

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS on EMAIL (SENSE)

Number 33

Welcome! SENSE is a service of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project (SECCP) a project of Earthlife Africa Johannesburg.

SENSE is a regular publication, edited by Nkosana Rakitla. We welcome any feedback and submissions. Also let us know if you wish to be removed from this list, know someone else who should be receiving SENSE, or if you'd like to receive our separate Climate Change email newsletter, CCEN.

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Note from SENSE Editor

In July 2005 SECCP had to say good-bye to Claire Taylor who was the Information Manager and Editor of SENSE. She has moved on to work for Meropa an organisation working with HIV/AIDS, from SECCP staff and all colleagues working for a just transition sustainable energy and climate change response “good luck Claire on your new adventure and you will be surely missed by all”.

As from this edition I will be your SENSE editor and SENSE will be a bi-monthly edition. I hope you we will enjoy the Sustainable Energy News as always.

Nkosana Rakitla
Information and Energy Officer

1. SECCP News

Become an Energy Activist Capacity Building programme

The Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project of Earthlife Africa Johannesburg is currently running a “Become an Energy Activist Capacity Building Programme” for energy activist in Gauteng.

Congratulations to the participants attending the course from the following organisations: Daveyton Environmental Youth Council, Jubilee Gauteng, Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee, Inji ya Uri, Green House Project, Nuclear Cost the Earth Campaign and SECCP / Earthlife Africa Jhb.

The programme will runs one day a week over 8 weeks, it will address affordability and access to previous appropriate energy services and implementation of a just transition to sustainable energy.

Johannesburg’s Earthlife Africa Establishes an Energy Policy Unit

Limited input from civil society into current energy sector developments have necessitated Earthlife Africa (ELA) to establish an Energy Policy Unit (EPU) whose objective is to inform and mobilize civil society with the intention of addressing the latter’s knowledge and skills gap in engaging in energy processes and policy advocacy.

The EPU has appointed as Energy Policy Officer, Sekgametsi Mandhlazi who has previously worked with the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Minerals and Energy Policy Centre as well as the GTZ/SADC Programme for Biomass Energy Conservation. The EPU will be implemented as part of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project (SECCP) and is funded by the Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBS) . The project will run for two years and will produce analysis of policy and implementation from the perspective of benefits to civil society.

The EPU aims to raise civil society’s awareness and skills on energy policy and provide support to advocacy through the provision of information and analysis, and making inputs to policy process and debates at national level. The unit’s focus will not only be concentrated on national energy issues, but will look at how international, including SADC and NEPAD’s developments, are influencing South Africa's energy sector.

On 18 August 2005, ELA/SECCP will host an inception workshop for the Energy Policy Unit at the Elijah Barayi Training Centre, 149 Old Harrow Road, Yeoville, and Johannesburg from 09:00 to 16:30. The purpose of the workshop is to introduce the EPU

and its objectives, form a Reference Group and inform the Project Implementation Plan. For more information on the EPU and the workshop, kindly contact Sekgametsi Mandhlazi at: (Tel) +27 11 339 3662; (Fax) 0860 686 8434; and e-mail to Sekgametsi@earthlife.org.za

Report on a Meeting with the NEPAD Secretariat

By Sekgametsi Mandhlazi

The Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project of Earthlife Africa Johannesburg on the 13 June 2005 met with the NEPAD secretariat Mr. Reatile Mochebele and Mohammed Boulahya at Development Bank of Southern Africa.

This meeting was set up with the main intention of exploring how NEPAD with input from the SA civil society Energy Caucus could play a stronger catalyst role in the creation of employment opportunities based on the provision of energy using renewable energy technologies, also presented Nyathi Energy Consultants was looking for opportunities to supply small-scale solar and bio-energy solutions. Mr. Mochebele explained that his interest to meet with ELA had to do with the fact that, in his opinion, the provision of renewable energy technologies (RETs) was not progressing as expected. He also emphasized that headways in the South African renewables sector could serve as an encouragement to other countries follow suit.

Mr. Mochebele who explained that NEPAD's mandate was focusing on the economic integration of Africa and that the Secretariat's resources were limited to realizing that objective followed this. The Secretariat's role was to support Regional Economic Commissions (RECs). All projects listed in the NEPAD Infrastructure Short Action Plan were aimed at (i) mobilizing political will, and, (ii) mobilizing additional resources. Although the Plan mentions the need to promote RETs in the region, the Plan so far has no RE projects that are being implemented.

At present, the NEPAD Infrastructure Secretariat was without an Energy Advisor. This posed a constraint to the scope of work that the Secretariat was supposed to undertake because the existing staff had expertise only in water and sanitation issues. According to Mr. Mochebele, the Energy Advisor's post was advertised but the received applications were not suitable. He mentioned that the ToR for the Energy Advisor were posted in NEPAD's website, the Secretariat has an advisor dealing with transport issues.

Regarding RETs, the Secretariat believes that these technologies are important. However, given the constraints they are facing in terms of their mandate, outside players are needed to drive RETs. Presently in South Africa, there is a NEPAD Business Group, which represents the conventional energy sector and is coordinated by Ms. Jean Madzongwe of DBSA. The Secretariat does not prescribe to this group whose focus at the moment excludes RETs. Mr. Mochebele suggested that ELA and parties interested in influencing decisions on NEPAD interact with this group. Mr. Boulahya offered to help at best organize a meeting for ELA and the other parties to meet with the NEPAD Business Group.

The other matter that is a constraint to the Secretariat's functions was the fact that not enough countries had ratified the African Energy Commission (AFREC) for it to come into effect. This delayed progress on the EU-Africa Coalition on Energy.

The inclusion of RETs and EE in the Short Term Action Plan is dependant on having AFREC operational and the plans incorporated during the open process that will lead to sub-regional workshops on the plan.

Mr. Boulahya mentioned that the Environment Secretariat was working on a long distance course targeting journalists working on environment and climate issues. He also mentioned that SADC's Environment Action Plan would be reviewed in July 2005.

Seeing the constraints faced by the NEPAD Secretariat, as well as its limited mandate, civil society should focus on supporting ratification of AFREC by all AU nations and initiation of the RE and EE components of short term plans.

Response to SECCP enquiries – ratification of AFREC

The Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project has been assured informed that The Department of Minerals and Energy has already deposited the instrument of ratification for the AFREC convention and confirms that the Minister will sign on the 15th of August in Addis.

South Africa's ratification will assist and support in the operationalisation of AFREC, as fifteen countries need to ratify the convention in order to put the Board and the Technical Advisory Body in place and mobilize resources.

