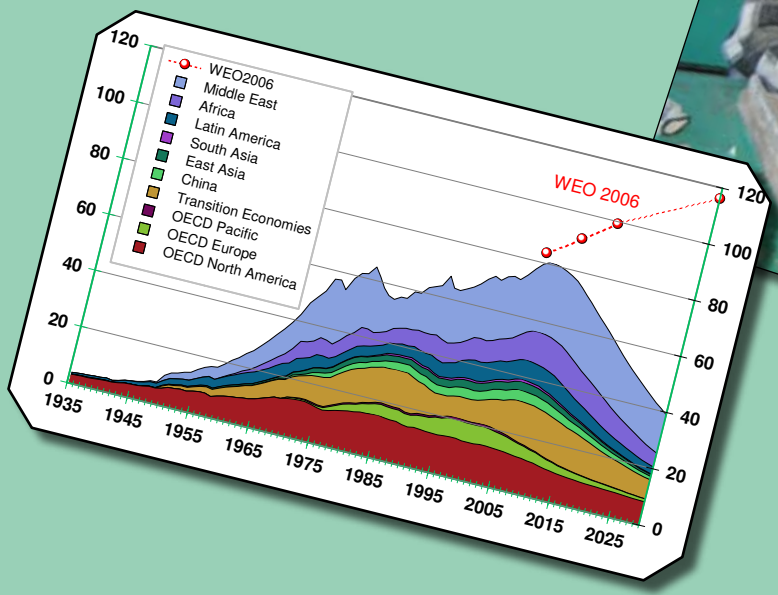
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

Newsletter for INFORSE International Network for Sustainable Energy No. 59, December 2007

Bridging the Gap

- UN & NGOs
- Climate & Energy
- EU Enlargement
- Schools & Projects
- Global Partnerships



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Photos on the front page:
The pictures are from the articles of this issue.

Climate Changing

Editorial sent from the 13th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP13) in Bali, December 3-15, 2007.

Photos by Emil Bedi, who participated at the COP13 in Bali, and the author of this editorial.

From the perspective of NGOs dealing with renewables and energy efficiency, such high-level conferences *raise hopes* of shifting our energy consumption patterns towards more sustainable paths. Leading scientists (IPCC 4th report, 2007) agree that human activities are the primary cause of the current global climate change, with the major impact stemming from our burning of fossil fuels. So the obvious solution to the problem would be replacement of fossil fuels with renewable ones. But the renewables are hardly mentioned at COP meetings. Well, climate-change conferences like this one at Bali are primarily aimed at preparing the way for reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) with commitments of countries toward this goal, but not with specific measures to tackle them.

Up to this point, the world community looking for emission reductions has seen several commitments negotiated at international meetings *none of which has been achieved yet*. Stabilization of GHGs by 2000 at the level of 1990 emissions was the first one that failed. Then there was the Kyoto Protocol (KP) with its commitments for developed countries - 5,2% reduction during the period 2008-2012. According to the latest trends even this target will be not achieved and the world emissions of GHGs (developed countries including) are rising faster than ever. So according to the scientists we are heading for devastating impacts on nature and human beings. It could be said that from 1992 until now there are no achievements at all that can be reported as successes of the UN negotiations aimed at reduction of GHGs on global level .

Nevertheless, the world's warming trend will not be reversed unless effective action is taken at the international level, and the only mechanism now in place to address is the UN climate-change negotiation process. Unfortunately, there is nothing beyond 2012 agreed and new commitments are urgently needed.

in Bali - Raising Hopes

The Bali conference was intended to prepare the road map for the new protocol. In fact, the map is already drawn. After Bali comes COP 14 in Poznan (Poland) in 2008 and then COP 15 in Copenhagen (Denmark) in 2009. And maybe then, perhaps there will be a new protocol in place after 2012. There is not much time left until 2012. The KP took almost three years to negotiate and seven years to ratify. But once again we are experiencing the never-ending debates on who should do (commit) more. Should it be there developed countries, which until now contributed the most to the global warming problem, or should the commitments be made also by the developing countries like China or India with their ever-increasing emissions?

