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Dear readers,

We hope you will enjoy this edition of GTZ Energy News, which highlights growing global support for energy for sustainable development and building local capacities in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. With fuel prices skyrocketing, it is not surprising that projects for renewable energy and energy saving technologies are gaining rapidly in popularity around the globe. At the same time, awareness of the importance of clean energy services for development is growing. Policy makers are also looking closely at technologies that reduce reliance on imported petroleum fuels and that promise to create new jobs in future-oriented sectors such as clean energy. This edition provides examples of this sort of policy reorientation from countries as diverse as Peru, Lebanon and Uganda.

The Editorial Team

01 | IEA and GTZ Cooperate for Rural Energisation in Emerging Economies

On behalf of the BMZ, the GTZ cooperated with the International Energy Agency (IEA) in a workshop on sustainable rural energisation in emerging economies in Paris from 28-29 May. “The project is an important step towards implementing the mandate of the 2005 G8 Summit in Gleneagles,” reported GTZ Project Coordinator Mike Enskat. At Gleneagles, the IEA promised to find ways to engage major emerging economies in their international collaborative programs on energy technologies. Providing energy services to rural areas is an area of strong common interest to these countries, but the IEA has only dealt with this topic peripherally before. “These countries are highly interested in cooperation on sustainable rural energisation,” said Enskat, “and we hope this initiative will lead to a platform for regular exchange on what make rural energisation programs successful.” The workshop was held at IEA headquarters in Paris and attended by representatives from eleven emerging economies and seven of the IEA’s international collaborative programs. The participating countries were Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan and South Africa. The workshop was also supported by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21). More information about the workshop is available [here](#).

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02 | Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in MENA Inaugurated

Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries are increasingly feeling the strain of rising oil and gas prices, as energy consumption in the region is growing rapidly at the same time as prices rise. Furthermore, even oil and gas producing countries are increasingly considering the benefits of energy efficiency and developing domestic renewable energy industries, such as increased energy security, diversifying the economy and bringing new jobs. In order to improve regional networking between MENA countries on these key topics, the Regional Centre for Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) was inaugurated in Cairo on June 25, 2008 in the presence of three Egyptian ministers, several European ambassadors and representatives from the member countries. The declaration to support the Centre was signed by ten member countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestine Authority, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen. The Centre will function as a think-tank by preparing essential studies, exchanging best practices and organizing joint events on its focal areas of policies, technologies, PPPs and capacity building. In addition to enhancing communications between the MENA-countries themselves, the Centre aims to improve cooperation between regional players and the European Union. The Interim Secretariat, headed by the GTZ in Cairo is already operational and financing for the Centre has been committed by the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the BMZ, the Danish development agency (DANIDA) and the EU Commission. More information is available from the German Embassy in Cairo [here](#).

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03 | Energy Efficiency Pilot Projects in Lebanon and Jordan Pay-Off

Two recent pilot projects for energy efficiency in the building sector in Lebanon and Jordan are showing that remarkable savings are possible with little investment in the Mediterranean region. A demonstration “low-energy” house in Aqaba, Jordan that will open in October 2008 will reduce annual energy costs by 72 percent just by using so-called “passive” design features, “envelope” insulation, efficient lighting and solar cooling. The investment pays for itself in about eight years. The project has been selected as the National Winner for the prestigious Energy Globe Award 2007. Meanwhile in North Lebanon, a private hospital lowered its annual energy costs 20 percent by improving maintenance of its AC system, installing efficient lighting, insulating the roof, and using a demand management system. The hospital was dependent on diesel-generators for 75 percent of its electricity and is now saving € 55,000 annually in avoided fuel-costs and reducing its yearly CO₂ emissions by 410 tons. The investment for this project of less than € 60,000 paid for itself in just over one year. Both pilot-projects were supported by MED-ENEC, a project for energy efficiency in the construction sector in the Mediterranean, financed by the European Union and implemented by a consortium lead by gtz International Services. More about these projects is available [here](#).

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04 | Malawi Study Shows Big Returns on Improved Cook Stoves

A recent cost-benefit study of improved cook stoves in Malawi shows that the total returns of a program there that helps institutions use energy-efficient “Rocket Stoves” in their canteens yields returns of more than five US dollars per one dollar invested. This figure counts the benefits of avoided fuel costs, greenhouse gas reductions, and the preservation of forest reserves over 10 years. Moreover, the use of Rocket Stoves is economically profitable for each individual institution in the programme as well. For example, an orphanage that prepares two meals a day in a 100 litre pot saves USD 680 yearly on firewood expenditures or more than \$1000 per year if they use a 200 litre stove. Over the 4-year average stove life, the net benefit in avoided fuel costs to an orphanage for the larger stove is USD 4,235. Depending on their size, these stoves save between 60% and 80% of the firewood that is otherwise needed for cooking on an open fire. The installed stoves in Malawi will save over 23,000 tonnes of fuel wood and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 34,703 tonnes of CO₂ and 93 tonnes of methane just in 2008. The stoves are produced locally in Malawi with training provided by ProBEC, a programme implemented by the GTZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Dutch Development Cooperation Directorate (DGIS). The study was conducted on behalf of GTZ’s household energy programme, HERA, which is financed by the BMZ, and is available for download [here](#).