Twelve countries have completed the ratification process and Angola, Kenya, Gambia, Ethiopia and Congo Brazzaville are expected to ratify within the next two months, which means that the convention will come into effect round about that time.

We suggest that if we want action on renewables on a regional this level, pushing for implementation of AFREC is key as should impact beyond NEPAD.

Notes from NEPAD Main report (draft), Short-Term Action PLAN - Infrastructure RE and EE components

New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSEs)

A number of sub-regional/ regional institutions as well as research organisation at the national level have been established to promote capacity in, and use of, New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSEs) in Africa. But such efforts must be intensified alongside creating the right conditions for promoting cooperation and integration throughout the continent, together with working with partners in the developed world – such as the G8 Renewable Energy Task Force. Utilizing NRSEs to their full potential will help to facilitate sustainable development for large numbers of people on the continent in particular in rural areas.

Activities would be furthered regarding the World Solar Program 1996-2005 (WSP) as approved by the World Solar Commission in June 1997 in line with the importance that should be given to the implementation of the African component (ASP) of the (WSP).

The NRSEs initiative would generate proposals for cooperation among Regional Economic Community (RECS), African Nations, and multilateral and other organisations as well as the private sector to further development and use of NRSEs in Africa.

Cooperation in Energy Efficiency and Reliability of Energy Supply.

Greater energy efficiency and optimum utilization of plant assets will help to maintain secure energy supplies and bring savings reduced dependence on imported fuels and increased and increased industrial competitiveness, apart from having significant environmental benefit. Investments would also be able to be deferred through optimal utilization of existing facilities with application of energy efficiency programme using demand availability/reliability etc. Sharing of lessons learned within Africa and beyond proposal will be developed for a strategy to enhance cooperation in energy efficiency and reliability in the continent.

Media Work

This is a new feature on SENSE, in every edition we will include media work by SECCP, for this edition we feature a letter from the Project Coordinator.

Hot Air

07 July 2005, Business Day

SIR – Lord Oxburgh’s article, balancing act needed to stabilise climate (July 5), is pertinent, recognising that addressing greenhouse gas emissions is as much an opportunity as a challenge for business.

However, his vested interest shows in his advocacy for “carbon sequestration”, widely referred to as carbon capture and storage (CCS). This is an expensive technology that is still largely speculative.

Energy Efficiency and conservation are far the most cost effective climate change mitigation options and have enormous potential.

Switching to renewable energy sources is more effective than modification to fossil fuels use or increasing the share of nuclear power, but externalisation of most of the costs of fossil and nuclear fuel use continue to keep renewables marginalised. However, the benefits of renewables render them the best investment from a public interest perspective.

Promoters of carbon capture and storage, in competing for public research and development funding, are seeking yet another subsidy for the fossil fuels sector. We should be levelling the playing field for technologies that offer the best social and environmental returns.

The companies should profiting from polluting industries should pay for any development of this option.

Editorial comment: the original complete letter is available on request

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2. SA’s sustainable energy progress

Support Fuel from cane

Nicola Jenvey, Business Day 23 June 2005

Durban- The South African Sugar Cane Association has called on government to support a fuel from sugar cane initiative, allowing the industry to expand in critical value added revenue stream.

The Brazilian sugar industry currently produces a second revenue stream from molasses that is converted into ethanol as an alternative to fossil fuels. Sale sin Brazil cars that can use any combination of ethanol and petrol have grown to 50% of new vehicles by

last month. This expected to rise to 80% within the year compared with only 5% in January.

However according to local Sugar Cane Association chairman Rodger Stewart, sugar producing countries that had expanded into biofuels markets had done so through government support. This involves mandating the inclusion of biofuels into the energy pool and providing regulatory and financial support for Greenfield costs.

The industry continues discussing with government department to positive aspects of renewable energy from sugarcane. Also Illovo the Regional Sugar Giant is investigating the options for generating power from cane and molasses, Bagasse, the cane fibre left after the sucrose has been removed, is a renewable energy source that can be burnt to generate steam and thus electricity for sale into national grid.

Several local mills currently supply a limited amount of electricity to the grid, but in harnessing this as along-term renewable energy source, the issue of price and access need to be addressed.

Editorial: the sustainability of agricultural practices that supply biomass fuels is subject of heated debate – a discussion document developed by FOEI is available

<http://www.foe.org/>

Minister Of Environment and Tourism turns down appeal against Construction of Darling Wind Farming

www.deat.gov.za /media release, Wednesday 13 July 2005

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Marthinus van Schalkwyk has turned down the only appeal against the development of commercial wind farm near Darling in the Western Cape.

The decision to uphold the original approval, of 28 February 2005 when the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism issued the record of decision, paves the way for the construction of the South Africa's first –ever renewable energy power generating facility to be developed by private company, which will feed into the national power network.

State energy firm mulls over paraffin alternative

01 – 05 August, Engineering News

The Energy Development Corporation (EDC), a division of the Central Energy Fund, is looking to replace a large percentage of the paraffin used by South Africa's poor with an ethanol-gel fuel – which works on the same basis as a candle but with a much higher heating value.

Paraffin is extremely hazardous because of its high flammability, and has caused widespread loss of life through fires in informal settlements across the country, says EDC commercial project officer Gillian Chan-Sam. The carbon emissions from paraffin stoves also pose respiratory health problems for the people who use the stoves, as well as the Department of Health, which spends large amounts of its budget on treating respiratory problems in South Africa, she adds.

As an alternative to this form of cooking and heating fuel, gel fuel has been hailed as the new wonder fuel. It is made from ethanol, which can be produced from feedstock's such as sugar, maize, cassava or beet and, because it is made from vegetable matter, it is

completely nontoxic when accidentally consumed, as well as being less flammable and less hazardous compared to paraffin, says Chan-Sam.

“We are currently in negotiations with a broad-based black economic-empowerment company, as well as a sugar grower, to get this project off the ground.” To date, a prototype gel-fuel stove, in one- and two-burner models, has been designed. It is based on a squat, no tip design that ensures stability and is similar to the design of an electric hot plate. The stove has removable parts, which makes replacing fuel easier. The can of gel fuel is placed within the stove, underneath the burner plate, and lit.

“We are still testing the amount of heat this gel fuel can generate, but it seems as if it has double the heating value of paraffin, although at a cost of around 50% more than paraffin. The greater heating value means one will use much less of the gel compared to paraffin, though,” notes Chan-Sam.

A pilot project testing the ethanol fuel gel is set to be rolled out in the Western Cape, Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal.