Policy differences among countries are huge. Some big polluters are simply staying out and isolated like the U.S., which did not ratify the KP; or Canada and Japan, with their negative positions towards proposed commitments to emission reductions or towards pushing developing countries to make commitments (Canada). These positions clearly violate the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. They could even be seen as an attempt to block and to sabotage the Bali talks. On the other hand, some countries are changing their negative views. Just recently, after a change of government, Australia decided to ratify the KP; whereas others, like the EU, are proposing strong commitments - 25-40 % reduction by 2020 according to the 1990 levels. The EU goal is good and is advocated by climate scientists as the minimum that should be done. It should also be noted, though, that present EU policies are not sufficient to fulfill this goal and that stronger domestic targets supported by implementation mechanisms for renewables (20% RE by 2020) are needed.

Technology transfer is the issue raised in Bali by developing countries, which are not happy at all with the level of difficulty that they face in trying to obtain up-to-date technology now. Interestingly, precisely those developed countries that have long opposed binding emission targets in climate discussions, instead favoring technology cooperation, now refuse to allow any serious consideration of a technology package which could be a part of the post-2012 framework.

Deforestation is another issue heavily discussed in Bali. The current rules guiding the treatment of land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) fail to address the emissions from all land uses. Forests are storing massive amounts of carbon and are very important in future emission reductions. The proposed REDD (reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation) framework should bring payments in exchange for preserving the forests in developing countries. This issue is strongly supported by host country Indonesia, but the reactions from developed countries have been lukewarm.

The so-called **adaptation fund** is another hot issue. According to the recent provisions, 2% of costs related to financing clean-development mechanism projects should be allocated to the adaptation fund, which was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programs in developing countries. Developing countries expressed their negative position towards the current management (GEF) and distribution of the fund to date. To make the fund a more efficient tool, developing countries have proposed that they be given more control of the distribution of these several hundred millions of dollars.

At the time of writing this editorial, the final outcome of the Bali meeting was not known, but it is for sure that the world climate does not have any other option but the success of the meeting with a clear mandate for the future. At the end it would be really necessary to have a document that will open the way for renewables and not more of the empty words that have been wasted throughout so many years of negotiations.

"Women in the Forest - no fairy tale" Press briefing of the Gender and Climate Change (GenderCC) Network - Women for Climate Justice. Ulrike Roehr, (second from the right) who is also representing the INFORSE member organisation Life e.V. is acting as coordinator of the GenderCC network.

Final Results - COP 13 in Bali

The COP 13 in Bali finally ended a day late (December 15) with mandates to go on with negotiations in all important fields, but without agreements on the specific targets.

By the end of the conference, even the USA agreed to this roadmap that should lead to agreements in 2009; but after the conference, the US president aired some reservations about this position.

INFORSE - COP 14 in Poland

In 2008, INFORSE plans to follow climate negotiations with the particular purpose of supporting proposals and agreements that will increase sustainable energy solutions in North and South.

Emil Bedi
INFORSE Coordinator

Romanian Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Visions

On November 23 and November 27, 2007, INFORSE-Europe and Earth Friends (Prietenii Pamantului - PP), Romania presented seminars on EU policies for sustainable energy and their implementation in Romania as well as on sustainable energy visions.

Ion Zamfir presenting the Romanian sustainable-energy vision at the Seminar in Bucharest.

Bucharest - November 23

The first seminar, which took place in Bucharest with 38 participants, was also the launch of the new sustainable energy vision for Romania developed by INFORSE-Europe and PP. It provided a forum for discussion as to how EU policies are implemented in Romania.

This seminar was co-organised with Terra Millenul III. The audience, mainly NGOs, academics, and officials, generally welcomed the proposals and ideas, but there were also a few critical questions regarding the vision for transition to sustainable energy.

This led to a long debate, which luckily also cleared up some misunderstandings, e.g. regarding potential problems of wind-turbines.

Braila - November 27

The second seminar, which took place in Braila with 25 participants, was mainly focussed on how Romania can use structural funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Ion Zamfir from Prietenii Pamantului presented examples from other EU countries, including UK (Wales) and Slovakia.

