

ANNOUNCEMENT

2nd IEF - OFID Symposium on Energy Poverty

“Global Initiatives and Regional Cooperation to Eradicate Energy Poverty”

15 - 16 November 2011, OFID Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

Despite considerable effort and a number of laudable initiatives, very little progress has been made in reducing energy poverty in recent years. Lack of access to modern energy services still burdens nearly two and a half billion people and continues to impede the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Existing projections suggest that, unless strong measures and long-term policy commitments are taken, the situation will persist and deteriorate in many regions of the world in the coming decades.

The first IEF Symposium on Energy Poverty (Johannesburg, December 2009) delivered concrete recommendations on how to alleviate energy poverty with key messages reported to the 12th IEF Ministerial meeting (Cancun, March 2010). At this gathering, endorsing the conclusions of the first IEF symposium, Energy Ministers called on all relevant stakeholders to step up their efforts and encouraged the IEF Secretariat to keep energy poverty high on its agenda and future programme of work.

The 2nd IEF Symposium on Energy Poverty, in partnership with OFID, will gather participants from developed and developing countries, representatives from governments and industry, multilateral and bilateral organisations, finance institutions, and aid agencies to discuss how to address this multifaceted issue which requires broader international awareness, support and coordination.

Topics will include:

- What progress has been achieved so far in alleviating energy poverty?
- What kind of technical assistance is needed in least developed countries to achieve reduction of energy poverty?
- What are the successful examples in combating energy poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America?
- What are the most relevant lessons learnt and how could these initiatives be replicated or adapted for quick and concrete results?
- What kind of cooperation can neighboring countries implement in developing joint projects?
- What are the benefits of regional energy integration?
- How to mobilize funds needed to make a significant dent in energy poverty in a relatively near future?
- What role do governments, international financial institutions, regional banks and national development funds currently play in funding access to commercial energy? What role should they play in supporting sustainable energy poverty solutions?
- How to make energy projects attractive to investors and energy affordable to final consumers?
- How to attract private investment and facilitate public-private partnerships?

Findings and recommendations of this second symposium will be presented to the IEF members at the 13th IEF Ministerial in Kuwait 2012.

For more information visit www.ief.org and www.ofid.org

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