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3. SA's Unsustainable Energy

Eskom Watch

Matimba B Power Station

Nkosana Rakitla

The project proposes the establishment of a new coal-fired power station in the Lephalale area. The power station may ultimately have a maximum installed capacity of up to 4800 MW, but the first phase will be approximately half that installed capacity. The exact output will depend on the specification of the equipment installed and the ambient operating conditions. Bohlweki Environmental is currently undertaking an EIA in order to identify an appropriate site for the establishment of the proposed new coal-fired power station and to assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed project. The footprint of the proposed new power station is still to be determined through final engineering and design, but would be approximately 700 ha for the power plant and associated plant (terrace area), and an additional approximate 500 - 1000 ha for ashing facilities (ash disposal options are currently being investigated).

Screening and feasibility studies undertaken by Eskom identified the Waterberg Coalfields, Limpopo Province as the most viable option for the siting of a new coal-fired power station.

The Lephalale area in the vicinity of the existing Matimba Power Station ranked as the most favorable site for the establishment of a new coal-fired power station because:

- (1) Land availability in close proximity to the primary coal source.
- (2) The properties of the coal in the area are well competitive coal prices and the availability of alternative ash disposal options.

A Stakeholder Consultant Meeting was held on 27 June 2005 at the Eskom Convention Centre. The EIA meeting aims to provide information to and get input from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the proposed 4800 Mega Watt coal fired power station to be built in Lephalale, Limpopo. There were fifteen participants at the meeting, the bulk of which comprised Eskom and Bohlweki Environmental Consultants. No documents were made available to the stakeholders except for a background information document describing the project sent to I&APs.

A full set of minutes and presentation was promised to be sent to the I&APs in July, below is our summary of the meeting:

- Bohlweki Environmental Consultants emphasised that a full Environmental Impact Assessment process will be followed as laid out by legislation.
- The assumption is that the plant with an estimated 50 year life span will be constructed in 2007 and be operationalised by 2010.
- Regarding the technology to be utilised, Eskom has “decided” on pulverised fuel technology based on economic and technical consideration despite the fact that the project is still in the stage of environmental scoping.
- Although the Terms Of Reference for specialist studies will be circulated to Interested and Affected Parties participants, the report on the pre-feasibility studies will not be made public.

Bohlweki Environmental Consultant noted that all issues raised by the I&APs present in the meeting will be taken into consideration. Currently we've been informed that the minutes to the meeting are in the finalisation stage and will be send to I&APs and made public on <http://www.bohlweki.co.za/>

Eskom Holding Expected to burn 111.6 metric tons of fuel

1 July 2005, Business Report

Johannesburg – Eskom Holdings the world's biggest coal buyer, is expected to burn a record 111.6 million metric tons of the fuel in the current financial year, compared to an estimated 105 million tons of coal in 2004. The state owned company, which purchases more than half of Africa's power, uses coal to fire almost all of its power plants.

Eskom Holdings can generate about 40 000 megawatts of electricity and is boosting output to keep pace with rising demand for powering the South African economy, which grew at its fastest pace in four years last year, expanding by 3.7 percent.

Eskom is decommissioning mothballed coal fired plants and plan to build new plants, in its effort to meet South Africa's growing electricity demand. It buys coal from Anglo American, BHP Billiton, Eyesizwe Coal Mining and Kumba Resources and is in talks with the companies, including Sasol and Kumba to secure more supplies.

Editorial comment: according to the article Eskom's total installed capacity is 40 000 MW, we believe that the installed capacity is 39 810MW [Eskom website/annual report 2005](#)

PBMR awards \$20m fuel-plant contract

01 – 05 August, Engineering News

The South African Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) Company has awarded a \$20-million contract for the design, procurement, construction and cold commissioning of its pilot fuel-plant utilities and infrastructure at Pelindaba, near Pretoria. The contract for the facility, which will have an initial capacity of 270 000 nuclear fuel spheres a year, was awarded to Uhde, a South African division of Germany's Thyssenkrupp Engineering.

The utilities to serve the plant will be designed and installed as part of this contract, which is scheduled to be completed in January 2007. The full scope of work is divided into four phases: a Basic design up to, and including, hazard and operability review (HAZOP II) closeout report.

Detailed design (post-HAZOP II), and procurement of selected long-lead items of equipment, as well as the procurement, manufacturing and delivery to site of plant and equipment and a portion of the piping and electrical bulks, and the start of building alteration and HVAC-ducting installation. Site installation of utilities and process plant and equipment and underground services, precommissioning activities, cold-commissioning, performance testing, operator training and handover.

Hot-commissioning support.

General manager of the fuel division of PBMR Thabang Makubire said the contract was a big first-step in realizing a pilot fuel plant for the project. "PBMR has two major thrusts, namely, the demonstration plant at Koeberg, near Cape Town, and the pilot fuel plant at Pelindaba. "This contract says we are getting closer to our vision of having a fuel-manufacturing plant to serve the demonstration power plant."

Free State municipality mulls revival of mothballed power station

01 – 05 August, Engineering News

A Free State municipality has issued a request for proposals for the possible decommissioning of the moth-balled Kroonstad power station. The plant is currently owned by the Moqhaka Municipality, which is hoping to transform it into a profitable business unit.

The coal-fired mothballed station will be refurbished through a public-private partnership or through the introduction of an independent power producer (IPP). Awards, it seems, will hinge on the proposal that provides maximum benefit to the municipality. Expenses incurred will include the purchase of fuel and the cost of overhauling the station.

At the time of writing, information was scarce, but the request for proposals indicated that bidders would have to deal with the refurbishment of the station, the future economic operation and look into concluding a long-term power off-take agreement with the municipality.

This agreement is to be for the net benefit of Moqhaka, or another named party. A competitive bidding process will determine the winning company and request for proposals became available last week from transaction advisors Fieldstone Africa. . A prebid meeting will be held on May 31 in Kroonstad. Proposals are being accepted until 14:00 on August 26.

The initiative comes at a time when government and Eskom are in a push to grow South Africa's power capacity by some 1 000 MW a year over several years. Eskom is in the process of recommissioning its own mothballed stations at Camden, Grootvlei and Komati to add some 3 612 MW at a cost of R12-billion. Peaking power is the most urgent

requirement, with peak demand currently standing at 34 000 MW, while Eskom's installed capacity is 35 000 MW.