Currently no structural fund projects have been granted in Romania, but there will be large opportunities for Romanian municipalities to improve their energy infrastructure.

It is important that the funds be used for sustainable development and not for unsustainable road construction as has been the case in many other countries.

Hall of Casa Universitarilor, where the seminar was held.

More information:
- www.inforse.org/europe/seminar07_Bucharest.htm
- www.inforse.org/europe/seminar07_Braila.htm

Macedonia is Implementing EU Legislation - But Not Yet in Practice

On November 30, 2007, Eco-sense and INFORSE-Europe organised a seminar on EU energy policy and their implementation in Macedonia.

The old stone bridge in Skopje

Bridging the gap in Skopje.

The seminar brought together 20 participants representing NGOs, officials, research, ministries, companies, and the Macedonian power transmission operator.

Macedonia has joined the South East European Energy Treaty, which entered into force in 2006; the country also became an EU candidate country in 2006.

Both of these developments require Macedonia to implement the EU legislation on energy markets and on environment.

It was clear from the analysis presented at the seminar by Eco-sense that the status as a candidate country has a much larger effect for Macedonian legislation than the SEE Energy Treaty, which only requires a few of the EU policies for environment and renewable energy to be implemented. Macedonia is progressing well in adopting EU legislation on environment and energy; but the practical implementation of the EU-rules requires secondary legislation (bylaws and decrees etc.) that are not in place yet.

Therefore, most of the EU legislation is not enforced in Macedonia for the time being. Some interesting developments are taking place, however: Macedonia has adopted a feed-in tariff of almost 9 Eur-cent/kWh for renewable electricity, and many investors are working on wind-power and small hydropower projects. Until now problems with grid connections have held back the development, but there are hopes that this will be improved.

One issue of particular concern for many NGOs is Macedonia's decision to buy a share of the proposed Bulgarian power plant Belena of not less than 500 million Euro. This was a decision of the previous government and many NGOs hope that the present government will step back and not make the formal agreement that would be the next step.

The Seminar was held at the Regional Environmental Center (REC) office in Skopje.

More inforamtion:
www.inforse.org/europe/seminar07_Macedonia.htm

Edited By Gunnar Boye Olesen, who was participating on the INFORSE-Europe seminars.

European Sustainable Energy Policies in Turkey

On December 15-16, 2007, INFORSE-Europe and Eurosolar Turkey brought together in Istanbul 25 participants from ministries, regional environmental NGOs in the TURCEP-Platform, universities, municipalities etc. to discuss EU and Turkish policies for sustainable energy.

Photos: Seminar participants in Istanbul, the organisers from Eurosolar Turkey, and the INFORSE posters.

Turkey is in a special situation with unusually high economic growth combined with little emphasis on energy efficiency and some imports of inefficient products.

This leads to high growth in energy consumption and, as a result, increasing proposals for coal and nuclear power. Just a month ago, the Turkish government changed its previous decision against nuclear power, so now it is looking for nuclear investors. At the same time, Turkish renewable-energy production is increasing, in particular solar heating and windpower. At a recent call for windpower proposals, developers proposed projects for a total of 78,000 MW, far more than the plans for coal and nuclear power combined. The government will limit the windpower development; but it remains to be seen how much.

At the seminar, participants also discussed energy-efficiency regulation in Turkey. Turkey has adopted a law on energy efficiency in buildings and in industry that implement the EU building performance directive, but it has not adopted the necessary secondary legislation. As a result, the important energy-efficiency requirements for buildings are not in place yet in Turkey. At the seminar, proposals for this secondary legislation were discussed. Eurosolar-Turkey (Dr. Bahab Kuban and Dr. Tanay Sidki Uyar) are working to coordinate inputs to this legislation and will now follow-up with proposals to the Turkish ministries of energy and settlements.

More information: www.inforse.org/europe/seminar07_Turkey.htm

Poland & EU: A Lot Needs to be Done

On December 14, 2007, the Polish Ecological Club (PKE), INFORSE-Europe, and others organised a seminar to discuss EU policies for sustainable energy and their implementation in Poland.

