

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**

AFREC



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



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