Therefore, there is a big national effort under way to accelerate building programmes. The Department of Minerals and Energy is currently involved in a tender process for two open-cycle gas-turbine power plants that will push out 1 000 MW of peaking power by 2008, while Eskom has its own open-cycle gas-turbine power plan for Mossel Bay.

Over 90 international and local companies have responded to the request for expressions of interest. Plant one, to be located in the Eastern Cape, will be between 300 MW and 360 MW. Plant two, to be located in Kwazulu-Natal, will be between 750 MW and 830 MW. The plants are to be operational before the end of 2008. International standards indicate that each 1 000 MW of power comes at a cost of \$1- billion.

South Africa is expected to need about 2 640 MW of new peaking generation capacity between 2006 and 2010. Government has already indicated that 30% of the future generation capacity required will be commissioned by Independent Power Producers (IPPs), with Eskom producing the remainder.

SECCP response on behalf of Earthlife Africa JHB - Eskom power costing crucial for Coega

Underneath is an open letter written to Minister of Public Enterprise in response to Eskom's discussion with Alcan aluminium producer to provide for cheap electricity to a proposed aluminium smelter in Coega. The letter was also copied to the Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel. The article Eskom power costing crucial for Coega featured in the Business Report 14 July 2005

Earthlife Africa Jhb calls for review of subsidised electricity

Open letter regarding Eskom and Alcan Negotiations for Cheap Electricity

Dear Minister Erwin

Eskom has entered into discussions with Alcan, the second biggest aluminium producer in the world, to provide cheap electricity a proposed aluminium smelter in Coega (Business Report, 14 July 2005). It is reported that these talks will be held in secret, yet they will have long-lasting impacts for SA society at large and in particular for Eskom customers, who will have to bear any cost resulting from under-recovery of the true costs of supplying Alcan over the full period of the contract.

Our concerns regarding Eskom's intention to provide Alcan's aluminium smelter with "cheap" electricity are based on the fact that current electricity tariffs to the industrial sector are already indirectly subsidized. Tariffs are not reflective of the true costs of generating electricity, as is called for in the White Paper on Energy Policy for SA (1998). Such costs should include externalities, which include costs arising from ill health and adverse environmental conditions as a result of electricity generation at coal-fired power plants.

With current electricity pricing, industry is not given any incentives to reduce its energy consumption and thus contribute to a sustainable energy environment. Instead, cheap tariffs promote wasteful use of electricity by industry, which is a direct violation of the principles of 1998 White Paper and the Energy Efficiency Strategy of 2004 which seek to improve efficient use of energy resources in the country.

Given the fact that energy prices face on-going upward pressure internationally and there is already a need to increase the country's electricity capacity driving public expenditure, there should be opportunity for public scrutiny of any Eskom offer of cheap electricity. The long-term public costs, including the financing costs of new generation capacity and operating costs under proposed Environmental Fiscal Reform and international measures to address climate change, should be weighed against any projected benefits from energy-intensive primary beneficiation of minerals, particularly given a high import component.

We request that the department provide details of how stakeholders, including civil society groups calling for a just transition to sustainable energy, will have an opportunity to address the issue of electricity prices being negotiated by Eskom that will have long-term consequences for energy development in South Africa. We further request that tariffs offered by state owned enterprises to such energy-intensive industries are subject to analysis of long-term macro-economic and social impacts, within the public domain, before contracts are approved.

Yours truly,

Sekgametsi Mandhlazi

Energy Policy Unit

CC Minister Manuel

"Policy calls for efficiency and diversification of energy supply, but pushing up demand by luring energy-intensive industries to South Africa plays to the hand of the conventional energy interests" says Richard Worthington, SECCP Project Co-ordinator. "In the Environmental Impact Assessment for a new 4 800MW power station, Eskom seeks to avoid public consideration of alternatives such as Integrated Gassification Combined Cycle (IGCC) technology that is one third more efficient than the proposed technology and much more compatible with pollution control. With a life-span of fifty years, the proposed new plant, South Africa's biggest ever, could become uneconomic half way through its life."

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4. SA's General Energy News

Second national integrated resource plan of South Africa

A speech by the deputy minister of Minerals and Energy at the NIRP2 publication launch on 22 April 2005

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege and honour to launch the second publication of the National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP2) during the period when the National Electricity Regulator (NER) is also celebrating a decade of effective electricity regulation and ensuring that electricity is affordable to the poorest of the poor in this country. We commend the NER for vigorously regulating the electricity sector.

The Energy Policy White Paper for South Africa states that an integrated resource plan (IRP) should be used as a fundamental basis to enlighten us when we have to make decisions regarding the licensing of new generation capacity and decommissioning of generation plant.

Minister Alec Erwin alluded to the fact that the energy sector is undergoing a long-term reform process in its structure - generation, transmission and distribution - and in the diversification of energy sources when he tabled the budget vote for his department. He mentioned that in order to meet the growing demand for energy the cabinet agreed in October last year that Eskom would build at least 70% of the capacity required in the next two decades. Alongside this process, using Eskom's purchasing power, the government would introduce the first significant independent power producers (IPPs).

The minister painted a warning signal with regard to our electricity generation capacity. He said: "The expansion of our energy supply is basic to our future economic growth, development and prosperity. The current peak demand is 34 000 MW and Eskom's capacity is 35 000 MW. It is evident that we have to move with speed. The R12-billion rehabilitation programmes of Camden, Grootvlei and Komati are now under way and will result in some 3 612 MW in new capacity when complete. The two peaking stations – one Eskom and one IPP – will provide 2000 MW by 2009." The minister of minerals and energy, Ms Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, will table her budget vote on 19 May 2005 and more details on the issues raised by minister Erwin will be outlined in detail.

In light of the White Paper and the recent government initiatives for the restructuring of the electricity supply industry (ESI), the NER introduced the development of a NIRP as an independent information source to stakeholders and decision-makers for ensuring security of the electricity supply. As government we rely on the NIRP to provide us with data that helps us to identify these risks and be able to proactively prepare for future infrastructural capacity development to meet the electricity demand of our country.

At the beginning of 2003, the NER established the NIRP Advisory and Review Committee (ARC) with the function to provide wide stakeholders' guidance and contribution to the NIRP development process. The NIRP2 has been generated under the guidance of the NER NIRP committee by a NIRP team comprising Eskom Resources and Strategy Group, the Energy Research Institute of UCT and NER.

The objective of today's NIRP is to determine the long-term least-cost electricity supply options to the country, independent of ESI structure, which is subject to the primary assumptions and constraints.