Photos: Seminar participants in Katowice and, two of the organisers from PKE-OG.

The 50+ participants that met at the Katowice cultural centre discussed the EU directives to be implemented. Among other facts, they learned that the important directive for energy efficiency in buildings is now included in the Polish law, but that the secondary legislation (decrees, etc.) is not in place. Thus, the requirements for energy efficiency are not enforced in Poland at the end of 2007, three years after Poland entered the EU.

On the other hand, EU's lack of energy-efficiency standards had forced Poland to accept less efficient equipment than before they entered the EU. A specific example, electric motors, was mentioned. With this lack of energy-efficiency regulation, it is no wonder that a representative of the power sector complained about the unexpected strong growth in Polish electricity consumption. Some participants had hopes that the Ecodesign process would change the situation; but industry pressure to have lax regulation is strong, so the process is not certain to succeed.

An overview of implementation of EU legislation in Poland and proposals for improvements will be published by PKE after the meeting. It will be available on the websites of INFORSE-Europe and PKE.

More information: www.inforse.org/europe/seminar07_Poland.htm

Trainees: INFORSE-Europe Secretariat

We would like to thank for Marisa B. Botella and Veronica Arribas Arcos, for their 3-month active participation in the work of the INFORSE-Europe Secretariat as trainees from Spain through the BECAS-FARO EU Leonardo program since October 2007.

We say "Good Bye" with this picture, where they participated on the model-building workshop at the INFORSE-Europe Seminar at the Energy Academy on the island of Samsoe, in Denmark.

EU Policy Update

Edited by Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE-Europe

Support for Renewable Energy - or?

The renewable-energy packet that the EU Commission is preparing for the end of January, 2008 is expected to include a renewable-energy framework directive covering all forms of renewable energy in the EU. It will also contain a proposal for how to divide the 20% renewable-energy target for 2020 among countries.

One of the major remaining issues is whether or not there should be an EU-wide system of renewable-energy (RE) support, such as the proposed RE certificate system that was discussed within the Commission and that is supported by a few EU countries including the UK. Given the opposition against the system from many EU countries and from promoters of RE, the Commission is working on the idea of a voluntary system in which countries can decide whether they want to join an EU certificate system as part of their renewable energy support scheme, or to opt out and rely on their domestic support system to reach the target. While this could look like a reasonable compromise, it is in practice highly problematic: when the system is introduced throughout the EU, companies from countries that opt out can sue their respective countries because they are not allowed to participate in the certificate market, which thereby potentially reduces their profits. It is likely that they will be successful with this legal complaint, forcing their countries to enter the certificate market and leading to a short-cut of the more cost-effective domestic feed-in system with lower payments for renewable electricity. During a court case, which can last for years, the affected RE markets (that of renewable electricity, mainly) will be in limbo. Investors will postpone investments until they have security for the income that they can get. This is exactly the opposite of what is needed if we are to reach any renewable energy target. The only ways out are to avoid any EU-wide system for renewable energy or to have an EU-wide system of feed-in tariffs.

INFORSE-Europe has proposed inclusion of several elements in the coming EU renewable energy directive, including:

- legally binding national targets for renewable electricity, renewable heating &cooling, and sustainable transport.
- no EU-wide RE certificate system, but rather, requirement of favorable rules on grid access conditions along with administrative procedures and national support mechanisms that include feed-in systems for renewable electricity, gas, and district heating.
- support of renewable heating and cooling to be provided via information, investment subsidies, loans, obligations in building regulations, use of structural funds, and other measures.
- replacement of the current biofuel target with a sustainable-transportation target.
- efficient and sustainable use of biofuels, including the proposed moratorium on support and import of agrofuels.
- phase-out of subsidies for fossil and nuclear energy, including ending the practice of making VAT lower for fossil fuels than for renewable-energy equipment.

Read the full position (3 pages) at www.inforse.org/europe/eupolicy.htm.

