

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

Newsletter for **INFORSE** International Network for Sustainable Energy.

No. 26, August 1999



**Who's Who at
INFORSE ?**

**New Projects in
South Africa**

**Solar Lantern -
Woman Entrepreneur**

**Call for inputs on:
Climate, CSD9, WEA**

Contact List '99 (excl. Europe)

Sustainable Energy News

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is a worldwide NGO network formed at the Global Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 1992.

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Photo on the front page:

Light in one of the many homes
from solar power in South Africa.
Photo by SOLCEN.
See article on pages 7-8.

Global Leadership in Sustainable Energy



There is strong need for leadership in sustainable energy - a need for "Global Leadership". Time is passing without the necessary steps being taken for large-scale implementation of renewable energy and energy conservation on a global scale involving developed and developing countries.

It is our task from the sustainable-energy communities to motivate climate-progressive governments to establish this global leadership: to establish "The Global Coalition for Sustainable Energy".

Experience in Denmark indicates that, by creating a strong and positive dynamic for renewable energy and for energy conservation, you can overcome the often negative and defensive discussion of climate protection. We know all too well how the climate protection decisions in the UN Climate Convention context are blocked by the much-too-strong fossil-fuel and nuclear-energy lobbies. We shall not let these conservative forces stop us, but rather, we shall create our positive momentum for sustainable energy solutions.

The "schedule" of the global leadership-initiative could include elements such as:

- Establishing the first group of "Global Leadership" nations in 1999. Gradually, the leadership group will be expanded to include still more nations in "The Global Coalition for Sustainable Energy".
- In 1999, a group of nations creates a task force to implement the goal of deriving 10% of the world's electricity consumption from wind energy.

- In year 2000, the large scale "Solar Energy to the People Programme" is to be launched, with the goal of making PV the lowest-cost, most effective energy source within 10 years. This will be the new "man to the moon programme". A group of nations, multinationals, science institutions, and others will set up the task force to do the job.

- At CSD9 in 2001, The Global Coalition will launch their "Solar Energy to the World Programme" with the goal of covering 1% more every year of the world's energy consumption with renewables - involving large-scale implementation schemes in the context of the World Bank, UNDP, and GEF, as well as establishing global resource centres for wind energy, solar energy, biomass energy, end-user energy-efficiency, etc.

The list could be supplemented with a number of other relevant activities.

The Forum for Energy and Development (FED) will now take steps to raise the question of "Global Leadership" to the Danish Government, administration, and parliament to motivate the Danish government to be involved in creating a new Global Leadership on Sustainable Energy. Secondly, the FED will raise the question of Global Leadership in relation to other NGO's on the international scene, including the INFORSE members.

If you have ideas and points of view on this issue, don't hesitate to contact me and the FED-Secretariat with your comments. We need all good input.

Hans Bjerregaard
Chairman of the board of FED

INFORSE Coordinators' Meeting '99 October 18-22, Denmark



Ideas, comments, and proposals are invited from INFORSE members for the coming Coordinators' meeting in Denmark. On the agenda of the meeting will be:

- Development of the network, including a discussion of the future of the network and appointment of national focal points.
- INFORSE activities directed towards the UN, in particular towards the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Climate Convention (UNFCCC), and the Commission for Sustainable Development's Session on energy (CSD9).
- Funding for NGO energy activities, including the INFORSE South-South-North fund and INFORSE activities to

attract more external donors for sustainable energy activities.

- Strengthening of regional activities, including further outreach in French and Spanish.
 - Global INFORSE campaigns.
- The meeting will take place in Copenhagen and at the Danish Folkecenter for Renewable Energy.

Proposals and ideas for the meeting should be sent to the INFORSE Secretariat (see page no. 2) and must be received no later than October 1. Proposals should be marked "For Coordinators' Meeting '99" and preferably sent by e-mail to inforse@inforse.org with a copy to the nearest coordinator.

New INFORSE e-mail and website

INFORSE is moving to a new internet domain, from "inforse.dk" to "inforse.org", and is improving its website. The new e-mail addresses are already operational:

"inforse@inforse.org" for the Secretariat; "ove@inforse.org" for Sustainable Energy News and INFORSE-Europe.

A number of the people at the INFORSE Secretariat will also have personal e-mail addresses. The new website at "www.inforse.org" will be fully operational within the next few months.

WEA - World Energy Assessment and INFORSE

By Gunnar B. Olesen, INFORSE

INFORSE will use the opportunities to comment on the WEA - World Energy Assessment. This July, the first draft was reviewed by Raymond Myles and by the INFORSE Secretariat. In the comment from the INFORSE Secretariat, the first draft of the WEA is criticised for a number of reasons, e.g., because it does not address the problems of nuclear power adequately.

While the first period for commenting was too short to involve more INFORSE member organisations, interested members are encouraged to take part in the continuing process to develop the WEA. Consultations with NGOs are being planned by the WEA Secretariat, and it welcomes information on events that could serve as a framework for this. The next meeting of the WEA Advisory Panel is planned for January, 2000.

The comments from INFORSE are available on request from the Secretariat, e-mail: ove@inforse.org.

Information on the WEA is also available from:

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World Energy Assessment (WEA) Input for CSD 9

By Raymond Myles, INFORSE Regional Coordinator for South Asian Region

In 1997, the Special Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGASS) convened to review progress on Agenda 21. It recognized energy as an issue of great importance in achieving sustainable development objectives, and decided that the Ninth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD9), in 2001, should focus on energy.

As a way to inform discussion and debate about sustainable energy, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the World Energy Council (WEC, which represents the fuels and electricity industries) have initiated the World Energy Assessment (WEA). The WEA will provide an evaluation of the social, economic, environmental, and security issues linked to energy and of the compatibility of different energy options with objectives in these areas. The report will address the linkages between energy and major global issues, such as the economy, social issues, environment, and security. It will also review the state of current energy resources, discuss technology options for a sustainable future, and provide an analysis of various potential energy scenarios. Lastly, it will offer a discussion on policy options to bring about a sustainable future. The report will be distributed widely prior to the CSD9 process. It will be offered as an informal input to CSD9 and to the "Rio Plus Ten" meeting the following year.

The Advisory Panel on WEA, which I have been invited to join, held its first meeting on July 12 and 13, 1999 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Advisory Panel conveys editorial input from a broad range of stakeholders in various aspects of energy. I have also agreed to serve as an expert peer reviewer for the first draft of the assessment report.

Desertification

COP 3 in November in Brazil

INFORSE Input

The INFORSE Secretariat continues to follow activities concerning the relationship between sustainable energy development and desertification, in close co-operation with Enda-tm and in accordance with the revised INFORSE Action Plan for 1999. The Secretariat and Enda-tm are preparing documentation and dissemination plans for 'Experiences with Sustainable Energy to Combat Desertification' which is expected to be presented during the Conference of Parties, COP 3, in November 15-27, in Brazil. Other INFORSE input will be distributed as an English/French section in the next issue of Sustainable Energy News, which will be distributed at the event as well.

More Northern NGOs

One of the clear messages from the Southern NGOs participating in COP 2 of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was that more Northern NGOs should get involved in the UNCCD effort.

The representative from the INFORSE Secretariat, Susanne Backer, participated in COP 2 with a mandate from the so-called '92-group, a network of Danish NGOs that has been following the implementation of the three environment conventions since the RIO meeting in 1992. One of the members of the '92-group,

CARE Denmark, has now volunteered to become the Danish National Focal Point for the network of NGOs working with the UNCCD, RIOD. By this, the relationship between Danish NGOs and RIOD has been formalised.

RIOD (Le Réseau Internationale des ONGs sur la Désertification) will conduct its first Global Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, on 23-29 October, 1999. The aim of this general meeting is to create an effective global RIOD structure for the full implementation of UNCCD. The RIOD network was established in Burkina Faso in 1994, by some 50 NGOs from all over the world. RIOD aims to enable "CBOs and NGOs to share information and to coordinate their actions globally in the fight against desertification". The network's overall goal is to put in place a structure that ensures full involvement of community-based organizations and NGOs in the preparation, implementation, and review of national action programmes, in compliance with provisions of the UNCCD.



Photo by Gunnar B. Olesen

For more information about COP3 and the RIOD meeting, please contact: Enda-Energy, INFORSE Western Africa Regional Coordinator
See address at the back page and <http://www.enda.sn/energie/desertif/riod.htm>.

More information about CARE Denmark: att.: Katrine Danielsen, CARE, Nørrebrogade 68 B, 2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark. Fax: +45 3536 887, e-mail: katrine@care.dk.

