



# News from the Secretariat

## Institutional Development

### Advisory Group

ENERGIA is pleased to announce the establishment of its Advisory Group. The process of consultations and the selection of Advisory Group members took place between January and March 2006 with the active participation of all the National Focal Points (NFPs). The Advisory Group comprises of: Lydia Muchiri (Practical Action Kenya) representing the African NFPs; Wendy Annecke (Gender and Energy Training, South Africa) as a Technical Expert from the African region; Feri Lumampao (Approtech Asia) representing the Asian NFPs; Kamal Rijal (UNDP Sustainable Energy Programme, Bangkok) as a Technical Expert from Asia; Venkata Ramana (World Bank) as a co-opted member; Semida Silveira (Swedish Energy Agency) representing ENERGIAs core donors and Elizabeth Cecelski as a core founding member of the network. May Sengendo (RNC-Africa), Soma Dutta (RNC-Asia) and Sheila Oparaocha (ENERGIA Coordinator) will participate as ex-officio members.

The inaugural meeting of the ENERGIAs Advisory Group took place on 14th to 17th March in the Netherlands. Unfortunately, not all the members were able to participate at this meeting: Ganesh Shrestha (CRT Nepal) NFP in Nepal stood in for Feri Lumampao

and Joy Clancy replaced Elizabeth Cecelski. Venkata Ramana was also unable to attend the meeting. Among the important issues discussed at this first meeting were the future and sustainability of the network, improvements to the network's procedures and communications within the network. The members also took time to discuss in detail their role as an Advisory Group. Wendy Annecke was chosen as Chair. The Advisory Group members will be in office for a period of two years.

### External Evaluation

ENERGIAs Phase III programme, funded by the Dutch Directorate for Development Cooperation and the Swedish International Development Agency, is currently being evaluated by two external evaluators – K.V. Ramani and Priyanthi Fernando. As part of the evaluation, and to gain a better understanding of the network and its activities, the evaluators have attended an advocacy event at the World Bank Energy Week and were observers at the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Group. Several more visits and interviews with network members were scheduled before the end of April 2006.

### New Member of the Secretariat

The International Secretariat warmly welcomes Ana Rojas who joined the team in December 2005. Ana is from Costa Rica

and is an environmental lawyer. Ana has substantial experience in the development sector in dealing with environmental issues, and particularly climate change, in international negotiations. She will provide support in coordinating several key activities of ENERGIAs preparations for the forthcoming CSD meetings.

## Network Building

### Approtech Asia Gets UNDP Funding

In September 2005, ENERGIAs received a request from UNDP for gender-sensitive pilot projects within the framework of its Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR) for the Asia-Pacific region. A proposal from Approtech Asia, the ENERGIAs NFP in the Philippines, entitled "Ambulant Food Vendors: Energy-Efficient Stoves and Hygienic, Healthy Food (A Pilot Project for the Urban Entrepreneurial Poor in the Philippines)" was supported by UNDP and is now being implemented.

### Seed Funding for AIWC

ENERGIA has approved seed funding for the All India Women's Congress – the National Focal Point in North India - for activities to strengthen the Gender and Energy Network in India. Among the activities planned for 2006 are the establishment of an active Steering Committee in collaboration with EPTRI (NFP for South India), developing a training course and conducting two training workshops to raise awareness on gender and energy issues at grassroots level, and a one-day workshop on mainstreaming gender issues in energy policy in India for a range of stakeholders including policy planners and development managers.

### Testing Gender and Energy Tools in Asia

ENERGIA has sought the expertise of the Technology and Sustainable Development Group of the University of Twente, the Netherlands, in developing a module that presents tools and frameworks that can help in planning a gender-sensitive energy project. These tools have been tried in Africa, and are currently being tested in Asia in three locations by ENERGIAs local NFPs: (a) in the village of Narian Khorian, a project site of the Alternative Energy Development Board in Pakistan; (b) in the integrated water mills project of GEWNET, Nepal; and (c) in two communities in Northeast India, the matrilineal Khasi in Meghalaya and the patrilineal Naga people in Nagaland.



Members of the ENERGIAs Advisory Group and Secretariat at the inaugural meeting in March 2006 in the Netherlands (L to R: Odile Beckers, Kamal Rijal, Chesha Wettasinha, Wendy Annecke, May Sengendo, Lydia Muchiri, Joy Clancy, Ana Rojas, Ganesh Shrestha, Sheila Oparaocha, Soma Dutta)

## Gender Assessment of Micro-hydro Programme

A gender assessment of the micro-hydro programme (MHP) of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (NFP in Pakistan) will be undertaken in the coming months. A situation analysis of all stages in the project management of the MHP will be undertaken, the findings of which will be matched with the needs and priorities of men and women (i.e. the end users), thereby helping to identify successful integration (extent and project stage) of gender concerns.

