African Energy Commission (AFREC)

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

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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 srategies,
- 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.

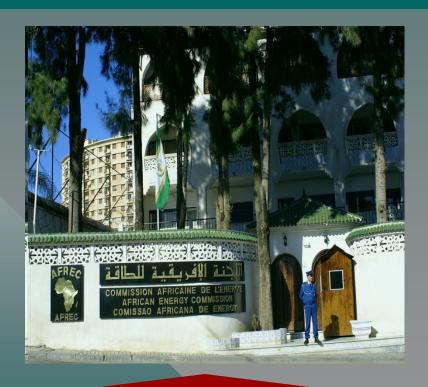
Hard Programs:

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- 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