

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.

Responding to a call from Ministers, the 1st IEF Symposium on Energy Poverty was held on 8-9 December 2009 in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the objective to investigate the most effective means to alleviate energy poverty and review the role of different stakeholders. Participants noted that “access to modern energy services is one of the cornerstones to reducing poverty and a key element in achieving the MDGs” and called on the IEF to ensure that the key messages from this symposium are transmitted to the 12th IEF Ministerial meeting (Mexico, March 2010).

At the 12th IEF, Ministers noted that “the fight against energy poverty has been unsuccessful so far, with 2.5 billion people still lacking access to modern fuels for cooking and heating and 1.5 billion people without access to electricity, a situation which inhibits social, human and economic development”. Endorsing the conclusions of the first IEF Symposium, Ministers stated “that reducing energy poverty should be added as the 9th Millennium Development Goal”, called on all relevant stakeholders as well as energy industry to step up their efforts and encouraged the IEF Secretariat to keep energy poverty high on its agenda and future programme of work. OFID has demonstrated a substantial commitment to the eradication of energy poverty in developing countries. These efforts have been enhanced in response to the mandate provided by the Third OPEC Summit of 2007. OFID financial assistance works through a variety of public and private sector windows, helping to improve access to energy in the service of economic and social development.

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 crucial issue and identify ways and means to eradicate energy poverty. The debates that will take place at the 2nd symposium will help the IEF to prepare recommendations for the 13th IEF Ministerial in Kuwait in 2012.

Agenda (12 Nov 2011)

Tuesday 15 November 2011

08.30 – 09.30: Registration & coffee

09.30 – 10.00 – Welcome Address and Opening Statements

- Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, Director General, OFID
- Noé van Hulst, Secretary General, IEF

10.00 – 10.30: Keynote speech

- Marianne Moscoso-Osterkorn, Director General, REEEP

10.30 – 12.30: Session One: How to achieve universal access to modern energy by 2030?

Moderator: Faris Hasan, Director of Corporate Planning and Economic Services, OFID

- What progress has been achieved so far in alleviating energy poverty?
- What is needed to accelerate access to clean and affordable energy - global political will and government commitment? Additional institutional capacity? Improved governance? Technology and capacity building?
- Would interim goals at national and international levels help in ensuring universal energy access by 2030?
- What kind of technical assistance is needed in least developed countries to achieve reduction of energy poverty?
- What role for triangular cooperation in alleviating energy poverty?
- What actions could be undertaken during 2012, the UN international year of sustainable energy for all?

Panelists:

- Leena Srivastava, Executive Director TERI, India
- Pradeep Pursnani, Business Director, Breathing Space, Shell Foundation
- Reid Detchon, Vice President, Energy and Climate Change, UN Foundation
- Shonali Pachauri, Senior Research Scholar, Energy Programme, IIASA
- Asma Muttawa, General Legal Counsel, OPEC

12.30 – 14.30: Lunch and networking break

14.30 – 17.00: Session Two: Local, national and regional experiences to alleviate energy poverty; can they be adapted and transferred to other regions?

Moderator: Simon Trace, CEO, Practical Action

- 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 practical results?
- How can we accelerate regional and international cooperation to alleviate energy poverty?
- What institutions and measures are needed at regional and international levels?
- What innovative policy/tariffs can assist in providing energy to the poor?
- What kind of cooperation can neighbouring countries implement in developing joint projects?
- What are the benefits of regional energy integration?

Panelists:

- Ambassador Brigitte Oppinger-Walchshofer, Managing Director, Austrian Development Agency
- Daniel Hugo Bouille, Vice President, Bariloche Foundation
- Vincent Kitio, Energy Adviser, UN-Habitat
- Balthasar Klimbie, Vice President, Alliance for Rural Electrification
- Luis Rivas, Director PDV Caribe, PDVSA

15.30-16.00: Coffee and networking break

20.00: Dinner Fuhrgassle-Huber Restaurant

Wednesday 16 November 2011

09.00 – 11.00: Session Three: Multifaceted cooperation to finance energy access for the poor; what are the most sustainable mechanisms?

Moderator: Robert A. Freling, Executive Director, Solar Electric Light Fund

- What is the magnitude of the investment required to make a significant dent in energy poverty in a relatively near future? How can we mobilize these funds?
- What role do governments, international financial institutions, regional banks and national development funds currently play in funding access to commercial energy? How can these stakeholders support sustainable energy poverty solutions?
- How to finance alternative energy development projects in the poorest countries to shift fuel consumption patterns from traditional biomass to modern energy? To enhance the reliance on renewables?
- How to make energy projects attractive to investors and energy affordable to final consumers?
- How to attract private investment and facilitate innovative public-private partnerships?

Panelists:

- Minoru Takada, Senior Policy Advisor on Energy, Strategic Planning Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations
- Ahmad Al-Tabaib, Economist, Corporate Planning, OFID
- Vijay Iyer, Director, Department of Sustainable Energy, World Bank
- Leandro Alves, Head Energy Division, Inter American Development Bank
- Dan Dorner, Analyst, Office of the Chief Economist, IEA

11.00 – 11.30: Coffee and networking break

11.30 – 12.30: Wrap up session

- Conclusions and Recommendations by the moderators
- Concluding Statement by Noé van Hulst, Secretary General, IEF and Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, Director General, OFID

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch and networking break

The IEF is the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers. The Forum is an intergovernmental arrangement that serves as a neutral facilitator of informal, open, informed and continuing global energy dialogue among its membership of energy producing and energy consuming States, including transit States. The 87 Member Countries of the IEF account for around 90% of global oil and gas supply and demand. In addition to IEA and OPEC countries, transit states and key energy players, including Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Russia and South Africa, participate in the Forum. The magnitude and diversity of this engagement is a testament to the IEF's position as a neutral facilitator. Through the Forum and its associated events, IEF Ministers, their officials, energy industry executives, and other experts engage in a dialogue of increasing importance to global energy security. For more information, visit www.ief.org

OFID's key aim is to foster social and economic progress in the developing world through the provision of concessional financing for developing countries. However, OFID's work goes beyond simply dispensing aid; one of its central aims has always been to advance 'South-South' solidarity in every way available to it. It does this by promoting cooperation in many spheres among countries of the developing world. It also does what it can to champion the cause of the developing world in the international arena. For more information, visit www.ofid.org