INFORSE South-South-North Fund supports Project on Senegalese Small Islands

An INFORSE member in Senegal, the West African Association for Marine Environment (WAAME), has just initiated a Project Identification Study on some of the small mangrove islands close to the Senegalese coast. These small islands are also affected by desertification, and the biomass resources are particularly vulnerable. The study aims to identify energy needs and constraints in the specific context of islands affected by desertification, as well as to recommend sustainable solutions to these problems. WAAME receives technical advice from the regional co-ordinator, Enda-tm. The INFORSE North-South-South Fund finances the study. The budget of the study is FF 28,300 (about USD 4,500).

More information: WAAME, West African Association for Marine Environment, Att. Abdoulaye Diame, Cite hacienda, villa A9, Senegal. Ph: +221-8-325123, e-mail: waame@telecomplus.sn.

INFORSE Invites Cooperation on Climate Change

COP5, October '99, Bonn

INFORSE is planning a number of activities for the coming Climate Convention Conference in Bonn, October 25 - November 5, including:

- presentation of the global goal of deriving 10% of all electricity from wind, with new studies and regional goals. The activities will be held in cooperation with Greenpeace and with the European Wind Energy Association.
- INFORSE will continue to press for rules for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to ensure that CDM projects will contribute to sustainable development and that they

will be open to NGOs (see Sustainable Energy News no. 25).

- INFORSE will work for capacity-building among southern NGOs to increase their involvement in the climate negotiations, e.g., on the CDM.

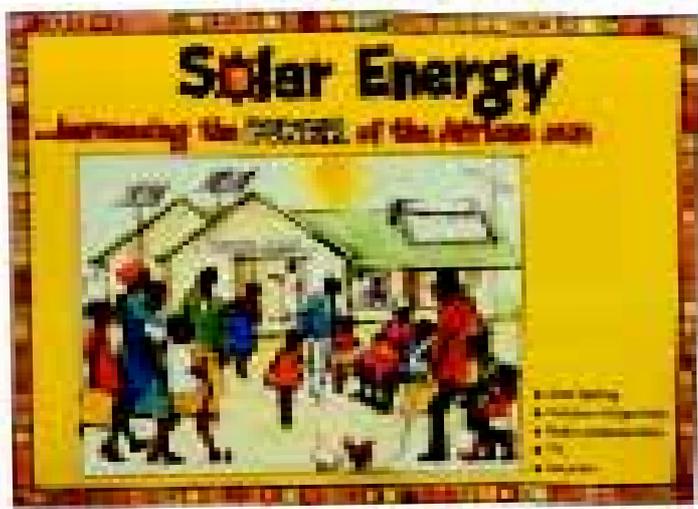
All INFORSE members that are participating in the Climate Conference are asked to notify the INFORSE Secretariat in order to receive information and invitations to conference activities. Further, NGOs interested in the INFORSE climate activities are invited to join the preparations.

Contact: INFORSE Secretariat, att. Asger Garnak, e-mail: ag@inforse.org.

Sustainable Energy for the Poor

By Rene Karotki, SEED South Africa / Advisor from OVE, Denmark

Delivery, integration, and local participation, - major challenges in the new millennium



Poster by EDG, South Africa

During the 1980s and in the beginning of the 1990s, most energy and development projects were driven by a specific technology, such as diesel, hydro, wind, solar etc., and were supply-oriented, e.g. with a focus on electrification. This approach was to some extent successful for large-scale projects that provide energy to national grids and operate within the 'modern' sector of developing countries. It has however been much less successful in relation to energy for rural development. Numerous projects have left solar, wind, and biogas plants and stoves idle in rural communities without any infrastructure to maintain them and without any ability to take informed decisions at the local level on how to move forward.

Electrification

In urban areas, decision makers saw electrification as the solution to the energy problems, but experience has shown a different picture. In South Africa, poor, electrified households cover only 20-25% of their energy needs from electricity, and the rest from paraffin, coal, charcoal, wood or similar sources. The electricity bill may be difficult to meet, leading to frequent cut-offs and irregularities. And the indoor pollution from burning wood or fossil fuels continues to cause respiratory diseases and a high mortality among women and children.

During the 1990s, many sustainable and renewable energy technologies have reached technical and economical matu-

riety, but the difficulties in reaching the disadvantaged majorities in poor urban and rural areas remain. The issue of delivery is now becoming crucial and is increasingly setting the agenda for governments, NGOs and other actors in the field of sustainable energy.

Rural / Urban Poor

On the rural side of this agenda, there are different models. Some are based on direct sale of e.g. individual PV-systems to the end-users, others on co-operative models of ownership and maintenance. More recently, energy service companies (ESCOs) or rural utilities emerged. They are often private companies providing energy services to rural areas and based on direct payment-for-service by the end-user. The energy service may be just supply of electricity (e.g. via solar home systems or PV systems for schools, clinics, water pumping etc.) or may be more comprehensive and include space heating, cooking, process energy for agriculture, rural industries etc. The models are adapted to specific conditions, and different financial models are applied. The introduction is often facilitated by governments and NGOs and backed on a fairly large scale via subsidies from the governments and/or soft loans from the World Bank and other donors.

The sustainable energy agenda for the urban poor is less visible. Some activities are being developed around housing, focusing on orientation (passive solar), in-

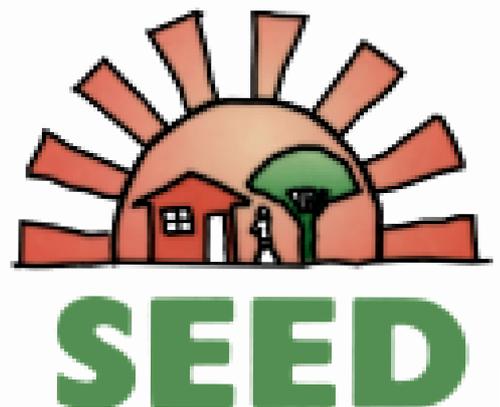
sulation, efficient and cleaner appliances and renewable energy such as solar water heaters/cookers, but the urban agenda seems generally to be less popular among decision makers, NGOs, and donors. This may however change over the next years due to the increasing global attention to the problems of urbanisation, including the environmental impacts.

Questions

This development raises some important questions.

- How do energy and development initiatives comply with local needs, and how do they integrate in other sectors?
- Are end-users, communities, and local authorities sufficiently informed about alternative solutions to their energy problems and able to make a qualified choice?
- Are they properly involved in the design and implementation, and in the subsequent operation?
- For rural areas, will individual solutions (such as e.g. solar home systems) create barriers for more efficient collective solutions?
- Why is there less attention to alternatives to private energy utilities, such as co-operative and other collective models of investment and ownership?
- Will private sector energy companies be able to generate a viable profit from servicing dispersed rural communities?
- What will happen if they go bankrupt after two years, or if they do not perform?

These are just some of the questions that need to be addressed from the point of view of end-users and local communities. But who is going to raise such questions? And how are they communicated to decision makers in government, international organisations and the private sector?



Sustainable Energy, Environment & Development in South Africa

By Rene Karotki,
SEED South Africa /OVE Denmark



and national energy planning and supply agencies. The main partner organisation is the Environment Development Agency that is well established in both provinces. Backed by the programme, the SEED Advisors will develop local sustainable energy action plans, conduct information campaigns for local end-users and train local authorities, NGOs, and other service providers.

Networking, dialogue

At the national level, SEED establishes communication between the practical work in the communities and national policy development. A quarterly newsletter (SEED Update) and website (seedlinks.org.za) ensures further national and international outreach.

The national level activities also include:

- publishing a household energy handbook and a rural energy handbook
- courses for government staff, NGOs, CBOs and the private sector
- strategy development, policy briefs, and policy dialogue
- production of media products and promotion of mass media coverage.

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The South African government has set a goal of delivering and electrifying 1 million new houses by the year 2000. The government has also ambitious goals to improve energy services for rural communities, including electrification from renewable energy.

The SEED (Sustainable Energy, Environment and Development) Programme was established to give sustainable energy, environment and development issues a more prominent place in these delivery programmes, and to strengthen local authorities, communities and NGOs in dealing with the issues at the local level.

Phase 1 of the SEED Programme (1999 - 2001) is implemented in co-operation with the Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy (OVE), and is funded by the Danish Environment and Development Co-operation Programme (DANCED).

In selected local pilot areas, SEED works closely with communities, local authorities, NGOs and other service providers to strengthen knowledge, create awareness, and demonstrate how the energy and environment issues can be tackled.

Roughly 30% of South African households do not yet have access to grid electricity and have to rely on traditional fuels like wood, paraffin, gas, coal, and candles. Among the poor, even grid-connected households find electricity to be a major expenditure and continue to use other fuels. Poor households often spend up to 20% of their monthly income on meeting all their energy needs. Since their sources of energy are often unsafe, unhealthy and environmentally unfriendly fuels, the people remain exposed to certain safety and health hazards. As a result of indoor air pollution, respiratory infections are the 2nd highest cause of death for children under 5 years of age, while burns are one of the top 4 killers of children under 14 years old.