## Capability Building

### Gender Audit in Botswana

The first of three national gender audits of energy policy that are planned under the EU-funded TIE-ENERGIA project has been concluded in Botswana. The gender audit was conducted by a team of national experts with the Botswana Technology Centre (NFP) in the lead with technical support from the ENERGIA Regional Network Coordinator. The audit identified a number of gender gaps in the national energy policy and in sectoral practices, and went on to provide recommendations to remedy the situation. Several debriefing meetings and a one-day workshop were held to share the findings of the audit with key national policymakers within the energy sector. The report on the gender audit and other relevant information is available at [www.energia-africa.org](http://www.energia-africa.org).

## Knowledge Resources

### Bibliography of Gender and Energy in Asia

The annotated bibliography of gender and energy in Asia is now available in printed form. This was an initiative by the National Network in Gender and Energy - NFP in Sri

Lanka - and was supported by the ENERGIA Secretariat. The bibliography has over 170 annotations of publications related to gender and energy from the Asian region. Copies of the publication can be obtained from NANEGE, Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

## Regional and International Advocacy

### World Bank Energy Week

For the first time ever, in March 2006, gender and energy featured prominently during the World Bank Energy Week. Three gender and energy sessions explored lessons and challenges in integrating gender into energy policies, programmes and projects. The first session focused on the operational relevance of gender in the energy sector and identified possible "viable entry points" to mainstream gender in energy policies and operations. Three of the four case studies presented at this session were based on the experiences of the ENERGIA NFPs from Sri Lanka, Uganda and the Philippines. The second session was a panel debate on the question "Does gender matter in the delivery of energy services?", and highlighted the need to find ways to build the individual capacities of women for voice and choice in the energy sector. The third session was on domestic energy, environmental governance and gender inequality, in which it was argued that investing in energy infrastructure is an important means to reduce women's and girls' time burdens in both the domestic and productive spheres. ENERGIA took an active role in these sessions and has contributed substantially to getting gender and energy issues firmly on the agenda of this Energy Week. Elizabeth Cecelski, Sheila Oparaocha, Anoja Wickramasinghe, Feri Lumampao and May Sengendo represented ENERGIA at this event. The sessions were organised in close collaboration with Dominique Lallement (water and energy department) and Waafas Ofosu-Amaah (gender and development group) of the World Bank.

### Preparations for CSD-14

The Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) held its 14th Session (CSD-14) from 1-12 May 2006 with a focus on energy for sustainable development. ENERGIA, in collaboration with the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), was an organising partner to CSD-14 on behalf of 'Women as a Major Group'. In addition, ENERGIA and WEDO together with IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and LIFE/WECF (LIFE/Women in Europe for a Common Future) formed the 'Women's Working Group'. Through this role, ENERGIA representatives were able to participate in two Regional Implementation Meetings (RIM) planned

by the CSD Secretariat in preparation for CSD-14. These were the Asia and the Pacific RIM, and the Latin America and the Caribbean RIM; both meetings taking place on January 19th and 20th 2006. ENERGIA was represented at the Asia and the Pacific RIM by Anoja Wickramasinghe (Sri Lanka), Jyoti Parikh (India), Yogita Bhikabhai and Makereta Sauturaga (both Fiji); and in Latin America and the Caribbean RIM by Adélia Branco (Brazil), Hazel Brown (Trinidad and Tobago) and Evelyn Solano (Guatemala).

The hard work and inputs made by the network members resulted in the outcome documents of both RIMs including text that reflect the need to take gender considerations into account when dealing with energy projects, as a means of ensuring the Millennium Development Goals are met.

As part of the preparations for CSD-14 and CSD-15, ENERGIA and its National Focal Points organised national dialogues and produced national reports to identify the progress of governments in achieving the MDGs. The documents produced during this cycle of discussions include recommendations for national governments to improve their energy policies; and projects and best practice case studies which showcase the benefits that gender-sensitive projects and activities bring to poor women and communities, and how these can feed into the efforts towards achieving the MDGs by 2015. The national reports were published and distributed during CSD-14 and CSD-15, as an advocacy tool for using best practices and encouraging gender-sensitive energy projects. The regional and national reports can be found at: [www.energia.org/csd14](http://www.energia.org/csd14)

ENERGIA's activities at CSD-14 were very successful in getting gender and energy into the outcome documents. The Chairman's summary (parts 1 and 2) can be found on the CSD website at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm>. A detailed article on ENERGIA's advocacy at CSD-14 will appear in the next issue of ENERGIA News. ■

