African Energy Commission (AFREC)

AFREC Presentation to the UPDEA Working Group on Rural Electrification Fund Initiative

AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
12 - 13 September 2005

Web site AFREC  www.afrecenergy.org
Rural Electrification is a Human Rights Issue in Africa!!
Benefits of Rural Electrification to Africa:

- Achieving Sustainable Development
- Eradicating Poverty
- Empowering Women
- Mitigating Social Tensions and Civil Conflicts
Maximization of System Reliability and Interconnections:

- Interconnecting various generation sites with load centers;
- Enhancing operating flexibility;
- Protecting and maximizing systems reliability;
- Improving systems efficiency;
- Reducing or eliminating power congestion;
- Minimizing (or deferring) the need for new units; and
- Introducing pre-paid billing system
Cost Reduction Techniques

- Simplifying wiring codes.
- Using load limiters (circuit breakers).
- Usage of cheaper transmission poles.
- Standardization of equipment.
- Involving local people in construction.
- Government intervention.
Successful International Practices:

- **Thailand**: through “Provincial Electricity Authorities”.

- **Costa Rica**: through “Rural Cooperatives”.

- **United States**: through “Regulatory Regimes”.

- **India**: through “Cross Subsidization Schemes”.

- **Pakistan**: through “Electric Communities”.

- **Sudan**: through “One Thousand Solar Villages Project”.
Reasons of Success:

• Strong motivation and determination,
• Wise public leadership,
• Growing public demand,
• Highly strengthened financial backing, and
• Regulations and mandates.
The African Experience:

- Weak political will,
- Unbalanced development strategies,
- High cost of systems,
- Deficiency of technology and technical skills, and
- Mismanagement in electric power utilities.
Basic Framework for Effective Rural Electrification Program:

- Create conducive environment;
- Develop policy and regulatory frameworks;
- Highlight the macro-economic impacts;
- Strive for good governance in electric power sector;
- Promote integrated regional strategies;
- Work cooperatively with private and foreign sectors;
- Promote targeted joint public-private ventures;
- Apply cross-subsidy schemes;
- Mandate the rural electrification;
- Promote sustainable development; and
- Foster trust between public and private sectors.
AFREC Rural Electrification Program

Soft Programs:

- Promote policies for partnership.
- Launch awareness campaign.
- Develop strategies with RECs, Power Pools, and UPDEA.
- Highlight rural electrification as a human rights issue.
Hard Programs:

- Identify certain projects for implementation
- Publish a guideline for electric utilities
- Create observatory mechanism for follow-up
- Assemble international partners and donors
- Design academic training courses
Let’s Stop the Talking and Walk the Walking
Thanks for your kind attention

Le Siège de l’Afrec
02, Rue Chenoua, Bp 791, Hydra, Alger, Algérie.
Tel : +213 21694868 Fax : +21321692083 Emai : afrienergy@yahoo.com SitWeb: www.afrecenergy.org