NIRP2 has been drastically improved, compared to its predecessor, NIRP1. It provides moderate and high electricity and demand forecasts, a complete database of the cost and performance of the generation plant considered in the optimisation, detailed output results, methodology applied in the planning process and risk and sensitivity analyses. To a large extent the NIRP report content resembles IRPs recently developed by international utilities and planning panels.

Other important change from NIRP1 is the inclusion of risk and sensitivity analyses and scenarios to address risk factors and uncertainties that are associated with the long-term demand forecast; performance of existing generation plants; sustainability and delivery of demand-side management (DSM) options, including Interruptible load supplies; and changes in the electricity demand load shape. Further, NIRP2 takes into account transmission integration costs and credits for regional location of new capacity that were not considered in the previous national resource plan.

I would like to focus on the main findings of the NIRP2 that are critical for policy decisions that are as follows:

The studies show that immediate decisions are required for peaking and base load plants from 2006 and 2012 respectively;

The base load plants competing for commercial operation from 2012 competing, include; pulverised fuel coal-fired (PF); fluidised bed combustion (FBC); combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) In order to meet government RES targets by 2013 immediate decisions

are also required for renewable energy options; Options for diversification are still insufficient to meet all of the forecast demand for electricity over the next 20-year planning horizon. Coal-fired options are still predominating the capacity during the 20-year planning horizon. For environmental benefit it is imperative to continue with efforts to reduce the costs of implementing clean coal technologies and improve the efficiency of coal-fired plants; Currently the assumed cost of capital (10% net discount rate before tax) and after returning the Eskom mothballed plant to service, fluidised bed combustion technologies are South Africa's most economic option, followed by investment in coal-fired plant. This in turn is followed by importing gas / LNG for CCGT plant in the Cape; The preferred plan indicates that 2880 MW CCGT peaking plants are required in the planning horizon in service from 2006;

The RES scenario is not fully reflective of the least cost RES mix currently investigated for implementation of the White Paper of Renewable Energy. Should interruptible supply and/or CCGT capacity not be implemented this will significantly advance new base-load capacity.

As government we will take these findings very seriously as we are planning for the new electricity capacity generation.

Contact Thembi Msindo, NER, Tel (012) 401-4780, thembeke.msindo@ner.org.za

Power-Distribution Law “Fine-Turned’

Chris van Gass

The Legislation regulating SA's electricity distribution industry is being “fine-turned” and would be tabled in Parliament at the end of August, Minerals and Energy Minister Lindiwe Hendricks said yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of SA's first regional electricity distributor (RED), Hendricks said she would finalise the restructuring of the electricity-distribution industry so that South Africans could soon see “tangible results through improved service delivery.

Hendricks said the restructuring of the electricity-distribution sector would ensure access to electricity and affordability of energy services, improve governance and electricity services and stimulate economic development.

The plan is to restructure the industry by establishing six financially viable regional distributors, with the first in Cape Town. Up to now, municipalities have made large surpluses on electricity sales, and these have been used to fund other municipal programmes or functions not related to electricity.

Eskom CE Thulani Gcabashe said the amalgamation was designed to rationalise distribution tariffs in a sector that had “between 150 and 200” different tariff structures. Overall it would move towards “cost-reflective tariffs” and be transparent about cross-subsidies in the tariff system, he said.

“Certainly that would not necessary lead to tariffs going up,” he said. The regional distributors will be made up of Eskom's distribution arm and the 187 municipalities that generate electricity, and will buy electricity at prices determined by the National Electricity Regulator.

Saleem Mowzer, the newly appointed CE of RED One – as the first distributor will be known –said that while municipalities were concerned about losing income with the introduction of REDs, the new entity would like to use extra funds generated through

electricity tariffs for infrastructure development and maintenance, and possibly other programmes.

Gcabashe said the new structure would improve governance by giving confidence to customers. He said that amid the change the sector should not lose sight of the electrification process, which to provide “reliable and good quality electricity” to South Africans who were living without power.

5. SA Energy Policy

Integrated Energy Planning

SECCP Project Coordinator on behalf of the South African Energy Caucus

The Department of Minerals and Energy is currently developing the Integrated Energy Planning II a demanding discipline, particularly with regard to accessing necessary data. The principle policy and market instruments, at least for South Africa, are already well understood and implementation could start tomorrow. IEP will quantify the rationale for redirecting investment, the scale of required market transformation and inform the detail of policy, regulation and market mechanisms.

Richard Worthington of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Project of Earthlife Africa Johannesburg was mandated by the South African Energy Caucus, an alliance of civil-society based organisations and networks including labour, faith and community based organisations that ascribe to a set of Principles, which include calls for no nuclear power and no waste incineration projects, to write a letter to the President calling for a just transition to Sustainable Energy in the Integrated Energy Planning II. The letter reads as follows:

Dear President Mbeki

The South African civil society Energy Caucus is a grouping that includes organised labour, faith and indigenous peoples’ groups as well as NGOs and CBOs that are committed to working for a just transition to sustainable energy.

We write to raise our concerns regarding the second round of Integrated Energy Planning (IEP2) that is underway at the Department of Minerals and Energy and in particular to express our determination that, unlike the IEP of 2003, this process should provide for meaningful integration of the social costs and benefits in planning for energy sector development. As acknowledged in section 8 of IEP (2003), there were significant shortcomings to the process and output, including failure to consider externalities, inadequate stakeholder participation and failure to take account of “the trade off between least cost energy production and other factors such as job creation and social development”.

Initial indications from DME officials are that only a limited set of polluting emissions will be quantified and valued in IEP2, which would not fulfill the standing 2003 government commitment to address the shortcomings noted in the first IEP. We thus request that your office work to ensure that full social costs and potential benefits are included in the scope of research and/or data collection on externalities and included in the integrated modelling and planning processes, consistent with the provisions of section 8.1 of The White Paper on Energy Policy for SA (1998).

Given the growing uncertainties regarding returns and long-term viability of conventional energy sector investments, due to recent and escalating volatility of fuel prices, there is a

growing imperative for investigating the social and environmental costs and benefits of various energy development options, since these returns carry far less risk. In this regard we note that recent independent research found that implementation of a target of 15% of electricity generation through renewable energy technologies would create 36 400 direct jobs (plus further indirect jobs, with no losses in other sub-sectors) and that this target can be achieved, with an appropriate set of policies and measures, with net economic savings over a twenty year period.

The Energy Caucus is concerned that so far only vested business interests, such as coal and petrochemical companies, are being consulted in the IEP2 process and that civil society representation and public participation may only be accommodated after substantive decisions and opportunities to ensure due consideration of broad-based public benefits will have passed. We therefore look to the Presidency to ensure that the profound positive or negative impacts that energy development could have on employment creation and poverty reduction in South Africa are meaningfully addressed through the IEP process.

