

# 20 year International Network for Sustainable Energy



In 2012, INFORSE has  
180 members, all NGOs.  
[www.inforse.org](http://www.inforse.org)

## Publication 2008:

### Manual: Sustainable Energy Solutions to Reduce Poverty in South Asia.

Stoves, solar cooking, solar PV, biogas, micro hydro, wind mills for pumping and electricity, solar water heating, solar drying, solar distillation, etc.

By INFORSE-South Asia:  
INSEDA India, CRT Nepal,  
Grameen Shakti Bangladesh, IDEA Sri Lanka.  
available in English, Hindi,  
Nepali and Sinhala.  
Available from  
[www.inforse.org/asia](http://www.inforse.org/asia)



INFORSE was formed at the Rio Conference, on June 4, 1992 in Rio de Janeiro.

It was based on a common vision of NGOs from North and South of the need to promote sustainable energy defined as energy efficiency combined with sustainable use of renewable energies.

It was also based on frustration over the inability or unwillingness of countries at Rio in 1992 to agree on international cooperation for renewable energy or energy efficiency, while cooperation for nuclear power was (and is) well established in the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Where the countries did not agree upon international cooperation for sustainable energy, it was felt, at least a large group of NGOs would do so.

### Network Regions Formed

After INFORSE was formed, the first members started to develop regional networks, with the vision of strengthening regional NGO cooperation for sustainable energy as a cornerstone of INFORSE. During the remaining part of 1992 and 1993, INFORSE regions were formed on all continents except Australia and Antarctica, and by the end of 1992 INFORSE had 44 members worldwide.

### Secretariat, Database, UN Observer

In 1993, INFORSE got Danish support for its secretariat, for Sustainable Energy News, for global meetings of coordinators, and other activities.

With this funding, the network could follow its priorities: it started to follow UN processes related to sustainable energy, to build a database of sustainable-energy contacts, and to organise exchanges of information on local sustainable energy successes. These activities helped the members to reach further, for instance to the UN system, which is hard for local NGOs to access.

### UN CSD, Social Summit, Women Conference

During the 1990's, INFORSE coordinated NGO participation to promote sustainable energy in global processes such as the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), the Social Summit in 1995, the World Conference of Women (also in 1995), and the Solar Summit in 1998.

### Europe Seminars and Education Material

In parallel, the regions started to develop regional activities. With great success, INFORSE-Europe organised annual seminars and several projects to build links across the former iron curtain in Europe.

INFORSE-Europe and INFORSE South Asia together began to develop an on-line training tool, the Distant Internet Education in Renewable Energy Technologies (DIERET).



### CSD, Rio+10, Global Vision: 100 % Renewables

In 2001, INFORSE focused on the CSD, which had energy on the agenda that year. The network also started to develop visions and scenarios for how to realise the ideas of its members of a global transition to sustainable energy by 2050. This vision was developed further for the "Rio+10" conference in Johannesburg in 2002.

### Europe networking: EU & East-West

In 2002, the Danish support for INFORSE was abruptly cut with change of government, but the network continued. The European region was most successful in attracting funding, for networking in the EU and for East-West cooperation within Europe.

### European Visions: 100 % Renewables

The sustainable energy visions were refined, and developed to show for an increasing number of countries how they could turn to 100% renewable energy in just 20, 30 or 40 years, if they act with a sense of urgency, but without real cuts in well-being. The network also started to follow more closely EU energy policies.

### Focus from CSD to UNFCCC

In 2006 and 2007, INFORSE followed the energy theme of CSD, but given the meagre outcome of the CSD, the network decided to reorient its focus towards the climate negotiations within the UNFCCC and has participated in climate COP's since COP14 in 2008.

### Renewables to Reduce Poverty in South Asia

In the years 2006–2008, INFORSE South Asia carefully developed a comprehensive handbook on Sustainable Energy Solutions to Reduce Poverty in South Asia, gathering best practices from the sub-continent.

### IRENA

When the countries finally decided in 2010 to form an organisation for renewable energy, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), INFORSE took part as observer at the inaugural meeting and later in the first IRENA assembly in 2011.

### Climate Capacity Building in Asia & Africa

Since the end of 2010, INFORSE has cooperated with other networks in the "Southern Voices" programme to build capacity among southern NGOs in climate policy. INFORSE South Asia, INFORSE East and Southern Africa, and INFORSE West Africa all benefit from the Programme.

### Networking for the Future

With our participation in Rio+20, we want to build on our existing network, but also to start cooperation with new partners for a global transition to sustainable energy based on local, appropriate solutions with active participation of NGOs and the local societies. The network is open to independent NGOs that promote sustainable energy with practical or political activities and that will support the INFORSE Charter.

## Publication May 2012

**Southern Voices on Climate Policy Choices - Analysis of and lessons learned from civil society advocacy on climate change**

Analysis of the tools and tactics that advocacy groups use to influence policy responses on climate change at international, regional, national and sub-national levels. INFORSE members from Africa and South Asia have provided a number of sustainable energy cases.

Available from  
[www.climatecapacity.org](http://www.climatecapacity.org)