Sustainable Low-cost Housing

In the urban pilot areas, SEED co-operates with local authorities and housing NGOs in Cape Town, Durban, and Gauteng (in and around Johannesburg), enhancing their capacity to help urban communities use safer, affordable, convenient, and environmentally sustainable energy options. The partner organisations are City of Tygerberg, Development Action Group, Durban Metro Housing, Built Environment Support Group, Midrand Local Council, and Earth Life Africa. Each of the partner organisations has employed a SEED Advisor that will be the hub for local-level activities. With technical and organisational backing from the programme, the advisors interact with housing schemes, conduct information campaigns, demonstrate different solutions and train local planners, service providers, and professionals.

Rural Development

In rural areas, SEED focuses on energy and environment issues in the context of rural development. The entry point is the end-user's need for energy services, with a focus on the capacity of communities and their service-providers to integrate sustainable energy solutions into socio-economic development. It works in selected rural districts in Eastern Cape and Northern Province in co-operation with local government, non-governmental and civic organisations as well as provincial



The SEED Group in South Africa

„We Want Solar, We Want Solar,“

chanted the women, and the decision was made after four years of negotiations towards the first successful solar village pilot project in South Africa.

Edited from articles written by J.A. Opperman, Monica van Coller, SOLCEN; and Nancy V Richards, Fairlady Magazine, 23 June 1999



Project Team: First Solar Village in South Africa.

Revolving Fund

For the People by the People

Folodhodwe, a remote village with 600 households in the northern province of South Africa, was singled out for a pilot project for solar power. This effort was spearheaded by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs (DME). The village sits expensively far from the national electricity grid. The cost of the project, R2.5 million (about \$ 0.5 million), was shared roughly 40/60 % between the South African Government and the German Bavarian State. Siemens Solar Division provided the technology. The Solar Home Systems (SHSs) were installed at 582 individual houses, at 3 schools, and at the clinic.

The project beneficiaries are the village inhabitants, which include 1500 students, 50 teachers, and between 3000 and 5000 rural poor. Around 10 'emerging' contractors benefitted from training and installation contracts.

The community will pay for the systems by means of a monthly service charge. All paybacks received will form part of a revolving fund, which will be used to service the photovoltaic systems. The community leaders, civic organizations, and the community have contributed to the project. It is therefore a project for the people, by the people.

Difficult Start, Women's Wish Brought the Break-through

The road to solar power looked smooth, but more than four years elapsed between the first discussions of the concept and the launch of solar facilities on March 16, 1999 by the Minister of Minerals and Energy, South Africa.

"The major stumbling block was that the community had been promised grid electricity, and they felt accepting solar power would jeopardise their chances of getting it" says Xosi Lisa the DME's director for energy demand. But there are no plans to extend the grid there in the near future. Another issue was that some of the better-off households in the village already had solar equipment and did not want to lose the unique status that it gave them.

"In the end, it was the women, who really pressed for the project to go ahead," says Milton Mutbaydi of Development Focus of South Africa, the man who handled the delicate negotiations between the keenly impatient project organisers and the stoic, slow-to-act community. *"Each time there was a meeting, the women were there - always in the majority - but they were voiceless,"* says Milton. *"Finally, they'd had enough of the delays and, a breakthrough meeting under a baobab tree in the village, they started to chant, 'We want solar, we want solar' and the decision was made."*

"It was also the women who were willing to pay" says Xosi Lisa. Because Folodhodwe had never before had electricity service, there was no culture of paying. But the women could see the benefits - at around R35 a month instead of the R60 to R90 they spent on paraffin,

candles and batteries, this was a saving. This means a lot in a community where it is hard to make ends meet. Unemployment among menfolk is high and many households rely solely on the monthly pension of the oldest member (about R500) or, worse, on the salary of a woman working in the nearby mine for about R200 a month. The women knew that the solar energy would change their lives for the better. They also insisted that the handful of people in the community who were trained to manage and maintain the solar equipment for the whole village *had* to include a woman.

20th Century Technology among Huts & Baobabs

Once the decision had been made, almost all of the households found themselves with a silver panel mounted on a metal pole just outside their round huts.

All this happened in a village which was about as far from technology as man was from the moon 100 years ago. Homes are traditional rondavel style, made from hand-packed, baked and plastered mud bricks, painted with clay and topped with fringed thatch roofs to keep out the burning sun. There are goats and donkeys on the pathways and aged baobab trees as landmarks. And it is searingly hot and airless in the village. (R5 is about \$1US).

The 20th century technology looks not a little incongruous, but what each one brings, along with its storage battery located inside the house, is the three light sources and a power point. Some households have one light source per hut, some have wired up loudspeakers so they can play music in their communal yard, others have their radios and televisions inside the house so they can watch and listen to them quietly after night fall.

Now that the village schools have been 'solarised' and equipped with lights and power points, the buildings can be used at night as community centers, for church services, and as places to teach adults in the evening. It also means that the high school can operate the television, overhead projector, and video machine that was donated by the project organisers.

The other rosy side is that, until recently, any babies born here in the evening or at night would have been delivered by the light of candles or paraffin lamps. Mothers needing oxygen faced the added risk of the gas combining with naked flame. Electric lighting has made the whole process safer.

Continues on p. 8



*Solar PV Panel before a hut in the solar village.
Photo by SOLCEN, South Africa.*

Continued from p. 7

So far, the Folovhodwe solarization project has been a success - even a source of envy for the neighbouring communities. But there is still a long way to go. There are further plans, for a solar-driven water filter and pump to purify and distribute water, as well as for solar cookers.

RDP Schools & Clinics Program

Beside the above Solar Village project, SOLCEN is active in the Rural Schools Electrification Program, which is a Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) initiative. It relies on donor funding from Holland and the EU. It is already providing electricity to 1,700 schools in very rural communities where there are often no other public services whatsoever. This has been implemented

in just over 18 months, and 500 more school projects are open to tender right now, in July. In many of these communities, school electrification is the first tangible indication of changes under the new government. Approximately 1.2 million children now have access to electricity that can be used to provide light for study purposes after hours. It also enables children to use other educational media, such as videos and TV sets. The amount donated to this programme has now risen to R 193 million. The program aims to electrify 16,000 schools over the next 5 years.

SOLCEN is an NGO member of the South African National NGO Coalition. SOLCEN has ambitious plans for further projects involving solar collectors, solar water-pumping, hybrid systems, battery-charging systems, biomass, development of standards and testing, and establishment of a demonstration center. Publications on wind speed and solar radiation values are available, as are design manuals.

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South Africa Prepares to be a Player in Wind Energy

Feasibility studies on the west coast of South Africa suggest that a 5-MW windfarm may be suitable for the Darling area. The South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) is working with the country's utility, Eskom, to negotiate a target for wind energy, which could be as high as 10,000 MW by 2020, supplying 10% of South Africa's electricity needs. Potential for wind energy is increasing due to the use of coal for power generation, says SAWEA. Although low-cost coal is good for economic growth, concern over GHG makes SAWEA believe that wind is poised to build a foothold as a green energy. The government recently announced support for renewables, and recommended that hybrid wind systems be used to provide power for northern towns that are too remote from the grid.

The cost for wind power will drop by half by 2012, and a wind-energy industry will create up to 40 jobs for every megawatt of turbines installed. South Africa has large hydro capacity, and wind can be used for pumped storage reservoirs. SAWEA says that every kilowatt of wind power displaces one kilogram of carbon dioxide. By that measure, with 4,000 MW of wind, almost 8 million tons of CO₂ emissions per year could be avoided.

*Details: <http://www.icon.co.za/~sawea>
e-mail: sawea@icon.co.za*



White Paper in South Africa

A 'White Paper' on energy was released in December, 1998. It states that South Africa has very attractive solar and wind resources, and that renewable applications are the least-cost energy service in many cases, "more so when social and environmental costs are taken into account." Renewable sources make up a "small but rapidly increasing" share of energy. South Africa has installed 500,000 m² of solar water heater panels, but this is less than 1% of the potential market. There are 5 MW of PV systems and 280,000 water-pumping windmills, with 60 MW of small-scale hydro.

*More information:
http://www.polity.org.za/govdocs/white_papers/energy98/energywp98-01.html
Source: #86 TRENDS in Renewable Energies <http://www.renewables.ca>.*



INFORSE

International Network for Sustainable Energy

INFORSE is a world-wide network of 200 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in more than 60 countries to promote sustainable energy and social development. INFORSE was established in Rio de Janeiro at the Global Forum in 1992.

INFORSE can be contacted:

Secretariat hosted by FED, Denmark

Regional Coordinators,

Sustainable Energy News hosted by OVE

In this issue, we overview of

“Who’s Who at INFORSE ?”