If you'd like to see a copy of the Energy Caucus Principles, please contact me. If you'd like to join the Energy Caucus list serve, please contact Olivia Andrews at: olivia@earthlife-ct.org.za

Energy Efficiency Accord between The Department of Minerals and Energy and Organisations / Association

Below is a document signed by Minister Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka of Minerals and Energy, at Kyalami, Johannesburg, South Africa, and 04 May 2005

1. Parties

The document constitutes an accord between the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) and undersigned associations and individuals companies using energy in their business operations

2. Background

Both South African (SA) Business and The Government recognises that improvements in energy efficiency are needed if the country is to remain competitive internationally whilst dealing effectively with potential electricity capacity shortages, environmental concerns and the steadily rising prices of all energy sources.

The Government of SA, through the DME, has issued The Energy Efficiency Accord of the Republic of South Africa in March 2005. One element of this Strategy is the encouragement of business-led voluntary initiatives to improve energy efficiency. This Accord stands as a commitment between government and industry to support this specific objectives of the Strategy, Energy Efficiency commitments should not be seen in isolation of the national imperatives of increasing investments, economic growth and job creation or the business drivers of efficiency, competitiveness and safety standards.

3. Purpose

The DME and the industry signatories agree to collaborate to establish a mutually beneficial framework for voluntary energy efficiency initiatives that will help move the country towards its goals of attracting investment in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects and efficient energy use.

Specifically the DME and the industry signatories will work together to establish a programme that individual industry associations and companies will be able to join voluntarily.

4. Commitments

The Parties recognise the national imperative to achieve economic growth rates and agree the energy efficiency improvements need to be considered within the context of this overarching imperative.

The parties agree to cooperate to pursue the national energy efficiency target on a voluntary basis, recognising the energy usage is a major contributor to Green House Gas emissions in South Africa. They also agree to collaborate on initiatives that could result in CDM projects. The success of voluntary based initiatives will form part of the regular reviews provided for in The Energy Efficiency Strategy.

4.1 Targets

Industry signatories acknowledge the target, set in terms of the Energy Efficiency Strategy of the Republic of South Africa, of a national final demand reduction of 12% by 2015, expressed as percentage reduction against the projected national energy use in 2015, with final energy demand reduction target for the industry and mining sector as a whole of 15% by 2015. The industry signatories commit to the following actions towards this target.

4.2 Industry

We, the undersigned industry signatories, agree to collaborate with each other and Government to:

- Promote the development of sector specific strategies and targets, in partnerships with Government that will contribute to the achievement of the overall energy efficiency target set by Government.
- Promote the use of Demand Side Management contracts concluded with energy suppliers, where they exist, and to negotiate additional such contracts where appropriate, toward achievement of the above target.
- Develop common reporting requirements for energy usage from all energy sources, taking into account as those developed by the Global Reporting initiative.
- Define industry –specific projected energy usage in the future, based on Business-as-usual (BAU) growth expectations.
- Agree on 2000 as the baseline year against which performance will be measured.
- Establish methodologies that will allow the baseline quantification for energy use/intensity (consumption per unit of production or any other relevant denominator) in various subsectors, and to take into account the need to measure specific energy intensity (providing for the differing subsectors) rather than absolute energy use in order to promote industrial growth whilst achieving energy efficiency and recognising the energy conservation measures in use in some subsectors.
- Establish methodologies to take into account increased production so that the pursuit of improved energy efficiency does not hamper industrial growth.
- Develop a generic energy auditing protocol that can be adapted for use by the individual sector and company signatories.
- Endeavour that where appropriate, training material prepared during the course of this accord be accredited through the relevant SETA and that the sector skills sustain the commitments made in this accord and

- Where appropriate, exploit opportunities presented by energy efficiency projects to develop CDM projects.

4.3 The DME

1. I, undersigned, on behalf of government, agree that we will work cooperatively with industry signatories to realise the above commitments and to:
 - Engage with industry signatories leading up to the three yearly interval reviews that are envisaged in the Strategy.
 - Develop strategies including the provision of fiscal and other incentives with signatories to incentivise the achievement of agreed sectoral targets by industry on a sector or enterprise basis.
 - Afford signatories the opportunity to provide input to the concept and structure of future energy related strategy, regulations and standards.
 - Build a relationship of trust and cooperation with signatories encourage and enable information sharing and networking activities with the private sector and to use synergy with the green house gas initiatives undertaken by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
 - Identify and share Best practice (where appropriate to the South African context) among all parties and consider them as the basis for the establishment of standards.
 - Recognise industry signatories as contributors to the ongoing process to revise the National Energy Efficiency Strategy, and
 - Promote CDM projects as a vehicle to achieve improved energy efficiency.

5. Milestones

The Parties acknowledge the Energy Efficiency Strategy of the Republic of South Africa and agree that the strategy will be revised every three years in collaboration process between the Parties.

The Parties acknowledge further that The Energy Bill, which will be enacted by the end of 2005, will contain elements relating to energy efficiency and agree implementation of these elements will take place in consultation amongst the Parties.

Each energy using industry signatory, individually and/or with assistance of and through collaboration with industry associations where appropriate commits to the development of specific energy efficiency within one year signing of this Accord.

6. Institutional Arrangements

The industry signatories agree that the National Business Initiative will act as the liaison with Government in the implementation of the Accord. In regard, Business Unity South Africa is recognised as one of the formal and representative business organisation mandated to deal with formal legislative and policy negotiations.

Industry parties will collaborate with Government in the compilation of an annual National Progress Report, including energy data and progress against the agreed target.

Energy Efficiency Strategy

South Africa's Energy Strategy (2005) is now available from the DME's WebPage:

www.dme.gov.za

6. Sustainable Energy News from Around the World

Africa

Kenya to borrow Euro 33 million for geothermal project

NAIROBI, Kenya, June 8, 2005 (Refocus Weekly) The European Investment Bank will lend Euro 32.5 million to Kenya Electricity Generating (KenGen) to extend the Olkaria II geothermal power plant.

The Olkaria II plant, located in the Rift Valley near Naivasha, will drill additional wells and extend the existing substation and switchyard, as well as install a 35 MW steam turbine to supplement the existing 64 MW of generation capacity. EIB supported construction of the 45 MW Olkaria I in 1980 on land that was subsequently incorporated into Hell's Gate National Park, while Olkaria II was commissioned in 2003 and is located 5 km from Lake Naivasha, a major fresh water resource in Africa.