EU Emissions Trading

A proposed revision of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU-ETS) is on its way and is expected to be presented by the Commission at the end of January. Given the many problems with the current system, INFORSE-Europe proposes a number of important improvements that are necessary if ever the EU-ETS is going to contribute to a substantial reduction of emissions:

- Stop the free allocations of allowances to companies: all allowances should be sold by the countries, either via auctions or at fixed prices.
- The EU-ETS must not be the only way to regulate the almost 50% of EU CO_2 emissions that the system covers. It must be supplemented by other measures for the companies involved.
- A part of the income from sales of emission allowances must be used for investments in energy efficiency and for transition to renewable energy.
- Each allocation period should not be extended beyond two years, to avoid the possibility that reductions might be postponed until the end of a longer period.
- Emission limits should be met with reductions inside the EU only. JI and CDM quotas should not be used by companies as an alternative to reducing emissions.
- Future emission reduction schemes for aviation and navigation must not be merged with the EU-ETS for land-based emissions.

EU Energy and Gas Markets

The EU Energy ministers discussed the proposals from the EU Commission regarding the new electricity and gas market regulations at their meeting on December 3, 2007.

They are still far from an agreement on the issue of unbundling of transmission operators, power producers, and power distributors. Some countries prefer a separation of ownership while Germany, France and some other countries will not accept that. They also will not accept the proposal from the EU Commission for a long-term lease of the transmission grids to independent system operators (ISOs).

Thus, the EU presidency (Portugal) asked them to develop their own proposal for discussion later. On a number of other issues there were not agreements either, including regarding the model for a regulatory agency; but some progress was achieved.

Regarding the objection of INFORSE-Europe against the proposal that the regulator should support the development of low-carbon technologies including nuclear power, it seems that an agreement has been reached to reduce the role of the regulator from promoting to reporting on the development.

With this agreement, however, the regulator's role of promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency is also removed. Individual countries will still be able to delegate these responsibilities to their respective national regulators, if they wish.

Strategic Energy-Technology Plan

The EU Commission has proposed a European energy-technology plan for promotion of all kinds of energy technologies.

The energy ministers welcomed it at their meeting in December 2007; INFORSE-Europe, however, is concerned about the proposal of a "sustainable nuclear fission initiative" with provisions for so-called "generation 4 nuclear reactors" that can consume endless amounts of research funding without any contribution to sustainable development.

Read more about the plan and INFORSE-Europe's opinion at www.inforse.org/europe/eupolicy.htm.

Ecodesign, Now on Electric Light

The EU ecodesign Consultation Forum is now discussing energy efficiency for office lighting: how to regulate this important energy use, what limits should apply, etc.

Read more on the proposal and NGO opinions at www.inforse.org/europe/eupolicy.htm.

International Energy Efficiency Platform

The EU Prime Ministers proposed an international agreement on energy efficiency in March 2007.

Since then the EU Commission has discussed the proposal with potential partners including China, USA, and India. The Commission could not find enough support for binding agreements on energy efficiency and is now proposing an International Platform on energy efficiency together with IEA for the G20 industrialised countries (the G8 countries, other EU countries, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, India, China, Indonesia). The platform shall have its secretariat at the International Energy Agency in Paris and shall include a high-level forum for discussions of energy efficiency, with annual meetings.

The intention is that it shall cover the full range of end-use efficiencies including electric appliances, heat, transport, and industrial production.

Meet INFORSE-Europe and the editors of Sustainable Energy News

January 28 - February 1, 2008

EU Sustainable Energy Week, EUSEW, Brussels, Belgium

INFORSE-Europe will be among the 50 exhibitors at the event.
The EUSEW is organised by EU Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign.
INFORSE-Europe is Associate member, and Sustainable Energy News is media associate.
Web: www.eusew.eu

SPARE: "We Can Contribute to Reduction of CO_2 Emissions"

Achievements & New Goals

By Olga Senova, SPARE Coordinator, School Project for Application of Resources and Energy

A New Step: Practical Action Linking Climate and Energy

Within the last year, SPARE national coordinators agreed that there is a need to emphasize, in SPARE educational work and educational materials, energy efficiency as a solution to the global climate-change problem. As a result, a new step was taken at the 2007 annual meeting in Kishinev (Moldova), where SPARE network has announced this priority and the slogan of the project, "We can contribute to reduction of CO_2 emissions". It means not only an educational link between climate and energy, but also development of practical actions on the local level within SPARE, which should bring real benefits, including reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions.

