BEYOND TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT FOR INVESTORS ONLY:
How to ensure benefits for local economies and populations?

WORKSHOP
Wednesday, 30 April, 13h30 - 15h00

How to strengthen local actors’ capacity

✿ To establish the right indicators for the assessment of current conditions and to support target-oriented planning, given local priorities and needs?

✿ To make informed decisions and provide the conditions for sustainable energy development in their countries, regions and municipalities?

Key challenges addressed: Sustainable energy development cooperation has often been donor-driven, project-focused, and exclusively investor-oriented.

The Workshop attempts to challenge conventional approaches to clean tech development by addressing the fundamentals of public policy as a process that should be at the service of local economies and populations, beyond the perspective of projects. Examples will be drawn from research and practical experience, case-studies and processes supported by the Institute for Development, Environment and Energy (IDE-E) and the Millennium Institute (MI) in North and Southern Africa.

Participants will be asked to focus on how to strengthen local capacities to assess, plan, implement, facilitate, monitor and evaluate sustainable energy planning, based on:

✿ The use of customised Assessment and Simulation Tools, such as the IDE-E Public Policy Framework™ for Sustainable Energy Development and the MI’s Integrated Planning Tools designed to inform policy decision makers on the potential outcomes of policies.

✿ Practical examples drawn from experience in the field (Case study: A Territorial Approach to the development of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Morocco).
BACKGROUND

Governments around the world have increasingly recognised the potential socio-economic benefits from renewable energy technology (RET) development and energy efficiency management. The benefits most often cited include reduced dependency on imported fuel, increased local manufacturing and value generation, job creation and local entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer, extended access to (clean) electricity, desalination and extended access to clean water.

Beyond the right choice of technology, however, some of the key challenges for developing countries to access clean technology markets have found to be: relatively high upfront costs, rates of returns that exceed the timeframe poor households are able to project on, the lack of financial products to stimulate demand, lacking trust in new technologies, lacking awareness, the lack of service providers for adequate maintenance, among others.

Thus, local actors have a certain playing ground to promote and purchase clean technology. In many regards, however, their opportunity to do so and the extent to which they actually benefit from clean technology deployment will depend on the existence of an adequate policy environment.

Over the last years, increasing efforts have attempted to assess the potential socio-economic benefits from clean energy deployment. Also, there is an increasing recognition of the need to provide countries with the tools and knowledge required to establish adequate policy conditions for renewable energy deployment and management. Traditionally, however, such policy considerations have focused on financial and technical aspects, mainly tailored to potential investors. Studies commissioned by donors and cooperation agencies have often viewed ‘policy’ as a static set of instruments, regulations and government-sponsored programs. Support for local initiatives has been donor-driven, and often focused on projects, while disregarding the importance of public policy as a process.

The approach adopted by IDE-E, the Millennium Institute and their international partners considers the public policy process as that through which local priorities are established and resources allocated, based on the engagement of public, private and civil society stakeholders, across multiple policy levels and jurisdictions, with the purpose to serve national development goals and the needs of local populations.

Institute for Development, Environment and Energy

IDE-E is a non-profit think tank based in Paris and Basel committed to assist governments from developing and emerging economies and their partners with policy options and context-specific models for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency as an opportunity for sustainable development. Based on the PPF™ Assessment Tool and drawing on international experience, IDE-E provides decision-makers with guidance for target-oriented planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, while strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders.

www.ide-e.org

Millennium Institute

MI is an independent and non-partisan non-profit organisation committed to promoting systems literacy and dynamic modelling tools to attain sustainable development worldwide. By providing these tools, MI empowers people and governments to build societies that are peaceful, equitable and sustainable. The MI flagship model, Threshold 21 (T21), has been customized for about twenty industrialized and developing countries around the world, many of which are now being institutionalised.

www.millenium-institute.org