

15 NOVEMBER 2007

**AIDE-MÉMOIRE
FOR EXPERT GROUP MEETING**

**UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY SECURITY
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
TAKING COLLABORATIVE ACTION ON MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, KOREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

17-18 DECEMBER 2007, SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Background

The provision of reliable, affordable and clean energy services is critically important to achieving the objectives of sustainable development. Demand for energy services is growing, particularly in developing countries with rapidly expanding economies. According to International Energy Agency forecasts, global energy demand will increase by 60 per cent by 2030 and fossil fuels will continue to dominate energy use with associated greenhouse gas emissions. Despite this growth rate, energy poverty and disparity in energy services will continue into the foreseeable future with 1.4 billion people expected to still be without access to electricity in 2030. Clearly, this development path is unsustainable and alternatives must be found if the world is to meet the needs of the Earth's present inhabitants without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Importance of increasing efficiency of energy use for sustainable development

The need to provide adequate, sustainable, and environmentally sound supplies of energy to fuel global **economic growth** has created an imperative for greater international cooperation to increase the **efficiencies in energy production and use**. Strategies that emphasize energy efficiency can offer not only **economic advantages** but also **social and environmental co-benefits**. Local, national, regional and global policies that promote investments in energy efficiency can make significant contributions to providing energy for sustainable development and avoiding dangerous interference in the climate system.

Many energy efficient technologies are available in different economic sectors, including power generation, industries and manufacturing, construction and buildings, household electrical appliances, as well as in transportation systems. However, international information sharing on energy efficient technologies and on national policies to effectively promote their dissemination and application has remained comparatively limited. The international expert group meeting entitled *UN Forum on Energy Efficiency and Energy Security for Sustainable Development: Taking Collaborative Action on Mitigating Climate Change* seeks to address this situation by providing a platform for wider information and experience sharing, in particular also among experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Inter-linkages between energy efficiency, mitigating climate change, energy security and sustainable development

The security of energy supply is also a growing global concern, not only to policy makers and energy industries but also to the general public, in particular in energy-importing economies. In recent years, several factors have contributed to an increased sense of vulnerability and concern about the future availability of reasonably priced energy. These factors include, among others, political instability or conflict in major energy-supplier countries, potentials for disruption of energy production and trade, the occurrence of natural disasters and interruptions of limited production, refining and storage capacities. Effective measures that significantly improve efficiency in energy production and energy use can greatly contribute to energy security at national, regional and global levels.

Objectives of the Forum

Policy initiatives, investment decisions and technology choices taken today by energy policy makers in developing countries will greatly determine not only the energy supply infrastructure in these countries, but also their energy consumption patterns and energy (import) needs in the future.

The Forum seeks to promote international cooperation in implementation of national and international energy efficiency initiatives. By providing a platform for international information exchange, and by facilitating practical international follow-up cooperation at the bi- and multilateral level, the Forum contributes to global efforts that chart a path towards a sustainable development future.

The Forum is intended to support collaborative action on implementing energy efficiency policies and programmes. The Forum will elaborate and explore the potential for greater global collaboration to improve energy end use and supply efficiencies in the context of sustainable development, simultaneously facilitating climate change mitigation and energy security.

The Forum intends to provide leading energy and sustainable development policy makers and experts with an opportunity to exchange views, information and experiences on global trends, proven energy efficient technology options, and on effective recent local, national and regional policies and measures to improve efficiency in energy supply and energy use. The Forum will also provide opportunities for South-South information exchange and South-South as well as North-South-South capacity building and experience exchange.

The Forum seeks to showcase recent innovative initiatives and best practices in energy efficiency promotion policies in the various economic sectors, including manufacturing and industries, buildings and urban development, household and office appliances, as well as transportation.

Main topics for discussion

Increasing the efficiency of energy use has been identified in many international meetings as an important precondition for increasing economic competitiveness, mitigating climate change, improving energy security and enhancing sustainable development. Many studies have shown

that efficiency in energy use tends to improve over time, together with technological progress. However, given the increased urgency of combating climate change, efforts to advance technological progress and implementation of additional national and international energy efficiency initiatives will be important.

The presentations and discussions at the Forum would address, among other issues, the following key topics:

- ***Which policy options have proven particularly effective to enhance energy efficiency?***
- ***Can these policies be adapted or replicated in other countries, including in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition?***
- ***Which instruments can be used to provide greater financial incentives for energy efficiency investments?***
- ***How can we bridge the energy efficiency divide between industrialized and developing countries?***
- ***How can the application and the transfer of energy efficient technologies to developing countries be enhanced?***
- ***How can the development of energy efficient technology be further advanced?***
- ***How can improved energy efficiency and other collaborative measures contribute to greater global energy security?***

Expected outcomes

The Forum is expected to lead to:

- better understanding of the role and potential of energy efficiency in promoting sustainable development in both developing and developed countries in the context of climate change mitigation and energy security,
- broader knowledge exchange on policy options, measures and best practices to enhance energy efficiency,
- greater capacity among developing country policy and decision makers for launching new national energy efficiency initiatives,
- greater global networking among energy efficiency policy makers, experts and practitioners,
- recommendations on priority areas for international cooperation and support for energy efficiency in industry, buildings, appliances and the transport sector, In particular in developing countries.

The proceedings of the Forum will be published electronically and widely shared throughout the international community.

Co-Organizers

The Forum is organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in cooperation with the Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI) and the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

The Republic of Korea has a very dynamic and rapidly expanding economy, highly dependent on energy imports. Together with other energy import dependent economies, the Government of the Republic of Korea has for a long time placed great emphasis on and shown international leadership in energy efficiency policies and programmes. The offer of the Korea Energy Economics Institute and the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry of hosting the Forum in the Republic of Korea will enable the visiting participants to learn more about the Korean approach and experience in the promotion of energy efficiency.

In addition to serving as the secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, UNDESA also undertakes analytical studies concerning policies, priorities and approaches to promoting the implementation of sustainable development at the global, regional and national levels. Specifically, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) placed the responsibility on UNDESA to monitor the progress of advanced energy technology development and to support developing countries in their efforts to develop and utilize environmentally sound and economic viable energy technologies. The Forum is viewed as a concrete step toward fulfilling this mandate.

Participants

Participation in the Expert Group Meeting is by invitation only. It is expected that some 60-80 participants from around the world and from the host country will attend the event, including:

- Senior government officials who are responsible for strategic planning for energy for sustainable development, energy efficiency, R&D of new and emerging energy technologies, and the provision of energy services in their respective countries;
- Distinguished energy and environment experts who are familiar with the latest developments in energy efficiency policies, legislation and measures and knowledgeable about international or regional cooperation on energy security;
- Representatives from industry and other stakeholders who have experience with energy efficiency in the respective economic sectors; and
- Representatives from international organization and international and regional financial institutions with an interest in promoting global cooperation in energy efficiency and energy security.

Participation is free of charge, but participants are expected to cover their own travel costs.

A limited number of travel cost sponsorships will be provided by UN DESA for invited experts / resource persons from developing countries and from countries with economies in transition.

Provisional programme

A *provisional programme* is under preparation and will be circulated to participants in advance of the Forum.

Logistics

Detailed information on logistics, including registration, visa requirements, travel and hotel accommodation arrangements are contained in a separate *Note for Information of Participants*.

Address of Venue:

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