The extension project is possible because the availability of underground steam resources proved to be greater than initially expected. The work is part of Kenya's Energy Sector Recovery Project, a comprehensive recovery program for enhancing efficiency in the power sector.

The loan to KenGen for the Olkaria II extension will supplement a contribution from the World Bank (IDA), which will lend to the government of Kenya. Direct lending from EIB to KenGen through its Investment Facility reflects the utility's financial autonomy and is expected to encourage other financiers to build direct relations for funding further large investment projects needed to meet the country's future growth in electricity demand. Olkaria III was the first private geothermal power plant in Kenya, and Ormat installed 14 MW in the first phase of the binary geothermal facility in 2000.

Kenya was the first country in Africa to tap into geothermal for power generation, following investigations in the Rift Valley that started in 1956. Another 576 MW of additional geothermal energy is planned by 2017, which will supply almost one-quarter of the country's power requirement.

Kenya has a potential of 2,000 MW of geothermal resource in various sites within the Rift Valley, according to World Bank estimates.

The Treaty of Rome, to finance capital investment projects, which advance policy objectives of the European Union, established EIB in 1958. Financing in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific is carried out under its Investment Facility, with financial aid available of Euro 15 billion for until 2006.

Africa - goes up in Smoke?

A call to rich countries to cut green house gases emissions beyond the levels set under the Kyoto Protocol and the new and additional funding for Africa to adapt to global warming are amongst the recommendations of the report, Africa – Up in smokes? Which has appeared ahead of the G8 Summit that took place in Gleneagles, Scotland in July 2005.

The report which has been produced by a coalition of 21 environment and development organizations, including Oxfam, Friend of the Earth, the WWF and the international institute for Environment and Development, says that Africa's vulnerability to Global warming calls for a new model of development in which strategies to increase human reliance in the face of Climate Change and the stability of ecosystem are central.

"Climate Change is happening and when all impacts are added up, everyone will lose out sooner or later," says the report.

Energy

Africa has enormous potential for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency technologies. The challenge is how to create access to clean; affordable energy resources, which allow Africa to avoid the "dirty" energy path those others, have gone down, while meeting real development needs.

Various initiatives have been established to support sustainable energy, including the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC), the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the European Union Energy Initiative (EUEI) and the Global Village Partnership (GVEP), and there is current proposal to set up a EU Energy Facility for Africa worth €250 million Euros. However a coherent strategy needs to be developed by leading industrialised countries to reorient global investment away from fossil fuel intensive infrastructure and into low carbon and carbon-neutral technologies, which can power poverty reduction.

As recently as 2003 fossil fuels projects represented 86% of the World' Bank's spending on energy, compared to funding for Renewable Energy at 14%. It is necessary now to ensure that sustainable energy commitments, be better integrated and better resourced.

The G8, at the very least should work with Africa and other developing countries to promote a meaningful follow up follow-up process to the Renewable Energy 2004 Conference to ensure that technology transfer and development approaches are better co-ordinated and that voluntary commitments made at the Bonn renewable energy conference are implemented. At present the credibility of those programmes in delivering meaningful outcomes is open to question. Worse than that, the face of fossil fuel industries in Africa is smeared with exploitation, pollution and bad development practice.

African people want greater access to energy. The continent has abundant natural resources but these are often under-used, badly exploited or exported to other countries. Africa needs the means to develop local solutions to meet local needs, and increased access to clean sustainable energy to support health and education services, households and enterprise.

Recommendations

The following are made for Africa:

- Dramatically increases support is needed for small scale agricultural as well as an approach to farming based on maximum appropriate diversification.
- Rich countries need to cut green houses gas to the level commensurate with halting global warming and so that temperature rise is kept well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- There should focus on local needs first, with greatest challenge been securing livelihoods at the local level.
- The international community should help map the health impacts of global warming and ensure that the resources are available to tackle them.

- International donors and financial institutions should switch investments from fossil fuels into promoting renewable and sustainable energy. remove obstacles to technology transfer, and adopt targets and timelines to achieve those objectives.
- Disaster risk reduction should be integrated in relief, reconstruction, development programming and poverty reduction plans.
- More efficient systems are needed to ensure that aid is released quickly and that humanitarian aid is well targeted when disasters strikes.
- The international community should implement the agreement made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to help Africa prepare for and mitigate disasters at both a community and national level.
- All policies and programmes should be subjected to testing as climate change – friendly and climate proof.
- All funding to help Africa adapt to global warming should be new and additional to existing funds and seen not as aid but as obligation of the rich countries.

www.iied.org

The rest of the World

Drive to save energy leaves Asians hot under collar

By Shawn Donnan

In China a balmy 26°C has been declared the optimum temperature for air-conditioned government offices. In South Korea a minister this week took to the catwalk for a "no tie" fashion show to encourage office workers to wear cooler clothes. In Indonesia insomniacs are complaining after the government ordered television stations to drop overnight broadcasts to save energy.

Across much of power-hungry Asia the latest crop of record oil prices has brought government-led energy-conservation drives to rein in demand this summer. And from Chinese civil servants feeling the heat in their offices to drivers struggling to find a late-night fill-up in Bangkok where service stations have been ordered to shut at night, the moves are having an impact on daily life.

Thailand's prime minister doesn't mind turning off the air-conditioning at lunchtime, but he says, "The price of petrol has gone up so much I don't drive as much as I used to."

Collectively, the moves may be having an effect on Asia's appetite for petroleum. According to Andy Xie, an economist at Morgan Stanley, demand for oil imports this year has dropped in China, India, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand - countries that account for 16 per cent of world usage and made up 44 per cent of the increase in consumption seen last year. The reason, said Mr Xie, was weakening economies and the use of other fuels.

But the energy conservation drives are also a symptom of an Asian addiction to cheap, government-subsidised fuel prices and what in some countries remains a political reluctance to tackle the thorny issue of ballooning subsidy bills.

Thailand this week moved to erase diesel subsidies it introduced in January 2004. But the move came after months of what economists now say turned out to be growth-stultifying conservation measures.

The Philippines abandoned fuel subsidies in the 1990s and, facing fiscal problems already, the government has resisted calls to restore them this year. India ended subsidies on diesel three years ago. It has also sought to reduce the budgetary burden from still-subsidised fuels such as the kerosene used as cooking fuel by many rural poor,

though it still paid out \$805m (€669m, £459m) in kerosene subsidies in the 2004-05 budget year.

