



SESSION TITLE:

Defining Success: Is the UN’s “Year of Sustainable Energy for All” campaign effectively driving towards its goals for 2030?

SPEAKER SUMMARIES:

Mark Hopkins, Director of International Energy Efficiency, United Nations Foundation

- The Sustainable Energy for All initiative is a unique effort dedicated to three goals: 1) universal energy access by 2030, 2) double the global share of renewable energy, and 3) double the rate of the penetration of energy efficiency. Most importantly, without the involvement of the private sector it will be impossible to mobilize the funding required to bring the projects to scale.

Wolfgang Mostert, Consultant, Danish Foreign Ministry

- The new energy efficiency hub in Copenhagen will consist of experts who know what type of technologies work best, but its main role will be to provide advice on what specifically works in international cooperation. What is needed now is an organization that will look critically at the issues and to mobilize the countries of the Clean Energy Ministerial, which represent 80% of energy consumption worldwide.

Dr. Ashok Sarkar, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank

- Sustainable Energy for All began as a small effort, but has now grown to a successful stage by recognizing the importance of businesses. The Global Tracking Framework by the World Bank will support this initiative by attacking the final challenge with information that tells the private sector how to make good investments on energy efficiency projects around the world.

Dr. Naif Al-Abbadi, Director General, Saudi Energy Efficiency Center

- The Saudi government has created the Energy Efficiency Center with the goal of developing the public-private energy efficiency sector and to promote the work and commitment by Saudi Arabia to this sector.

Martin Hiller, Director General, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership

- Energy efficiency must stand on its own two feet apart from efforts focused on promoting renewable energy, because while the two are related, it is important to establish that energy efficiency isn't just a supplementary option. With very specific action targets for Sustainable Energy for All, the energy efficiency agenda will become more complete.

SESSION WRAP-UP

One of the most important questions revolves around scaling up of energy efficiency. In particular, the emergence of eco-cities, green cities, and renewable cities presents interesting opportunities for advancing the agenda by leading by example. Dr. Sarkar noted that King Abdullah Economic City in Saudi Arabia is one such example, which has set very ambitious targets of 50GW/hr of solar electricity by 2032.

Eco-Cities



This plan does not just increase the share of renewable energy in the overall mix, but it also changes the production processes. Building industry and transportation consume the vast majority of electricity, and it is important to try a holistic approach to the issue. This is something that countries in the developed world are trying to do right now. In short, King Abdullah City is both a model of energy efficiency seeking to influence the rest of the world, and it is trying to earn from international experience by engaging with governments and companies from across the globe.

Additionally, the institutional setup of governments is important for using eco-cities and the like to promote energy efficiency. It is much easier to work with cities in this regard. While it is always difficult to implement new standards and building codes, you get much better buy-in, a desire for ownership of projects, and a clearer path to implementation when working with mayors. For this reason, there are several initiatives specifically targeting urban interventions.

Multinationals and SE4ALL

Many multinationals have goals to be supplied by 100% sustainable energy within a couple decades, which raises the issue of their role in SE4ALL. Dr. Sarker believes that the size and influence of these organizations is comparable to that of many countries, and so it is important to include them in plans to implement these goals. To that end, SE4ALL has already attracted a number of these organizations in a way that hasn't happened before.

According to Mr. Mostert, the real value of multinational organizations is their ability to invest seed capital into innovative projects in developing countries. For example, Norvo Enzymes has an entrepreneurial group within its organization that has the capacity to implement these types of projects really quickly. If entrepreneurs have to go to traditional financing sources, they will often find that the projects are too risky to be funded by banks. However, the result is often innovation on a level unseen in other areas, and so it is important to encourage these organizations to continue their work.

Global Tracking Framework

The Global Tracking Framework is a massive effort that looks at the goal of doubling the rate of energy efficiency by 2030 and then breaks it down to see what has to happen at the regional, national, and local levels. The challenge has been collecting accurate, informative data on energy usage. A lot of times, the data that exists on energy usage is not a good indicator, because of the structural changes that render energy intensity less relevant.

For this report, over 150 people including 20 partner agencies collaborated in order to cover 180 countries. This is a very robust report which will help to illustrate how to achieve the SE4ALL goals, where the gaps exist, can we close these gaps, and where we should focus our attention. In the process of creating the report, we have realized that the institutions behind the data are very important.

Other



Mr. Mostert remarked that it is important to make sure that energy efficiency program include pro-poor objectives. One way to do this would be to provide additional incentives for households that achieve large reductions in energy usage through low-cost measures such as replacing incandescent bulbs with CFLs. For poorer households, a 20% reduction in energy use is possible with light bulbs alone, and so only they would qualify for bonuses or rebates.

ACTION ITEMS & TAKEAWAYS

- Global Energy Efficiency Hub will be launched in Copenhagen very soon
- It is important to use SE4ALL as a platform for promoting the energy efficiency agenda
- The Global Tracking Framework providing comprehensive data on the current status of energy use around the world will be launched very soon