INFORSE Secretariat



FED hosts the Secretariat of INFORSE. FED was established in 1992 to secure follow-up on the political decisions at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

FED is a Danish umbrella organisation for 13 Danish NGO organisations. It was established to initiate as well as to nourish dialogue and cooperation between and among popular organisations engaged in the areas of energy, environment, and social development.

FED works to encourage the use of sustainable energy in social development around the world. As a main means to reach its goal, FED enhances the capacity of local communities and organisations to use renewable energy in a sustainable way. Furthermore, the organisation is

an influential promoter of sustainable energy in national and global decision-making. Working Languages: Danish and English.



Michael Kvetny

(Born 1949)
Secretary General of FED since Nov. 1998.

M.Sc. Economics.
Formerly: Energy planner at the consulting engineering company COWI for 10 years. 1996-97 project

leader for the World Bank in Vietnam on a study of electricity supply in rural districts. 1981-88 worked at the Danish Energy Agency. Speaks English, Danish.

Ulrik Jacobsen

(Born 1962)

Program Consultant at FED since March 1999.

M.Sc. International Development Studies.

Ulrik is developing project proposals for donors and planning training, and exchange of experiences.

Formerly: 3 years at UNDP in Indonesia working with environment and energy. Information officer in the Danish Agricultural Council. Teacher at the University of Copenhagen. Speaks English, Danish.



Thomas Lynge Jensen

(Born 1970)

Project Co-ordinator at FED since 1997.

M.Sc. Politics.

Thomas is working with sustainable energy on islands throughout the world.



Asger Garnak

(Born 1962)

Policy Officer at FED since August 1994.

M.Sc. Economics.

Asger is working with the Climate Convention, political decision-making on sustainable energy and

microfinancing for development, also responsible for the accounts.

Formerly: Computer consultant. Speaks English, Spanish, Danish.

Susanne Backer

(Born 1961)

Program Consultant at FED since Aug. 1998.

M.Sc. Economics.

Susanne is working with the Desertification Convention, project- and program preparation, capacity-building, and dialogue with INFORSE members.

Formerly: Adviser for NGOs in Nepal at the Danish Association for International Co-operation for 5 years. Speaks English, French, Nepalese, Danish.



Johanne Gabel,

(Born 1970)

Information Officer at FED since May 1999.

M.Sc. Economics.

Johanne is working with public relations. She is editor of the newsletter of FED and Webmaster.

Formerly: Policy officer on energy in the National Association of Local Authorities in Denmark. Environmental analyst at a Danish political party. Speaks English, French, Danish.

INFORSE-Europe Coordinator & Sustainable Energy News



OVE - The Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy

OVE is one of the founding members of INFORSE.

OVE-Europe hosts the editorial office of INFORSE's quarterly newsletter the "Sustainable Energy News". It also maintains the database of INFORSE's members and the Contact List. OVE was established in 1975. OVE is an association of 3,000 Danish individuals and institutional members. OVE's objectives are:

- to influence the energy policy to be more resource- and environment-conscious, especially by facilitating the use of renewable energy
- to get the people informed of their possibilities to make their own action by installing renewable energy systems.

OVE publishes information materials, promotes campaigns, organises seminars, evaluates and comments on energy policy and related law, mainly in Denmark. OVE has conducted several energy research and policy projects.

OVE is also involved in cooperation projects in Europe, and in Thailand, and South Africa. OVE is member of FED, Climate Network Europe, and the European ECO-Forum.

Gunnar Boye Olesen

(Born 1961)

INFORSE Secretary, editor of "Sustainable Energy News", INFORSE-Europe Coordinator since 1992.

Gunnar is working at OVE since 1990. Head of OVE-Europe since 1994.

M.Sc. in Engineering specialised in energy.



Partner in and head of several research, policy projects, e.g., on renewable energy potential, electricity liberalisation, and with the Elfin computer model. Author and co-author of several publications. Speaks English, Danish some French, German.

Judit Szoleczky

(Born 1962)

Editor of "Sustainable Energy News" and researcher at OVE-Europe since 1994.

In 1993, post graduate on the UNCED's energy policy process at the Technical University of Denmark and the Central European University. MBA in 1991, USA. M.Sc. in Civil Engineering in Hungary, 1985.

Formerly: civil engineer, and vice-manager of a World Bank energy loan in Hungary.





“WHO’S WHO” AT INFORSE ?



INFORSE - South Asia Coordinator, India



Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association

INSEDA was formalised as a NGO network in October/November, 1995 after 15 years as an informal network. With 85 members, INSEDA is one of the largest NGO-networks that are exclusively involved in the systematic promotion and implementation of RETs in India as well as in bio-energy-based Sustainable Agriculture Development Programmes. Based

on the suggestions of the members, INSEDA is presently developing a Master Proposal to promote about 50 Pilot Study-cum-Demonstration sustainable-energy-based, community-oriented Eco-Village Models. This is to be implemented by a group of selected NGOs.



Raymond Myles

(Born 1943)
General Secretary of INSEDA.
Formerly Raymond was INFORSE Regional Coordinator on behalf of AFPRO.

BSc. Agricultural Engineering, University of Allahabad, India (1963), MSc. (course work, research, and thesis) University of Guelph (School of Agricultural Engineering), Ontario, Canada, (1970). Lived, worked, studied in Canada 1967-72. He worked for 20 years (1975-95) at Action For Food Production (AFPRO), of which he was Chief Executive Officer for 7 years. He initiated and established INSEDA.

Raymond has been intensively involved in providing services in social development and socio-technical disciplines, capacity-building, development of training materials, planning, designing, management, monitoring and evaluation of projects of NGOs.

INFORSE-Europe Coordinator), Slovakia



Foundation for Alternative Energy

FAE is devoted to promotion of renewable-energy technologies in Slovakia. Its work is mainly oriented to the education of the public (recently with students as its target group). FAE does lobbying related to climate change, and is core member of Climate Network Europe (CNE). FAE was established in 1991. Number

of volunteers: 15. All members are registered inside the umbrella organisation SZOPK, Slovak Union of Nature and Landscape Protectors, which has 1000 members. Typical projects: publications, building a demonstration Ekopark, lobbying in the Slovak parliament, commenting on energy policy for Slovakia, preparation of alternative energy plan, exhibitions, and collaboration on NGO summer camps. FAE prepares study materials for internet education on renewable energy technologies. -

INFORSE involvement started in 1994.



Emil Bedi

(Born in 1954),
Head of FAE.
PhD in physics,
nuclear physicist.
Working languages: English, German, Russian, Czech/Slovak.

INFORSE-Latin America Coordinator (Portuguese), Brazil



LIMA Laboratório Interdisciplinar de Meio Ambiente

Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Environment

LIMA was launched in December, 1997 at the campus of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). LIMA gathers NGOs, research centers, industry.

LIMA catalyzes interdisciplinary projects in sustainable development through a private foundation, COPTEC.

Recently, LIMA is cooperating with the IAIA (International Association for Impact Assessment) and with the Master of Business in Environment Program.

Emilio Lèbre La Rovere

Coordinator of LIMA.
Emilio was formerly INFORSE Regional Coordinator on behalf of IED. Emilio is Professor at the Energy Planning Program at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Member of Working Groups in IPCC, Member of the Agenda 21 Commission of Rio de Janeiro. Consultant to several UN bodies and NGOs.



INFORSE-Latin America Coordinator (Spanish), Argentina

REJIMA Network of Young Environment Researchers.

Red de Jóvenes Investigadores en temas relacionados con el Medio Ambiente
Founded in 1991. During its first years, REJIMA worked on environmental issues in general with a staff of 50 people. Today, REJIMA is working in renewable-energy campaigns and climate-change issues with around 10 people. REJIMA is member and founder of the Latin American NGO Youth Network for Sustainable Development. Founder of the Sustainable Energy Forum. Since 1997, REJIMA has been Regional Coordinator of INFORSE.



Alberto Roque Pedace

(Born 1956)
Biologist, MSc. in Science and Technology Policy.
Roque is head of a research project: “Wind and PV energy dissemination in Argentina” at the Center for Advanced Studies, Buenos

Aires University. Roque is also Coordinator of Climate Change/Energy Campaign of FOE Argentina and General Secretary of FOE Argentina. He was REJIMA representative at Rio’ 92 Global Forum.



Marcelo Luis Alvarez

(Born 1965)
Founder and President of REJIMA.
Marcelo studies Industrial Engineering.
Representative at the Climate Forum Berlin ’95.

1987-94 Coordinator of the Research Group of Solar Energy at the Physics Department of the Engineering Faculty of University of Buenos Aires. Since 1993, working at PV distributor companies, leading technical groups and designing, installing and marketing PV technology.



“WHO’S WHO” AT INFORSE ?



