

Consultative Meeting

Workshop on Urban Peri-Urban Energy Access and Development in Asia

4 October 2011

Sofitel Centara, Bangkok, Thailand



GNESD

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Workshop on “Urban Peri-Urban Energy Access and Development in Asia”

4th October, 2011

Sofitel Centara, Ladprao, Bangkok

Meeting Notes

The workshop on “Urban Peri-Urban Energy Access and Development in Asia” was organized by AIT for the thematic study “Urban Peri-Urban Energy Access (UPEA) Phase III” sponsored by the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD). It was a consultative meeting with stakeholders from different organisations. As shown in the agenda given in **Annex I**, the workshop was organized in three sessions: background work, discussion on barriers to energy access for the urban poor, and discussion on measures to provide better energy access for the urban poor and best practices.

The workshop brought key agencies involved in providing energy and energy services in the urban areas of Thailand. The workshop served as a platform for representatives of key stakeholders to reflect their perspectives on the issues of energy access to the urban poor and the efforts undertaken or being undertaken by their organizations to improve energy access for the poor households in the urban and peri-urban areas. Also, this also assisted AIT to update the findings of UPEA I and II based on the discussion and consultation. The participants to this workshop came from various organizations including ministries, local authority, LPG supply agencies, energy efficiency related agencies, energy research institutions, low income housing agencies and academic institutions. The list of invitees/participants is given in **Annex II**. A total of twenty participants attended the consultative meeting. **Annex III** gives few photographs taken during the meeting, and **Annex IV** gives the expansion of abbreviations used in this report.

Prof. Sivanappan Kumar welcomed participants and provided a brief overview of GNESD. He also explained the objectives of this consultative meeting with relevant stakeholders. Then, each participant introduced themselves and their organisation.

Session 1

The session began with Prof. Kumar’s presentation introducing Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD) in terms of its history, objectives, its network and the centers of excellence. He highlighted the importance of energy access to the urban poor who are often neglected despite the increasing rate of urban population, which is expected to further increase in the future. This was followed by the introduction of key issues related to energy access and common lessons emerging for energy and other urban services from international perspective based on the earlier GNESD study in Asia.

Dr. Salam made a detailed presentation on “Modern Energy Use by the Urban Poor in Thailand: a study of slum households in Bangkok and Khon Kaen”. He introduced the definition of poverty used in the

study and reported the findings in terms of the level of energy access, energy expenditure, issues and successful factors influencing high energy access in the urban areas of Thailand. He concluded his presentation with the emphasis on high energy access in Thailand which could be the lesson for the other developing countries to learn.

These two (background) presentations set the stage for the discussions.

Session 2

The participants were first requested to provide their inputs on recent/new data or data sources with regard to energy situation of the urban poor based on their experience and the barriers faced by their organizations to provide energy access for the urban poor. The following is a brief overview of the discussion:

Electricity access

All participants agreed on the high level of energy access (electricity and LPG) in urban and peri-urban areas of Thailand. The issue in urban areas is therefore more towards improving energy efficiency and providing cleaner energy sources/technologies. Four types of barriers were noted:

Institutional barriers: There is no specific institution that is responsible for energy efficiency for the urban poor nor has there been any collaboration among agencies related to providing energy service, for example, to improve energy efficiency in the poor households.

Policy barriers: Most organizations who had no direct responsibility related to energy issues did not have direct energy policies targeting the urban poor. In their opinion, only specific organizations under the Ministry of Energy should take care of the issue of energy access to the urban poor. It was observed that there are no energy policies that specifically target urban poor, especially in relation to improving energy efficiency or cleaner energy.

Financial barriers: The upfront cost to invest in energy efficient appliances was mostly claimed by most participants as the significant barrier that prevented the poor to use energy efficiently. The Demand Side Management (DSM) efforts in Thailand were mostly focused on industry and commercial sectors.

Physical barriers: Participants pointed out the issue of illegal connection happening in some poor communities that lived on unauthorized land such as under the toll way or lands owned by temples. It was observed that there were about 2% households which had no legal connection in Central Bangkok. BMA could not provide them the quasi housing identification due to the temporary condition of their houses. Another important issue is the physical constraint of the poor communities which were very crowded and had very narrow walkways. This made it difficult for the officers to install the power line and check the electricity meters.

LPG access

The participants from LPG supplier confirmed the higher price per unit of small LPG cylinder (4 kg) compared with large cylinder (7, 15, 48 kg), and details regarding the price could be obtained from

EPPO. The Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce controls and sets the LPG price. He also provided data on the LPG sales in four different sizes of cylinder. The high price per unit of 4 kg cylinder was considered as the significant barrier for the urban poor who might have difficulty to afford it.

Session 3

Participants discussed the measures undertaken by each organization to improve energy access or encourage energy efficiency of poor communities in the urban areas. The following is a brief overview of the discussion:

The participant from CODI provided details of electricity and water cost reduction as a result of upgraded slum project. Based on the survey of 16 communities, water and energy consumption costs of households reduced by 10% and 5% respectively. Provision of legal electricity connection was thought as the main reason for energy cost reduction, as the household paid a cheaper (standard) rate than the one they paid before when they were connected through their neighbors.

