



Achievement

Workshop

On

'BEST PRACTICES IN DECENTRALISED RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCESS: SHARING KNOWLEDGE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

15th June, 2014,

Manila, Philippines.

A workshop was jointly held by IRENA, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Center for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) India on the 15th of June 2014 in Manila, Philippines, as part of the International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference 2014. Forty three participants from 35 organisations across Asia and Africa participated.

The overall aim of the workshop was to provide an opportunity to initiate and facilitate knowledge transfer between various stakeholders in the energy access enterprise development ecosystem in South Asia and Africa. In addition, the focus was to identify opportunities to strengthen enterprise development and, through a collaborative programme, assist in the improvement of regulations, access to finance, facilitation of technology, business model delivery on innovative approaches, and enhancement of skills of energy access entrepreneurs.

Experiences were shared from a high participation from India, to improve the use of renewable energy technology by small businesses and their business models. Some of the participants from India included, SELCO Incubation Centre, established to transfer the knowledge locally to other entrepreneurs and the Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), IIM Ahmedabad, both of whom are supporting clean technology businesses. The Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (CIC), the Unreasonable Institute East Africa, and 2iE Technopole from Burkina Faso also shared their work.



Picture1: Gauri Singh (IRENA) giving the introductory remarks.



Picture 2: Aloke Barnwal talks about DFID's support programmes for energy access

The **key objectives achieved** of the day-long workshop were to:

- Support knowledge exchange between entrepreneurs and incubation centers working in the energy access space in Asia/Africa.
- Identify critical gaps in knowledge, skills and resources that prevent the creation and growth of enterprises in the energy access sector.
- Outline skill enhancement and resources needed to support energy access entrepreneurs.
- Form a network of incubation centers, entrepreneurs and renewable energy associations to further develop a model for a sustainable ecosystem.

One of the major outcomes from the Manila workshop was the plan to set up a South Asia Network for Clean Energy (Stance) for SAARC countries.

The workshop provided learning on (a) The role of incubation centres as vehicles for knowledge transfer and enterprise development (b) Options for optimizing collaboration around 'energy for all' and (c) Pathway towards developing an action plan for knowledge sharing and enterprise development.

To keep up the momentum, another workshop was held in Bangaluru in September to address some of the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and business incubators. This will be StANCE (Industry workers association) discussion in November, Kathmandu.