INFORSE- East & Southern Africa Coordinator, Kenya



FWD - Foundation for Woodstove Dissemination & AFREPREN - African Energy Policy Research Network

FWD is one of the founding members of INFORSE. FWD is a not-for-profit voluntary agency established to support agencies working on household energy and related biomass energy issues. It offers information and assistance to regional as well as national agencies and networks. FWD has a strong emphasis on enhancing the institutional, management, and technical capability of its network members. FWD publishes books on improved cookstoves; the FWD newsletter “Stove News”; several brochures; and the FWD Dossier series.

FWD works closely with AFREPREN, a regional network with the key objective of strengthening local research capacity in Eastern and Southern Africa.



Lugard Majoro

BSc in Agriculture. Lugard has worked with the FWD/AFREPREN Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya since 1994.

Lugard has been involved in studies on energy use in transport, agriculture, energy pricing, power-sector reform, power-sector management and efficiency, and various RETs studies. He recently conducted a study for INFORSE on the role of the Kenya Ceramic Jiko in job creation and socio-economic development.

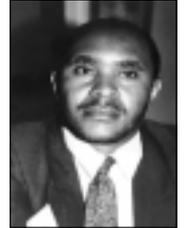


Stephen Karekezi

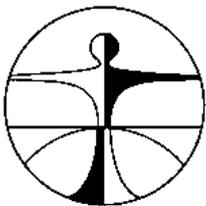
Executive Secretary of the FWD, Director of AFREPREN. Engineer with post-graduate qualifications in management and economics. He has written and co-authored 90 publications.

Timothy Ranja

Timothy has a background in natural sciences, with specialist training in geography and education. He has worked in the FWD secretariat in Nairobi since 1994, where he is currently responsible for providing technical support to two research programs.



INFORSE- West Africa Coordinator, Senegal



Enda-Energy Programme

ENDA is one of the founding members of INFORSE.

Established in 1982.

The team has 10 permanent staff who are engineers, economists, and environmentalists.

ENDA’s primary efforts include:

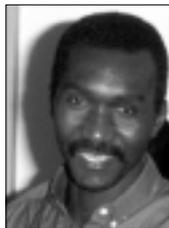
- Identification of the conditions needed for increased dissemination of alternative energy and of efficient energy technologies among the most underprivileged groups; focusing on energy use by grassroots communities, listening to the demands of the populations themselves in order to identify the solutions that would best serve their social and economic needs.
- Analysis and publication of information about the energy-environment relation and the problem of climate change as well as about deserti-

fication and its influence on African development priorities.

- Energy planning and management for sustainable development, analysis of the energy situation in African countries, energy information systems, energy policies as a part of development.

- Maintaining databases; direct field work, training, and lobbying African and International policy-makers.

Enda-Energy set up RABEDE, (African Network on Bioresources, Energy, Development, Environment) as well as edits and publishes several journals in French.



Masse Lo

Leading researcher at Enda-Energy since 1985.

BSc. in Applied Physical Geography and in Environmental Science.



Youba Sokona

Head Coordinator of Enda-Energy since 1987, and Research Coordinator since 1983.

Doctorate in Earth Science, Engineer specialised in „Technology, Energy, Environment“, Civil and Mining Engineer. Studied and worked as researcher and professor in Bamako and France.

Sécou Sarr

Researcher at Enda-Energy since 1992.

Master’s in Economics.

Secou is going to work on INFORSE’s input to COP3 of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.



INFORSE-Eastern Asia & Pacific Coordinator, Thailand



Appropriate Technology Association (ATA)

ATA was founded in 1978.

ATA is a Natural Resource and Environmental Protection NGO. ATA conducts research. It also develops and disseminates appropriate technology (AT) that is inexpensive and easy to make, with emphasis on self-reliance of the community. It also compiles existing AT from local and international sources, modifying, transferring and disseminating that technology to the

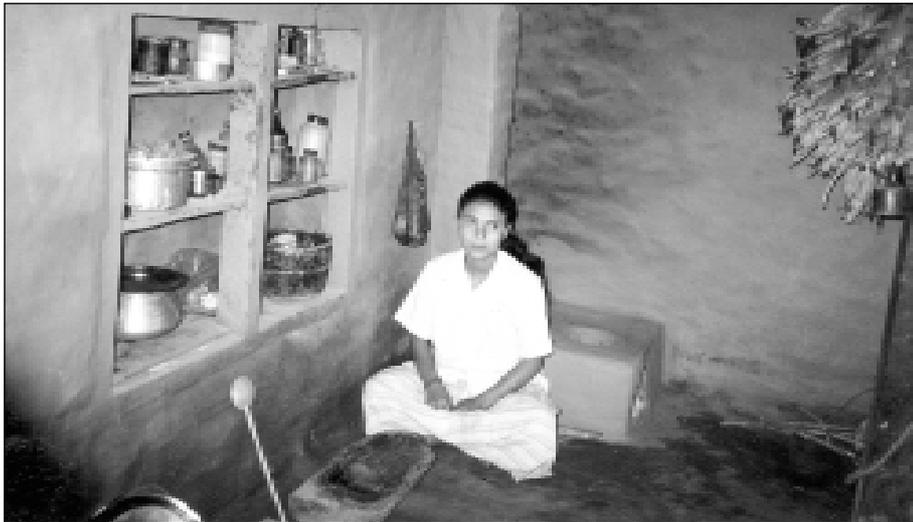
public. It provides technical assistance and services on AT application and maintenance to solve specific needs or problems of individuals, groups, and institutions. ATA publishes a quarterly AT journal, newsletters, and handbooks. ATA has more than 300 members with different occupational backgrounds. The office in Bangkok has 3 full-time staff members in addition to volunteers and part-time professionals assigned to specific tasks. Among the projects are a cooperation project with the Danish Organisation of Denmark (OVE), Denmark on developing a sustainable energy information center with a newsletter in

Thai/English; a windmill development project; and a UNICEF-supported local weaving project, along with projects on soil improvement and raising chickens. ATA became INFORSE regional coordinator in 1999. The contact person is Chanchai Limpiyakorn. The previous regional coordinator was PCATT in the Phillipines.

ATA became INFORSE regional coordinator in 1999. The contact person is Chanchai Limpiyakorn. The previous regional coordinator was PCATT in the Phillipines.

ATA became INFORSE regional coordinator in 1999. The contact person is Chanchai Limpiyakorn. The previous regional coordinator was PCATT in the Phillipines.

All addresses of the INFORSE Regional Coordinators are on the back page



Danish Government Support to Nepalese Improved Cooking Stoves

By Susanne Backer, INFORSE Secretariat, Denmark

The first Energy-Sector program financed by Danish International Development Assistance (Danida) with a primary focus on sustainable energy.

One of the INFORSE members, the Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT/N), has been selected as the implementing partner for an Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) Component under the Energy Sector Assistance Programme (ESAP) in Nepal. ESAP is a joint collaboration program between the Nepalese Government and the Danish Government.

The ICS component is implemented in close co-operation with another associate INFORSE member, Women's Development Division, under the auspices of the Nepalese Ministry of Local Development, and is financed by the Danish Government. ESAP is the first Energy Sector program financed by Danish International Development Assistance (Danida) with a primary focus on sustainable energy. The Sector Program's total budget is DKK154 million, of which 10% will be financed by the Nepalese government.

The ESAP has five components:

- Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS),
- Institutional support for an Alternative Energy Promotion Centre,
- Promotion of micro-hydro,
- Promotion of solar energy,
- Financial support for investment in rural energy.

INFORSE Supports with Technical Assistance

The INFORSE Secretariat is supporting CRT/N with technical assistance with the implementation of the 5-year ICS Component. During the next 2.5-year pilot phase, Susanne Backer from the INFORSE Secretariat in Denmark will work closely with CRT/N in developing the national strategy for the ICS component.

In previous programs, during the last 30 years in Nepal, the focus has mainly been on the fuel-saving aspects of improved cooking stoves. However, the users, who are almost entirely women, give much higher priority to an improved working environment with less smoke in the kitchen and improved health.

Moreover, the previous approach has been too 'push-oriented' and less based on the diverse needs of different families. Therefore, the ICS component under ESAP has given priority to a need-based approach, giving the users much more choice.

Efficient Database

The preparatory work started in April. To date, the result is an "Inventory and Assessment of Improved Cooking Stove (ICS) Activities in Nepal", prepared by CRT/N. The inventory is based on data

collected by CRT/N. It sums up most of the organisations presently involved in stove promotion, their experiences and future plans, as well as a collection of lessons learned. It is the first time that this kind of knowledge has been compiled in Nepal. The inventory has been found so useful that the decision has been made to repeat this exercise once a year, in order to gradually build up an efficient database for planners and for the ICS network.

Holistic Approach

With the help of a Nepalese consultant, Mr. Sylpya, of a Nepalese research institution RECAST, CRT/N has also worked out a desk study that takes a holistic approach to women's energy needs and problems in relation to cooking as well as to the ethnic-based variation in fuel-burning cooking systems in Nepal.