But in the past week the Indonesian government has launched an energy-saving drive, preferring that to a politically sensitive move on prices. Indonesia faces what is arguably Asia's most daunting problem when it comes to fuel prices. In spite of being the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Jakarta is a net importer of petroleum. If current crude oil prices persist, it will pay out more than \$10bn this year in fuel subsidies to maintain petrol prices which, at 27 cents a litre, are among the world's cheapest. Moreover, a cash-crunch at state oil company Pertamina caused by delayed subsidy payments has led to fuel shortages in parts of the archipelago. The answer for the time being, said President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, was to economise.

The retired general has followed the lead of Asian leaders such as Japan's Junichiro Koizumi - who launched a programme dubbed "Cool Biz" earlier this year - in urging businesses to turn down the air-conditioning and office workers to abandon formal business attire. Indonesian government officials have also found other creative ways to conserve energy. Television stations have been banned from going on air between 1am and 6am unless, that is, they are broadcasting European football matches. In Jakarta the street lights are being turned off at 11pm and lights on advertising billboards dimmed.

Economists say the moves are likely to do little to rein in demand in a country where car sales grew 15 per cent year-on-year in June in spite of rising global oil prices. And Bank Indonesia, the central bank, has begun arguing that the fuel conservation measures may cut into economic growth.

The real answer, economists argue unsurprisingly, is to remove subsidies and let market forces go to work. Conserving energy "is good for a political gesture. But it won't solve the problem", said economist Chatib Basri of the University of Indonesia. "From my view the government has to do it [raise prices and liberalise retail petrol prices]. Whether we have to do it gradually or abruptly we have to do it. We don't have a choice."

Additional reporting by Anna Fifield in Seoul, Roel Landingin in Manila, Richard McGregor in Beijing, Tony Cheng in Bangkok, Anita Jain in New Delhi, David Ibison in Tokyo, and Florian Gimbel in Hong Kong

Developing Countries receive boost for renewable energy under new UN Plan

Developing countries will receive extra help to exploit their renewable energy potential, such as fuels derived from agricultural crops, under a new initiative launched by the United Nations agency entrusted with integrating developing states into the world economy.

Under the Biofuels Initiative, the UN Conference on Trade and Development will coordinate the various activities carried out jointly with other UN agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and applied research centres, to build capacity in production, use and trade of biofuels.

Biofuels (bioethanol, biodiesel and biogas), derived from crops such as sugar beet and sunflower are an ecological alternative to conventional fossil fuels, which are expected to last no more than 50 years for petroleum, 60 years for natural gas and 200 years for coal. Careless use and consumption of these latter fuels has caused climate change and high concentration of air pollutants in major cities.

The BioFuels Initiative focuses on new trade and investment opportunities for developing countries, on implications for poverty reduction, and on the supply-side constraints of increasing the production, use and trade of these fuels.

As petrol prices rise, biofuels production, domestic use and trade reduce oil import dependency and increase energy security. Biofuel production creates employment, encourages greater diversification and promotes rural development.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is an effective way of fighting global warming by burning less carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For both developed and developing countries it may provide a pragmatic alternative for meeting their commitments to combat climate change and achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of slashing poverty, hunger and other socio-economic ills by 2015.

G8 leaders support the goals of REN21

In the Gleneagles Plan of Action the which came out of the July summit, the G8 leaders express their support for the Renewable Energy Policy network (REN 21), under article 16, by the heading of "Renewable Energy".

This article states that the G8 will promote continued development and commercialisation of renewable energy. One of the ways the G8 intends to do this is through promoting the International Action Programmes of the Renewable 2004 conference in Bonn. This includes supporting a conference hosted by the Chinese government at the end of 2005, as well as the goals of the REN 21.

This high-level support follows the Steering Committee's celebration of the official launch of REN21 in Copenhagen in the presence of the Danish Minister for the Environment, Connie Hedegaard. The launch ceremony took place during the second meeting of the Steering Committee, held precisely one year after the Bonn Renewables Conference, which took place 2-3 June 2005.

The governance and structure of REN21 were elaborated at this June meeting. Mr R. K. Pachauri, of 'The Energy and Resources Institute' was elected as chair of the REN21 Steering Committee. The Steering Committee members looked ahead at outreach opportunities and activities planned for the coming years, giving further shape to the work plan, and a set of policy issue papers were discussed. The REN21 Steering Committee next meeting will be held back to back with the "2005 Beijing International Renewables Conference" which taking place 7-8 November as a follow-up to the Bonn Renewables 2004 conference.

Source: www.ren21.net

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7. Events

South Africa:

Invitation to SECCP of Earthlife Johannesburg Energy Policy Unit Inception Workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to introduce the EPU and its objectives, form a Reference Group and produce a detailed Project Implementation Plan

Date: 18 August 2005

Venue: 149 Old Harrow Road, Elijah Barayi Training Centre,
Yeoville, Johannesburg

Time: 09:00 to 16:30.

For more information contact Sekgametsi Mandhlazi

(Tel) +27 11 339 3662

(Fax) 0860 686 8434

e-mail to Sekgametsi@earthlife.org.za

Reform of the Electricity Industry

This is a two day seminar focusing on the restructuring of the electricity industry.

Dates: 3 - 4 November 2005.

Johannesburg, South Africa

Minerals and Energy Education and Training Institute (MEETI)

Tel: +27 11 709 4311

Fax: +27 11 709 4657

E-mail: info@meeti.org.za

Website: www.meeti.org.za

The rest of the world:

Extension of public consultation process on EIB's Disclosure Policy Review

26 September

Launch of the public consultation on a re-edited draft.

The new draft for stakeholder comments will be posted on the EIB website

14 October 2005

Deadline for submitting comments on the draft policy

Second half of October - consultation workshop to discuss the pre-final draft policy with interested stakeholders. Details on the workshop will be posted on EIB website.

Chinese International renewable conference

Follow up conference to the Bonn 2004 Renewable Energy Conference.

The conference will focus on input to the CSD 14-15 process and have an industrial fair.

7-8 of November

Windpower 2005: Conference and Exhibition

AWEA Wind Energy Fall symposium

September 28 September – 01 October 2005

La Quinta California

AWEA Wind Power Finance and investment Workshop 2005

October 25 – 26 2005

New York Marriott Financial Center

<http://www.awea.org/seminars/>

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8. Appendix 1

Sustainable Energy Briefing 4: Integrated Energy Planning can be downloaded from our website <http://www.earthlife.org.za/seccp/>