of the projects.

11. The capacity building of women, as participants, trainers, managers and leaders in projects need to be ensured.

12. Implementing the successful models such as Kudumbashree or similar ones in our countries may be a right step in empowering women in energy.

13. Developing dynamic performance indicators to evaluate our Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects has to be developed.

14. Institutes specializing in energy efficiency and conservation to train and certify women engaged in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects. The platform can also initiate recognising women through energy efficiency and energy conservation awards.

15. Documentation of the projects has been found to be lacking in some areas. The platform will give the necessary impetus to document the projects undertaken in the field of women in energy.

16. Energy efficiency need to be addressed as a major area which calls for initiating steps to sensitise women in our countries. The activities like 'energy clinic' in Kerala can be replicated in our countries with the active support of Energy Management Centre – Kerala.

17. There is a need for creating participatory forums of regulations and enabling provisions within the overall public finance management domain.

18. Commitment is the key to success to any energy initiative or social initiative programme. We, as representative of women in their respective countries hereby stay committed to provide the leadership in the Women In Energy programme.

19. This declaration lists down the following points in the Way Forward in Women in Energy In SAARC countries

19.1 Institutes specializing in energy efficiency and conservation to train and certify women experts – this training will include study tours, onsite training etc.

19.2 Honouring best energy efficiency and energy conservation awards for women

19.3 Disseminating information, supporting training, documenting and rewarding best practices

19.4 Using high-end technology to develop multi functional platform and involving women in designing such technologies

19.5 Dynamic database of best practices will be shared

19.6 Decentralized Planning and Implementation of the legal frameworks to support and institutionalise

19.7 Projects and programmes shall be periodically reviewed, subjected to performance evaluation in terms of following bench marks:

19.7.1 Commitment : leadership and performance indicators

19.7.2 Capacities : training, knowledge sharing and networking

19.7.3 Communication and visibility : knowledge management and outreach

19.7.4 Resources aligned with national policy commitments

19.7.5 Strengthening of Regional Coordination, Studies and Surveys

19.8 A network involving women in various cross section of society such as professional women, women in working class and unorganised sector, housewives, NGO's and other organizations may be established to facilitate women's access to energy information and education, including in the areas of science, technology and economics

19.9 Institutionalising training in energy and environment

19.10 Resource compendium documenting successful initiatives and best practices on women in energy and environment may be prepared and disseminated, periodically

19.11 Information and experience sharing on following areas, focusing on Women in Energy and Environment

19.11.1 Existing policies

19.11.2 Fiscal incentives for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency products.

19.11.3 Energy Audits.

19.11.4 Strategies

19.11.5 Regulatory frameworks

19.11.6 Technology

19.11.7 Environmental / ecological issues

19.11.8 Current and future programmes, projects and initiatives

19.11.9 Micro Credit Operations- Micro Finance

19.11.10 Individual Social responsibilities

19.12 Involve women at all levels of policy-making, planning and implementation in

19.12.1 Energy efficient building concept programme. Green Architecture, Building materials and techniques.

19.12.2 Social merchant bank model approach to women in energy programmes.

19.12.3 Biomass projects, individual and community based

19.12.4 Sustainable harvesting of biomass.

19.12.5 Labelling of Energy efficient equipments and appliances

19.12.6 Energy efficient labelling

19.13 Life style related energy requirement of women has to be assessed and to be implemented

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