National Seminar November

Presently, a Nepalese consultant, in co-operation with CRT/N, is carrying out a needs assessment and base-line study in the areas selected for implementation of the programme. A National Seminar has been planned for the beginning of November. During the Seminar, the strategy for the implementation of the component will be discussed and finalised by the relevant stakeholders.

*More information: CRT, Centre for Rural Technology, att. Ganesh Ram Shrestha, Tripureswore, P.O.Box 3628, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Ph: +977-1-256819/-260165,
fax: +977-1-257922,
<http://dits.icimod.org.np/nepalnet/crt/>,
e-mail: crt@wlink.com.np*

Nepalese woman with her improved cooking stoves. Photos by CRT, Nepal.



Solar Lantern Manufacturing - A Woman Entrepreneur's Story



Kiran Sharma started her own industry to generate employment to others.



From an idea to 5000 Lantern

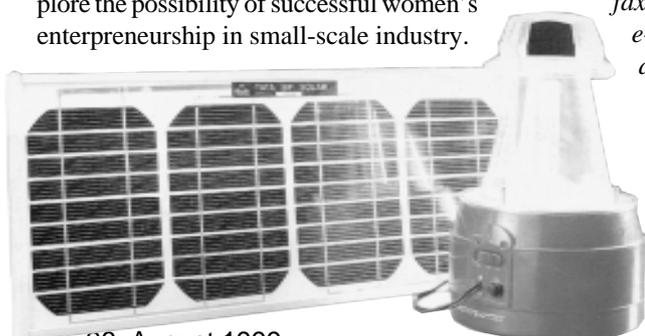
The idea of manufacturing a solar lantern is the result of my long association with the Rural Energy Department of All India Women's Conference (AIWC), which is also an INFORSE member. I am greatly impressed with the devotion and dedication of its Chairperson, Mrs. Lalita Balakrishnan. It is her commitment to improve lots of our sisters' life at the village level by providing them with biogas plants, smokeless chulha, solar cookers. This always encouraged me to help rural women by generating some employment for them, so they can lead a better life. At AIWC, the various awareness programs, workshops, and demonstrations of renewable energy sources enabled me to identify a product that can use our natural resources. We are manufacturing a light that can get energy from a solar system. It can be handy and helpful during the night time, both in urban and in rural areas. The 12-V rechargeable portable lantern system was evaluated and approved by MNES (Government of India). I have set the target of manufacturing 5,000 solar lanterns in the first year.

With the help, cooperation, and guidance from my friends and colleagues, I definitely hope to achieve my goal.

To start with, every one has to face many difficulties, but with a positive attitude, one could overcome the difficulties and handle the situation patiently.

Contact:
AIWC, Sarojini House, 6 Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi 110001 India.
Ph: +91-11-3389680, 3381165
fax: + 91-11-3384092,
e-mail:
aiwccte@nda.vsnl.net.in

ADITYA Enterprises
Plot No. H1-838 Phase III
Bhiwadi Indl. Area,
Bhiwadi, 301019 Dist.
Alawar, Rajasthan, India.
Ph: +91-12-9291549.



Slow Development of Wind Power in India: Why?

India is the leading developing country in wind energy with 1,025 MW of installed capacity. But, since 1997, the development has slowed down, and India is not likely to reach its goal of 3,000 MW wind capacity by 2003.

The rapid development from 1993 to 1997 was supported by the Indian government with a package of fiscal incentives. This included 100 per cent accelerated depreciation on the capital investment in the first year of operation; reduced import duty and other measures. Particularly the accelerated depreciation attracted many investors that could invest their profits from other activities and thus avoid taxes. But the governmental policy did not (sufficiently) encourage sale of power to the grid. In the haste to put up windfarms, many were not sited optimally, and today 70% of the investors only produce 30% of the electricity. Some wind farms are idle, while others are falling far short of their generating capacities. When the tax credits were reduced in 1997, many investors found that the income from selling the electricity was not sufficient to pay for investments in new wind turbines.

In spite of the problems, several observers see a great future for Indian wind turbines, if they are well sited and planned.



Source:
Article "Gone with the wind" in
Down to Earth,
June 30, 1999, by
Mridula Chhetri,
Centre for Science
and Environment,
New Delhi, India.
E-mail list:
webadmin@
cseindia.org,
<http://oneworld.org/cse/html>

Photo by VESTAS

INFORSE-Europe E-mail Meeting

This year, the Annual Meeting of INFORSE-Europe will be conducted as an email meeting during the month of November. All INFORSE-Europe members will receive a draft Agenda and call for proposals for the meeting by the end of August. If you have not received anything by September 1, please send a notice to Gunnar Boye Olesen at e-mail: ove@inforse.org.

Wind Campaign

The goal of 10% wind energy in the global electricity mix will now be supplemented with regional goals and action proposals. With support from Forum for Energy and Development, the INFORSE regions in Europe and Latin America will regionalise the global goal, propose actions to realise the goals in the regions, and make an overview of effects for environment, economy, and employment. This will result in regional reports and statements that NGOs in the regions will be invited to support. The results will be presented in October in Buenos Aires, Brussels, Murmansk, Moscow, and Kiev. In Western Europe, the main aim of the work will be to make a proposal for how the goal can be realised in the EU inter-

INFORSE-EUROPE

International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe

nal market for electricity. In Eastern Europe, the focus will be on how to realise the goal in Russia and Ukraine, which both have very large potentials for wind energy. In Latin America, the work will cover the Cono Sur region with its large wind-power potential and its emerging internal electricity market within the framework of the Mercosur free trade agreement.

The regional campaigns will be developed by INFORSE-Europe with OVE, Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy; Gaia Apatity Center, Kola, Russia; and Future Age Energy, Ukraine; and INFORSE Latin America with REJIMA, Argentina. *Information: INFORSE-Europe and INFORSE - Latin America (see at the back page)*

Pan-European Energy Efficiency to National Actions

Within the European ECO-Forum's Energy and Climate Group, INFORSE-Europe will follow the process of transforming the unanimous decisions of the Euro-

pean countries at Århus'98 and other meetings into action. The decisions, e.g. to phase out environmentally harmful energy subsidies by 2005, shall be accompanied by a framework for how to do it, and how to evaluate it country by country. This will be discussed on September 20-24, when the Environment Committee of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) meets to discuss follow-up from Århus'98 as well as topics for the next environment ministers' meeting in Kiev in 2002. It will further be discussed at the UN-ECE Sustainable Energy Committee meeting in November and at the coming meeting of the new Energy Charter Working Group for the Energy Efficiency Protocol. INFORSE-Europe and the ECO-Forum intend to participate in these meetings with observers, and speak out for tangible actions, nationally and internationally. We invite all interested NGOs to join the email list of the ECO-Forum energy and climate group, to be informed of these processes and maybe participate.

Info and sign-up to the e-mail list: INFORSE-Europe: ove@inforse.org.

New Federation of Renewable Producers

This July the "European Renewable Energies Federation" was formally created. It is a federation for associations in EU countries of energy producers based on renewable sources, such as: small hydro, wind, tidal, wave, biomass, solar, biogas, and geothermal sources. The Federation will support the establishment of realistic and fair pricing schemes for renewable energy on the basis of the internal EU market for energy. It will promote minimum-price schemes, because these have been most successful in supporting renewable energy for electricity.

The members of the Federation currently represent grid-connected renewable electricity producers with a combined capacity of more than 2,500 MW.

*More information:
APPA (Asociacion de Pequenos*

Productores y Autogeneradores de Electricidad con Fuentes de Energia Renovables), att. Manual de Delas, Paris 205, 4'1' 08008 Barcelona, Spain. Ph: +34-93-4142277,

*fax: +34-93-2095307,
e-mail: appa@adam.es.*

Bund für Windenergie - Brussels Office, att. Dörte Fouquet, Avenue de la Fauconnerie 73, 1170 Brussels, Belgium. Ph: +32 2 6724367, fax: +32 2 6727016, e-mail: 106425.57@compuserve.com.

K2R4 Decision in September

The decision about a loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to the two proposed nuclear power plants in Ukraine, Khmelnytsky 2 and Rivne 4 (K2R4) is postponed from July until September. This delay is partly due to the decision of the German Parliament against the loan (decision of June this year). The delay will

not necessarily lead to giving up the loan, as strong forces in the G7-countries and Ukraine are pushing for it. Lately, the Siemens company has been very active in lobbying for the loan that would give additional income to their nuclear division.

The delay gives a bit time for NGO-activities to stop the loan and lead the way for more sustainable investments.

*Contacts:
A Seed EBRD Campaign,
<http://antenna.nl/aseed/ebrd>
K2R4 Campaign,
<http://www.ecn.cz/k2r4>*



Germany to Double Renewables

The German Environment Minister, Trittin, has proposed a plan to double the German supply of renewable energy by 2010, with a future aim of covering 50% of Germany's energy consumption with renewables by 2050.