Practical Projects

In accordance with this new priority, the next stage of the SPARE project was characterized by the emergence of many small low-cost practical projects initiated by schools in almost all project countries. These small energy projects were devoted to improving energy efficiency, mostly through insulation of windows. These energy-saving measures are intended to improve comfort for schoolchildren while saving fuel and reducing CO_2 emissions.

Development of small school-based energy-saving projects became possible thanks to the methodical support of International Energy Brigades. Trainers from Rivne (Ukraine) came to Armenia and Tajikistan. Together with national coordinators (Eco-club Tapan in Armenia and For the Earth in Tajikistan) they provided training on the practical methods of window insulation for teachers, elder schoolchildren, parents and school administrations.

After these training sessions, insulation of windows was implemented in the several schools. As a result, temperatures in school classes increased by 3-4 C. Now schools are able to provide better heating

Practical SPARE school project

with less fuel. For example, calculations for Armenian projects show that insulation of 40 sq. metres of windows will help to save 7,000 kWh and reduce 3,500 kg of CO_2 per year. This corresponds to energy savings of 70,000 kWh and reduction by 35,000 kg of CO_2 emissions during the lifetimes of the windows' insulation. 30 projects of various size in Central Asia, Caucasus and Moldova have been completed or are under preparation. So far these projects are being financed by voluntarily CO_2 offsets from Norway.

In northwestern Russia, these methods of cheap and efficient insulation of windows are known by Apatity Energy Brigades, who, themselves, were trained by International Energy Brigades. Several school projects for window insulation were designed with the help of SPARE regional coordinators. At the end of 2007, we got the good news that our project addressed to improving energy efficiency in schools of northwestern Russia will have the support of the Public Chamber of Russian Federation.

During the next year, insulation measures should be implemented in three pilot SPARE educational organizations, working actively within SPARE: a secondary school in Petrozavodsk, Karelia, a kindergarten in Apatity and the House of Children's Creativity in the Leningrad region. This project will be managed by the NGO Friends of the Baltic in cooperation with Kola Environmental Centre "Gaia" (Apatity) and Karelian Department of All-Russia Society for Nature Conservation. The experience and results of this project will be widely disseminated among other northwestern Russian schools and housing communities.

SPARE School Competition

The International SPARE competition of 2007-2008 also runs under the slogan *"We can contribute to reduction of CO_2 emissions"*. All schoolchildren's competition projects for energy-saving and for the application of renewable energy sources should show achieved or expected amount of saved energy or replaced energy from carbon fuel, along with corresponding amounts of greenhouse-gas emissions prevented. Informational projects for schoolchildren and pedagogical projects of teachers should also be directed to the promotion of practical actions for energy-saving or for application of accessible local renewable energy sources to produce concrete results.

In March 2007, in Kishinev (Moldova), the international organising committee announced the results of the International Competition "Energy and Environment" of 2006-2007. 14 schoolchildren and 4 teachers were named the winners. They were honored at the national ceremonies organized by national coordinators together with educational institutions.

Russian and English !

The international competition of 2007-2008 started in autumn of 2007. The invitation to the International Competition was translated into English and distributed among all interested NGOs.

This year's competition will be managed in two languages, Russian, and English. Every pupil and teacher of every school may participate, if the school is registered as a SPARE school.

In the registered schools, the pupils

- learn about energy,
- take practical actions to save energy and to use renewables, and
- inform society of sustainable energy solutions.

The deadline for national competitions is: February 15, 2008 and the international competition is: March 15, 2008.