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05 | Energy a Focal Area for German Cooperation in Uganda

The energy sector was designated as a focal area for German development cooperation in Uganda in July 2007. This is the result of a long and successful cooperation between GTZ and the Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development in the framework of the Energy Advisory Project (EAP). The technical support provided by this project in Uganda is now being complemented by activities of the German Development Service (DED), the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) and InWEnt, and through financial support from KfW. Now, EAP’s work is being scaled-up under the joint Promotion of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (PREEEP). This new programme supports the implementation of the Ugandan Renewable Energy Policy, which was adopted in November 2007, and promotes energy efficiency and access to modern energy, including improved cook stoves in rural areas. In addition, PREEEP advises the Ministry on energy policy matters, especially with regard to overcoming problems caused by the recent power crisis. The geographic focus of PREEEP will lie on Northern Uganda, an area plagued by conflict until recently. A rural electrification component of PREEEP will continue focus on the commercial dissemination of solar home systems in cooperation with local solar companies, the provision of health centres and schools with solar PV systems, and on micro-hydro minigrids. During the last two and a half years, EAP provided more than 500, 000 households, institutions and SMEs with improved cook stoves and ca. 550 households, social institutions and small enterprises with solar PV. GTZ’s activities on rural electrification and cooking energy are also supported by the Dutch government and the ACP-EU Energy Facility. More information is available [here](#).

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06 | Household Energy for Development in the Limelight in Peru

In his opening speech for the Fifth Latin America-Caribbean-European Union Summit in Lima on May 16, the Peruvian President Alan Garcia mentioned the importance of using improved stoves for health issues in front of forty Heads of State. This prominent plug for improved stoves reflects the impact household energy programs have had in the last years in Peru. The Energising Development (EnDev) programme in Peru, a joint program of the regional Government of Arequipa (COPASA), the BMZ and DGIS, just received good grades in an evaluation after just a little more than a year of implementation. The EnDev project focuses on providing modern energy services for rural areas and helped train local artisans to produce and sell improved stoves in six of eight provinces in the Arequipa region. The efficient stoves disseminated in Arequipa are two varieties of Inkawasi stoves: one for use with firewood and one for dung fuel that is used especially in the high Andean regions. The Inkawasi stove was developed for use in Peru by the GTZ and the Pan American Health Organization during an environmental health project that was initiated in 1999. More about the GTZ in Peru is available [here](#). The speech from President Garcia is available in Spanish [online](#).

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07 | Renewable Energy for Africa Gets Political Boost in Dakar Conference

From 16-18 April, renewable energy for Africa got a high-level push in an international conference held in Dakar on making renewable energy markets work in Africa. The conference was organized on the initiative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Senegalese government and was supported by the BMZ. The president of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade, opened the conference and the Senegalese Minister for Biofuels Christian Diatta took part in many sessions of the conference, demonstrating high-level commitment from the conference hosts. The director-general of UNIDO, Kandeh Yumkella, also promised continued support for this topic in his organisation and invited participating countries to work out details of the conference action plan with UNIDO in follow-up meetings in Vienna. The action plan calls for participants to help increase renewable energy investments in Africa from the current level of less than \$1 billion to \$10 billion by 2014. More information is available [here](#).

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08 | Promoting wind energy in South Africa – GTZ Cooperation has Successful Start

South Africa has an abundant wind energy potential, which could be harnessed sustainably to help the country with its pressing shortage of electricity. One ambitious attempt in this area is in a new project called the “Western Cape Renewable Energy – Regional Policy Framework”. This joint-project between the GTZ Wind Energy Programme, TERNA, which is financed by the BMZ, and the local environmental department in the Western Cape focuses on developing a policy framework for the promotion of renewable energies, and in particular, on the promotion of wind energy in the Western Cape Province. The project developers hope that a better policy framework for wind programs can spur investment by ending legal and regulatory uncertainty and providing financial incentives for renewable energy producers. Another important element of the project will be a grid-study carried out in cooperation with the national power utility. This will provide the technical basis for future investments in the wind energy sector. Additional capacity development measures will empower local stakeholders to make use of the new favourable regulations, and a Regional Renewable Energy Cluster will provide support for sustainable project designs. More information is available [here](#).

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