To achieve this, he proposes:

- improvements of the German feed-in law for electricity from renewables to the electric grid,
- an eco-tax reform,
- more supportive regulation for cogeneration of heat and electricity, and
- support for creation of markets for currently less competitive renewable-energy technologies (biogas, other biomass, geothermal, small hydro).

Information: <http://www.bmu.de>, press release 20/7-99.

Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit, Referat Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, Postfach 12 06 29, 53048 Bonn, Germany. Ph: +49-228-305-0.

Future Fossil-Fuel-Free Växjö

While the Swedish CO₂ emissions are expected to increase, the Swedish town Växjö (70,000 inhabitants) plans to re-



The new Sandvik biomass power plant in Växjö

duce its emissions. The town council has unanimously decided to stop the use of fossil fuels, with an important milestone of 50% reduction in 2003 from 1993 levels. So far, the measures to achieve this aim include a cogeneration power plant fuelled with biomass, conversion of electric heating to biomass district heating, improvement in energy efficiency in companies, and free energy advice. With these activities, Växjö has managed to reduce overall CO₂ emissions by 20% from 1993 to 1998, even though emissions from traffic continue to increase.

Information:

Växjö Kommun, att. Sarah Nilsson, Box 1222, 35112 Växjö Sweden. Ph: +46-470-41593, fax: +46-470-41580, e-mail: sarah.nilsson@kommun.vaxjo.se. Climate Alliance/ Climail Europe, e-mail: europe@klimabuendnis.org

Antinuclear Camps in Russia

Every year since 1989, environmental groups in Russia have organised antinuclear camps at the sites of some nuclear power plants. This year, one of the camps will be an international action camp near the Novovoronezh nuclear power plant in Russia. It will be established on August 17, 1999. Participation and support are welcomed from everybody who supports the camp's principles of non-violence and no drugs/alcohol.

Information:

- Antinuclear campaign of the Socio-Ecological Union. Ph: +7-95-2784642, +7-95-7766546, e-mail: anc@ecoline.ru, aln@glasnet.ru - Ecodefense, ph/fax: +7-112-437286, e-mail: ecodefense@glasnet.ru <http://www.ecoline.ru/antinuclear/eng/>

New Danish Electricity Law

In May, the Danish Parliament agreed to a new electricity law that set the framework for a competitive market for electricity in Denmark. With the law comes a change of the Danish rules for sale of electricity from renewable-energy generators, e.g., windturbines, to the electric grid. The present very successful system is based on a combination of a tariff set to 85% of the consumer price and a partial reimbursement of the electricity taxes. The new system, operational from 2003, will be based on a market for renewable electricity, driven by an obligation by all consumers to buy an increasing share of electricity from renewables. This share will be raised annually by the government, following the plan of increasing renewable energy supply to 13% of primary energy in 2005 and probably to 35% in 2030.

It was somewhat a surprise for many in the Danish renewable-energy community that the parliament would leave a well

proven system. Many fear that the new system, and the uncertainties that it brings, will slow down the development of windturbines in Denmark.

The text of the new law is available in English and in Danish from the Danish Energy Agency: <http://www.ens.dk>.

Upcoming EU Directives for Renewable Energy

In the EU Commission, two directives are under preparation that will affect the development of renewable energy in the EU. The most advanced is a revision of the EU Directive of State Aid, regulating which kinds of subsidies and other measures the EU countries can have to support, e.g., renewable energy and energy-efficiency solutions. It sets an important framework for national policies for sustainable energy and should be studied carefully, when published. The text of the directive is currently being negotiated in the Commission. It is likely to be proposed from the Commission to the EU countries after the new Commission is in place in September.

The other upcoming directive will regulate renewable energy in the open electricity market. As mentioned in Sustainable Energy News No. 25 (May'99), the Commission published a working paper and invited comments on the issue in the spring.

The EU Energy Ministers welcomed the initiative at their meeting in May, and asked the Commission to go forward with a directive. They recommended a directive that would set a framework for national policies, and that would not require any single system for all countries.

Nine NGOs (Greenpeace, Climate Network Europe, WWF, COGEN, Friends of the Earth - FoE, European Wind Energy Association - EWEA, Fördergesellschaft Windenergie, Bundesverband Wind Energie, and the Business Council for Sustainable Future) proposed ten principles for the new directive, including national minimum targets of 8% renewable energy in the electricity mix by 2005 and 16% by 2010, with minimum increase of, respectively, 4% and 8%.

Sources:

Greenpeace European Unit and others.

\$25 Billion for Renewables in Brazil

The government of Brazil will invest US\$25 billion to provide 20,000 MW of renewable-energy capacity to the 20 million rural inhabitants who are not connected to the power grid. The program was identified last year as a government priority for the country's development. On August 11, the government will unveil its plan to accelerate the development of renewable energy in a sustainable manner, for community schools, health centres, water pumping, irrigation, and street lighting. To realise the program, the Brazilian government is seeking potential partners nationally and internationally.

Information: <http://www.mme.gov.br/Prodeem/>

USA for 5% wind in 2020

Wind energy will supply 5% of U.S. energy by 2020, promises US Federal Energy Secretary Bill Richardson. He told the American Wind Energy Association that Washington is committed to that goal.

Wind currently generates 0.1% of U.S. energy.

Information: <http://home.doe.gov/news/releases99/junpr/pr99153.htm>

38th Californian Municipality Goes Renewable

The city of Chula Vista is the latest in California to purchase all its electricity from green energy. The City Council voted to purchase all of its electricity from renewable-energy sources. Chula Vista is the 38th member of the San Diego Association of Governments to switch to renewable resources. The electricity will come from the geothermal power plant at Calpine's geysers site.



Geothermal plants at Geysers, California. Photo: Tony Batchelor, Geoscience, UK and Int. Geothermal Ass. - Picture Gallery, www.demon.co.uk/geosci/igagall.html

Save Alaska Wildlife Refuge from BP

The Public Interest Group's (PIRG) Arctic Wildlife Campaign asks for support to preserve Alaska's Arctic Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling by BP Amoco and others. They ask for as many protests as possible against the drilling plans of BP Amoco, as well as of Exxon, ARCO, and Chevron.

Information: <http://www.pirg.org/enviro/arctic/index.htm>,
e-mail: amanuel@pirg.org.

PV on Pentagon

A 30-kW installation of PV cells has been commissioned for the roof of the Pentagon. The electricity will be used in the building, the largest office building in the world, with excess being sold to the public grid.

Information from the e-mail list "Trends in Renewable Energies" by the Canadian Association for Renewable Energies, att. Bill Eggertson.
<http://www.renewables.ca>,
e-mail: eggertson@renewables.ca

Argentinean Voluntary Commitment to Increase Emissions

By Roque Pedace, REJIMA, Argentina

At the 1998 Climate Convention Conference in Buenos Aires (COP4), the Argentinean government committed itself to present at the next conference (in Bonn, October 1999, COP5) a concrete proposal of restraining emissions, the so-called "voluntary commitments". So did Kazakhstan. By so doing, these two non-annex-1 countries (i.e., developing countries with no reduction targets for greenhouse gases) could expect better negotiating positions regarding flexible mechanisms, i.e., a better chance of trading their emissions quotas. By May, 1999, Kazakhstan decided to join the Annex-1 countries, leaving Argentina as the only non Annex-1 country with voluntary commitments. The dilemma faced by the people in charge of the preparation of this proposal was exposed at a workshop organised by the World Bank with the Canadian and Argentinean governments to discuss flexible mechanisms and mitigation options. It became apparent that, in a

"Business as Usual" scenario, there was a perverse incentive to increase emissions now and mitigate in the future, since this would raise the projected baseline and, hence, the amount of GHG emission "rights" that could be traded. On the other hand, if this baseline is fixed at a lower level by the international community, as we could reasonably expect after 2012, the country would face the costs of having taken the wrong path for so long. It seems that the government wants the Argentinean position to be the first one, since it minimises adaptation costs and maximises short term opportunities for CDM and other possible flex mechs. Of course, for this to happen, the rest of the parties must first accept the emission scenario presented by Argentina. This is quite unlikely, since it would trigger similar claims from other non-annex-1 countries misled by the "leading case". The final result of this would probably be a net increase in worldwide emissions by 2012.

Early action is regarded as costly and unnecessary under this scenario, since mitigation options could be preserved for emission trading, thus being paid for by Annex-I countries. The other contentious issues are the criteria for choosing mitigation projects, which include sinks (forestry) and mega-hydropower plants.

