

Information for the Commercialisation of Renewables in ASEAN (ICRA)



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Renewable energy resources are widely used in the ASEAN region but mostly for “noncommercial” applications for cooking and/or thermal heating purpose. There is a growing recognition among ASEAN countries that renewables will play a more important role in the future as an environmental-friendly option providing energy security and acting as a reliable energy source. The EU, for its part, can contribute and provide expertise and services on advanced technologies, manufacturing and investments for renewable energy projects.

Therefore, it is natural that ASEAN and EU match their efforts in collaborating on projects that aiming to commercialize renewables, in line with the strategic goal set during the First Consultative Meeting of the Working Committee for the Preparation of the APAEC, 2004-2009.

Objectives

The “Information for the Commercialization of Renewables in ASEAN” (ICRA) is a fruit of common cooperation between the EU and ASEAN region. Precisely, ICRA is financed by the EU through the EU-ASEAN Energy Facility (EAEF) and in which participates ASEAN New and Renewable Energy Subsector Network (NRSE-SSN).

The objective of the ICRA is to address some of the main perceived needs of the ASEAN Member countries in their renewable energy development, and at the same time address the needs of the European Renewable Energy Industry by providing valuable market information and an opportunity for interchange and partnerships.

The overall goal of ICRA is to contribute towards the further mainstreaming of renewable applications in the region in collaboration with the NRSE-SSN by:

1. Updating and expanding on the range of ACE RE information resources available
2. Contributing European experience and approaches to the regional dialogue on 4 key policy themes:
 - Framework conditions and policy instruments for fostering mainstreaming of renewables
 - Harmonization of PV standards
 - Promotion of biomass technologies for electricity production
 - The potential role of carbon credits – looking specifically at the opportunities offered by the European trading scheme.

In addition, the ICRA will use different communication means to facilitate the

information exchanges : forum discussion, case study brief, internet database, links... in its newly designed website.

ICRA covers national policies and incentives on renewable energy in ASEAN, data sources and technologies, standards, contacts points in ASEAN as well as in EU.

The expected outcomes

- An updated renewable energy website, integrating technology, company and institutional information – and links with other relevant information sources
- A sustainable website : integrated with existing national information databases, links with international information sources.
- Draft orientation / policy / standards harmonization documents to be further discussed / submitted to the policy makers of ASEAN, with input of state of the art experience in Europe.
- A strengthened NRSE-SSN with links with European partners

The information collected will serve as a database for elaborating policy orientation papers. These papers, once adopted by NRSE-SSN at its annual meeting, will be presented to the Senior Officials Meeting on Energy of the ASEAN in 2005 for further discussion, and assimilation.

Activities

The project is carried out by an international consortium on a partnership basis - PTM (Malaysian Energy Institute, project coordinator), IED (Innovation Energie Développement, France), and

RISOE (Risoe National Laboratory, Denmark).

ICRA was launched during a kick-off meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 25-27 August 2004. The meeting was attended by 33 participants from Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The representatives from ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and project partners from Innovation Energie Développement (IED) and RISOE National Laboratory also attended.

The delegates from ASEAN presented the papers and drew a general picture of the current status, application and development of renewable energies in the ASEAN region, including policy and regulation frameworks. These presentations were focused on three topics (the presentation are available for download at the web site <http://www.ptm.org.my/icra/icra.htm>) :

- Renewable energy policy instruments and CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) .
- PV standardization.
- Biomass for electrification.

At the same time, the participants also discussed a specific action plan for ICRA data collection, designed focal points per country, finalized ICRA website structure and modality for information exchange (forum discussion, data template).

During the meeting, technical visits to two renewable energy system installations (Labu Experimental Palm Oil Mill and Jana Landfill, Puchong) was conducted (see further) .

Since this kick-off meeting, extensive work have been done for the project concerning web design, database, thematic background papers...

In order to setup a comprehensive data collection for the ICRA web site and for the background papers, “PV specification and standard” and “Biomass for electricity generation”, several data templates were prepared and sent to the ICRA focal points to collect data. Furthermore, several mission trip to participant countries to accelerate data collection and processing is underway.

The website on ICRA project will be redesigned and setup during January 2005 based on a precedent renewable database called PRESSEA. The contents of the ICRA website will be revised and updated regularly by NRSE-SSN.



Kick off meeting in Kuala Lumpur 25/8/2004

The new database including new topics (forum discussion, PV standards, technologies, case study...) and new countries which were not presented in PRESSEA (Singapore, Laos, Cambodia) is under preparation and will be uploaded onto the ICRA website soon.

Forum discussion, a novelty for ICRA, has been set up within the PTM website (<http://www.ptm.org.my/icraforum/index.php>) with several topics for discussion. The topics for discussion are from thematic background papers under preparation, so the results of these

discussions serve as inputs for thematic background papers. We invite you to join us and contribute to this forum.

Conclusions and upcoming events

It is clear that renewables have gained greater recognition in ASEAN. The policy framework and strategies to promote renewable energy are reflected in national energy plans adopted in most ASEAN countries. The presentations during the kick-off meeting have shown the latest developments in the ASEAN renewable sector. Various action plans and programs on renewables were designed and implemented in individual ASEAN countries to capture the needs for sustainable development of RE.

In Thailand and Malaysia, the support for financing small scale RE project is provided by their government. For instance, in Malaysia, the financial assistance is made available for R & D project through Malaysia Electricity Supply Industry Trust Fund (MESITA), while Thailand has established ENCON fund that dedicated to provide financial incentive for grid connected renewable projects.

It noted that for ASEAN countries, PV technologies is seen as the right solution to scale-up the access to electricity for rural areas and the ultimate objective is to minimize the cost of the technology. PV issues in ASEAN are that the quality of PV components and systems, quality of services, local manufacturing vs. importation, disparity between countries and awareness campaign.

In the region, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia are most active and advanced in the promotion of renewable energy development. However, much is to be done to make renewable energy become a

significant option. ICRA project could bring a small contribution towards this direction.

Upcoming events of ICRA project are several activities :

- Consortium meeting will take place in France between 9-10 February 2005 in order to review project's progress, scheduled program, and background papers.
- Intermediate thematic meetings in ASEAN in Laos and Thailand between March and April 2005 where all delegates will participate and present presentations by themes, review database progress, discuss policy orientation papers...
- Finalize website database and policy orientation papers to be submitted to NRSE-SSN in April 2005.

Renewable field visits

Two pictures show technical visits to two modern installations using renewables as fuel. These field visits were arranged in the framework of the ICRA project.



Visit to Jana Landfill Energy plant, Malaysia

The power plant has a generating capacity of 2 MW, with possibility for upscale. It uses landfill gas as fuel and generated electricity which is sold to the utility

under Small Power Producer contract at 16.5 ringit (0.035 Euros) per kWh for 15 years. The system is using a GE Janbacher gas engine power generator.



Palm fruit serves as raw material for MPOB experimental mill oil power plant Labu, Malaysia

The MPOP Mill uses a cogeneration technology – it produces heat for oil processing and electricity for its own use and sell to grid network. Plant's installed capacity is 2 x 800 kW. In addition, it has supplement two diesel genset of 2 x 200kW. The mill uses a mixture of shells and fiber as fuel for its boiler.

Contacts

For more information about the ICRA, please contact :

- PTM _ Malaysia Energy Institute at info@ptm.org.my or visit <http://www.ptm.org.my/icra>
- IED - Innovation Energie Développement at ied@ied-sa.fr ; or visit www.ied-sa.fr
- RISOE national laboratory at <http://www.risoe.dk/>

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