Another measure related to housing development is a project initiated by KMITL and DEDE in 2004. KMITL conducted the research funded by DEDE to improve energy efficiency in the public housing owned by National Housing Authority (NHA).

Participants from DEDE and TEI indicated their current policies promoting green labeling for buildings, appliances, and products. However their target group is general household and not poor households as they expected higher amount of energy savings. In their opinion, it is difficult to improve energy efficiency for the poor as the issue mostly depended on the affordability of the poor or government subsidy. Moreover, energy saving from the urban poor was viewed as insignificant compared with energy savings from other sectors eg. industrial or government sectors.

Preliminary findings from the survey

Based on discussions with the participants who completed the survey questionnaire, the following points emerge:

On barriers to provide energy access for the urban poor (institutional, policy, financial, etc)

- There is no specific or targeted policy related to promotion of energy access for the urban poor by BMA and DEDE.
- Organizations have strategies/plans on energy efficiency and energy conservation but it is not specific only for poor.
- There are energy policies (in general), but difficult to control the influencing factors.
- Lack of budget that is specified for energy projects in organisations, but is more specific to other environment related activities.
- Lack of opportunity for the poor to get loan from banks.
- The price of Energy saving/energy efficient products are expensive.
- Changes in the government lead to changes in energy related activities. Energy promotion measures should not be changed when government changes.

- Cooperation of many organizations are needed.
- Policy on carbon label for products to reduce energy consumption and environment impacts such as Promote Carbon reduction label for OTOP products which are exported are available for 5 groups (Food, cosmetic, cloth & bag, beverage), but these are not targeted to the poor.

On measures taken by the authorities to improve energy access for the urban poor (institutional, policy, financial)

- Knowledge dissemination on energy conservation and high efficiency products to increase public awareness
- Organizations conduct activities on energy saving such as training for representative of community, then he/she will provide the training to their community members.
- BMA has 50 departments of local community development & social welfare. They work as the local promotion centers of job creation, training centers for all local communities.
- Electricity is provided free for 90kWh/month and 5 Amp meter by MEA and PEA.
- Organization of energy related activities at local level e.g. “Eco School Award” for school and local communities to save energy and water including tree plantation is done once a year. Reward is given to the best Energy and water saving activity. One co-benefit of this project is that the local community gains experience on energy use because of energy (electricity) monitoring report. BMA also provides 5,000 Baht/month/community for activities related to 3R, Disease protection, energy saving, job creation, low income patients, etc

On issues related to what should be done or being done to cope with the increased population and energy demand especially for the poor?

- Knowledge dissemination about energy and water conservation, waste management, waste water treatment, 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), crop rotation etc. These would help community to sustain their living style in the sufficiency economy principle.
- Promote green products procurement and how to select green products.
- Controlling birth rate is important
- Land use management for job creation should be considered
- Self-sufficiency economy should promoted continuously
- Improve education (literacy rate)
- Inequity of development between Industrial and local community
- Set the poor as the focus group and develop the policies which are specified for the poor.
- Cooperation with other organizations to be improved to address these common issues

On the difficulties authorities face in providing improved energy access for the poor in urban and peri-urban areas.

- Increasing population growth

- Lower education level leads to low income and lack of opportunity (job)
- The complex, long processes of government agencies to help or support the poor in time.
- Most budget is used to promote economic growth rather than support the poor.
- The difference in the meaning and understanding regarding individual income and national average income. Government should focus on low income group as first priority.
- House registration & Ownership issues

Concluding remarks

Prof. Kumar thanked all participants and their organisations for their support and contribution to this workshop, and also for their time in completing the questionnaire. He also thanked AIT and GNESD for their support in organizing this workshop. He informed participants that a follow up meeting will be organized in a few months, and requested their participation and support.

Agenda

Workshop on

Urban – Peri Urban Energy Access and Development in Asia

October 4, 2011
Sofitel Centara, Bangkok, Thailand

Sponsored by

Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD)

AGENDA

08.30– 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 09.10 Workshop Opening and Workshop Objectives

Urban Peri-Urban Energy Access and Development in Asia:
Workshop background and objectives, S. Kumar

9.10 – 10.15 Session I: Draft UPEA Study Findings and Barriers

Modern Energy Use by the Urban Poor in Thailand: A Study of Slum Households
in Bangkok and Khon Kaen , A. Salam
Discussion on Barriers to Energy Access
Synthesis

10.15-10.30 Coffee/Tea

10.30-12.00 Session II: Addressing the Barriers

Discussion
Synthesis

12.00-12.15 Summary and Conclusions

12.15-13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 Individual discussions

List of Invitees/Participants

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* invited, but did not attend

Workshop Photographs

Opening Session



Session II and Session III: Barriers and Measures



ABBREVIATIONS

AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
BMA	Bangkok Metropolitan Administration
CODI	Community Development Institute
DEDE	Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency, Ministry of Energy
EPPO	Energy Planning and Policy Office, Ministry of Energy
GNESD	Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development
KMITL	King Mongkhut Institute of Technology, Ladkrabang
MEA	Metropolitan Electricity Authority
NHA	National Housing Authority
OTOP	One Tambon one product
PEA	Provincial Electricity Authority
PTT	PTT Public Company Ltd
TEI	Thailand Environment Institute