Argentinean NGOs for Emission Reductions

INFORSE Argentina and other members of Foro del Buen Ayre have been pushing for an increase in the total goal of wind projects: at least three times higher than the official proposal for the period from now to 2015. They also advocate more ambitious targets for transportation and energy efficiency, as well as elimination of unsustainable options such as nuclear or new mega-hydro schemes. This could mean zero growth of emissions, or even reductions, by 2012. We believe that early action is needed if we want to fulfil this promise, not only for the good of the climate but also to direct CDM towards renewable energy rather than towards unsustainable options.

EVENTS

August 24-28, 1999

SUN21, 2. Int'l Week for a Sustainable Energy Future, Basel, Switzerland

Factor 4 Festival, Financing Sustainability, International Development, Swiss Energy Program, International Energy „Summit“, exhibitions

Info: P.O. Box 332, CH-4010 Basel, Ph: 0041-61-271 03 89, fax: 0041-61-271 10 83, <http://www.sun21.ch>, E-mail: info21@SUN21.ch

September 4-10, 1999

Renewable Energy: Advancing Technology for Industrialization & Sustainable Development, Brighton, UK

Info: World Renewable Energy Network, UK. Ph: +44-1189-611365, fax: +44-1189-611365, <http://www.wrenuk.co.uk/renew/renew.html>

September 15-16, 1999

Global Conference on Renewable Energy Island, Ærø, Denmark

Info: FED/INFORSE Secretariat P.O. Box 2059, DK-1013, Copenhagen K, Denmark. Ph: +45-33-121307, fax: +45-33-121308, e-mail: inforse@inforse.dk <http://www.inforse.dk/>
See article in the issue no. 25 on the back page.

September 22-26, 1999

Husum Wind '99, Husum, Germany

Worlds's biggest wind power exhibition. Info: Osterwungweg 2, 25813, Husum Germany. Ph: +49-841-8355-0, fax: +49-841-8355-55, e-mail: peter@wellmann.allcon.com.

September 25 - October 3, 1999

PLEA 1999, Brisbane, Australia

16th Int'l Conf. on Passive & Low Energy Architecture, workshops, tours. Info: Sally Brown, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, 4072 Australia. Ph: +61-7-33656360, +61-7-33657099, e-mail: sally.brown@mailbox.uq.edu.au.

October 4-5, 1999

World Renewables Conference, Brussels, Belgium

Energy for the next millenium Info: Financial Times Energy, Maple House, 149 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 9LL, UK. Ph: +44-1718-962413, fax: +44-1718-962121, e-mail: matthew.salt@ft.com, <http://www.ftenergyusa.com/conferences>.

October 6-8, 1999

Balkan Light '99, Varna, Bulgaria

Energy Effective, Ecological and Ergonomical Lighting Info: Ph: +359-2-650940, fax: +359-2-654883, <http://acstre-ma.vmei.acad.bg/balkanlight>.

October 10-12, 1999

Audit'99, Turku, Finland

International Conference on Energy Audits Ph: +358-9-4566076, fax: +358-9-4567008, e-mail: irmeli.mikkonen@motiva.fi, <http://www.motiva.fi/audit>.

October 14-15, 1999

6th COGEN Europe's 6th Annual Conf. and Exhibition, Brussels, Belgium

Info: 98 Rue Gulledele Brussels, 1200 Belgium. Ph: + 32-2-7728290, fax: +32-2-7725044.

October 21-22, 1999

Kyoto Mechanisms Business Opportunities JI/CDM

Info: Josef Janssen, Institute for Economy and the Environment, University of St. Gallen (IWOe-HSG), Tigerbergstrasse 2, 9000 St.Gallen. Ph: +41-71-2242589, fax +41-712242722. E-mail: Josef.Janssen@unisg.ch, <http://www.iwoe.unisg.ch/kyoto>

October 25 - November 5, 1999

UNFCCC COP5 Bonn, Germany

Info: UNFCCC - Secretariat PO Box 260124, 53153 Bonn, Germany. Ph: +49 -228-815-1000, fax: +49 -228-815-1999, <http://www.unfccc.de> E-mail: secretariat@unfccc.de
See article in this issue on page 4.

October 17-26, 1999

Solar Challenge, Adelaide, Australia

Electric & Solar Vehicle Conf., & Race. Info: PO Box 8178, Station Arcade, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia. Ph: +61-8-83873877, fax: +61-8-83226290, e-mail: myriad@wsc.org.au, <http://www.wsc.org.au/>.

November 2-5, 1999

Environment '99, Guangzhou, China

Info: Stefanie Niebuhr, Gima Exhib. & Conf., Heidenkampsweg 51, 20097 Hamburg, Germany. Ph: +49-40-23524341, fax: +49-40-23524403.

November 5-9, 1999

Windpower Course, CAT, UK

Info: Center for Alternative Technology, Macchynleth, Powys, SY20 9AZ, UK. Ph: +44-1654-703743, fax: +44-1654-702782, e-mail: joan@cateducation.demon.co.uk.

November 8-10, 1999

SAVE Conference, Graz, Austria

For an Energy Efficient Millenium Info: EVA, Austrian Energy Agency, Linke Wienzeile 18, 1060 Vienna, Austria. Fax: +43-1-5869488, e-mail: save-conf@eva.wsr.ac.at, <http://www.eva.wsr.ac.at/save-conf/>

November 10-16, 1999

UNCCD COP3, Recife Brazil

Haus Carstanjen, Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8, 53175 Bonn, Germany Ph: +49-228 8152800, fax: +49-2288152899, email: secretariat@unccd.de <http://www.unccd.ch/secretariat.htm>
See article in this issue on page 4.

December 1-3, 1999

PanEuropean Conference on Solar Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Info: Prof. P.Vitanov, e-mail: soeil@pronto.phys.bas.bg. or UNESCO World Solar Commission. December 13-16, 1999

Moscow InterLight '99 Moscow, Russia

5th International trade fair for lighting Info: OWP Moscow, ph: +7-95-9670461, fax: +7-95-9670462, e-mail: owpmow@dialup.ptt.ru

.January 24-29, 2000

WCEC 2000, 2nd World Clean Energy Conf. & Exhibition, Geneva, Switzerland

Info: Conf Secr. Rue de Varembe 3 POB 200, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. Ph: +41-22-9103006, fax: +41-22-9103014, e-mail: conference@cleanenergy2000.com, <http://www.cleanenergy2000.com>

February, 2000

UN Expert Meeting for CSD9, New York, USA

Info: UN, Division for Sustainable Development, 2 UN Plaza, Room DC2-2220, New York, NY 10017 USA, Ph.: + 1 212/963 3170, fax: + 1 212/963 4260, e-mail: dsd@un.org www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm

April 18-21, 2000

New Energy 2000, Shanghai, China

Int'l Exhibition. Host: China Chamber of Commerce, et.al. Info: Coastal Int'l Exhibition Ltd., 3808 China Resources Bldg, 26 Harbour rd Wanchai Hong Kong. Ph: 852-28276766, fax: +852-28275224, +852-28276870, email: general@coastal.com.hk <http://www.coastal.com.hk>.

April 22, 2000

Earth Day 2000

Info: Att. Mark Dubois, 91 Marion str., Seattle, WA 98104, USA. Ph: +1-206-2640114, fax: +1-206-6821184, e-mail: worldwide@earthday.net <http://www.earthday.net>.

May 1-5, 2000

16th European PV Energy Conference and Exhibition, Glasgow, UK.

Info: WIP, Sylvensteinerstrasse 2, 81369, München, Germany. Ph: +49-89-7201235, fax: +49-89-7201291, <http://www.wip.tnet.de/>

June, 2000

EXPO 2000, Hannover, Germany

Info: Thurmthistr. 2, 30519 Hannover, Germany. Ph: +49-511-8404332, fax: +49-511-8404440, e-mail: hubrich@expo2000.de.
See article in the issue no. 22.

June 5-9, 2000

1st World Conf., Exhibition on Biomass for Energy & Industry, Sevilla, Spain

Info: Energia TA - Florence Piazza Savonarola 10, 50132, Florence, Italy. Ph: +39-055-5002174, fax: +39-055-573425, <http://www.etaflorence.it>, <http://www.wip.tnet.de>.

June 19-22, 2000

EUROSUN, Copenhagen, Denmark

Info: Danish Solar Energy Society, DANVAK, Ørholmvej 40B, 2800 Lyngby, Denmark. Ph: +45-45-877611, fax: +45-45-877677, e-mail: info@danvak.dk.

July 1-7, 2000

WREC-2000, Brighton, UK

World Renewable Energy Congress Info: Prof Ali Sayigh, World Renewable Energy Network, 147 Hilmanton, Lower Early, Reading RG64 HN, UK. Ph/fax: +44-1189-611364/-611365, e-mail: asayigh@netcomuk.co.uk, <http://www.wrenuk.co.uk>.

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- "We want Solar We Want Solar", SOLCEN South Africa

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Solar Village in South Africa. See article on pages 7-8