Join the SPARE network!
www.spareworld.org

SPARE-INFORSE cooperation: www.inforse.org/europe/schools/SPARE.htm

A Great "No-smoke" - Kitchen in Sri Lanka

"I looked around in pleasant surprise"

By Zareen Myles,
Women's Action For Development (WAFD),
INFORSE member, New Delhi, India

What you need in a kitchen is light and ventilation, no smoke or soot, easy storage of dry food ingredients, and a hygienic place to keep washed utensils. This can be provided in the most stylish and expensive manner, but the same basic needs can also be fulfilled in a village kitchen using your imagination and innovative household engineering.

It is just such an improved kitchen for the village woman that has been designed and is being promoted by "Integrated Development Agency– IDEA", a Sri Lankan NGO based in Kandy. In so doing, they have thrown out the myth that the poor need just to put three bricks or stones together in a sheltered place, light a fire and their kitchen is ready!

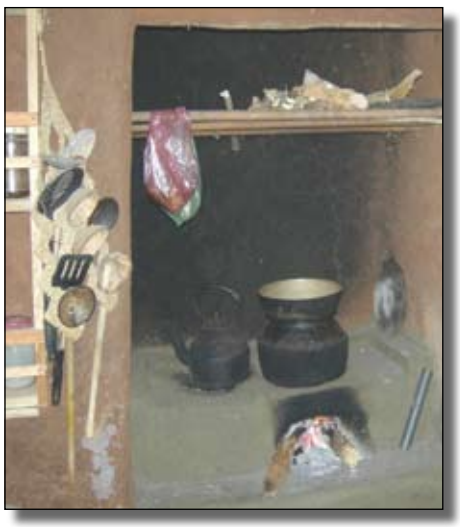
As I entered the kitchen designed and planned by IDEA in Kandy, *I looked around in pleasant surprise.* It was very well planned and had all the features needed for a good kitchen, using material easily available locally in all villages.

The improved earthen cook stove or "chullha" was not on the ground as is customary. It had been put on a platform at a convenient working height. Instead of the usual thin pipe chimney, it had been given a wide brick chimney (a chimney hood), with the dimensions of the cooking platform. For optimum utilization of space, simple shelves using rods were built two-and-a-half to three feet above the stoves.

Ventilation was provided very cleverly, by leaving a gap of at least 12 inches between the top of the wall and the roof. Bamboo pieces formed a grill in this gap, while letting in both air and light. Small holes in the wall did the same work, and a window near the work place also ensured fresh air.

To let in daylight, a piece of glass had been fitted into the roof where a rectangle of the thatch had been removed. This provided overhead light!

One wall too had a piece of glass fitted in for light. No electric bulbs were used, and as much natural light as possible was provided. A work surface has been built along one wall, using old bricks plastered with mud.



The grinding stone, a must in any home in the South Asian region, was also fixed on a small stand made from bricks plastered with mud. This eliminated sitting on the ground for grinding, and ensured cleanliness, apart from keeping the woman's clothes clean.

In the corner even a small sink has been provided with a pipe for waste water leading out into the greenery. This pipe was at least 6-8 feet long which meant no puddle of water near the kitchen.

As I stood in the center of this kitchen, looking critically in all directions, I could not find anything missing that a good kitchen needs.

It was a simple kitchen. It was an inexpensive kitchen. But it was an efficient kitchen, which surely helped the woman to have an improved work environment, and took out some of the drudgery she has to undergo daily.

For a full version of the article and more on cooking solutions:
See www.inforse.org/asia .

Global Energy Partnerships

INFORSE-Europe is following the global energy partnerships that bring together international organisations, countries, NGOs, businesses and others that want to work for more sustainable energy solutions. Here is an updated presentation of three of the partnerships. You can read more on INFORSE's website at www.inforse.org.

Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP)

GVEP has been working since its creation in 2002 on helping developing countries to set up energy action plans and on creating supportive environments for energy access in developing countries. The partnership is also providing support to small and medium-sized enterprises that work with energy in developing countries through access to financing, capacity-building and technical assistance.

As one of its largest projects, GVEP has awarded €4 m of funding for a project to increase access to energy services in rural East Africa in October 2007. The Developing Energy Enterprises Project East Africa (DEEP-EA) will provide crucial support for the development of micro and small energy enterprises providing rural and peri-urban energy services in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

INFORSE is a member of GVEP.

For more information about GVEP, see : www.gvepinternational.org.

The EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI)

EUEI was launched at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg as a joint commitment by the EU Member States and the EU Commission. The goal of the Initiative is to contribute to providing the access to energy necessary for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly including halving the number of people in extreme poverty by the year 2015.

EU Member States and the Commission support a number of specific projects and partnerships related to the EU Energy Initiative. Substantial support have been given through the EU energy facility for Africa, Pacific and Caribbean (APC), in particular for Africa.

INFORSE is following the EU Energy Initiative.

For more information about EUEI, see: www.euei.org.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)

REEEP is a global part-public, part-private organisation that structures policy and regulatory initiatives for clean energy; it also facilitates financing for energy projects.

The aim is to accelerate the integration into society of renewable technologies, to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and to advocate energy efficiency as a path to improved energy security, ensuring socio-economic benefits.

Energy efficiency remains a REEEP priority, with 44% of the total projects funded covering energy efficiency. REEEP announced in June, 2007 that they will fund thirty-five new projects. REEEP usually finances a smaller part of projects, and often the aim of the projects has been market development.

INFORSE is cooperating with REEEP.

For more information about REEEP, see: www.reeep.org.

Progress on an International Organisation for Renewable Energy - Message from WREA, Bonn

INFORSE and others have proposed international organisations for renewable energy and energy efficiency since 1992; but 2008 might be the year in which such an institution will actually start. That was the message given at the World Renewable Energy Assembly (WREA) in Bonn, Germany, November 19-21, 2007.

Since the present German government came into office, special envoys, including the German parliamentarian Hermann Scheer, have promoted the idea on behalf of the German government.

A number of countries have responded positively to these proposals.

The estimation is that in 2008 there will be enough countries behind the idea to start the formation of the institution.

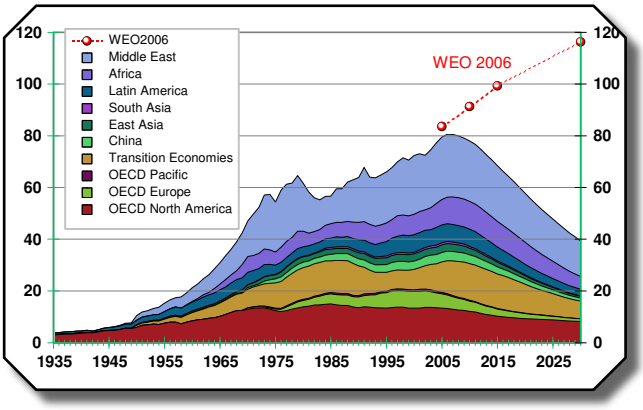
The participating countries will have the honour of being "founding members"; but other countries will be able to join later.

Follow the development during 2008 at:www.wcre.org.

German parliamentarian Hermann Scheer speaking at the WREA 2007 in Bonn, Germany.

Energy Watch Group Reports

The German-based Energy Watch Group (EWG) is analyzing all available information that it can gather about fossil and nuclear energy. So far this has led to three interesting and worrying publications.



Graph: EWG Global Scenario for the Future Oil Supply. Oil Production [Mb/d].
The red line is the oil supply according to the World Energy Outlook (WEO) report of the International Energy Agency (IEA), 2006.

CRUDE OIL REPORT

According to the major result from EWG's analysis of world oil production, oil peaked in 2006, and will start to decline at a rate of several percent per year.

In this paper, a scenario for the possible global oil supply is derived by aggregating projections for the ten world regions based primarily, on production data, which can be observed more easily and are also more reliable than reserve estimates. Generally, future production in regions, which are already seeing declines, can be predicted fairly accurately relying solely on past production data.

The group concludes that the declining oil supplies will force the world to begin a structural change of its economic system. Our way of dealing with energy issues probably will have to change fundamentally.

The message by the International Energy Agency (IEA), namely that business as usual will also be possible in future, sends a false signal to politicians, industry and consumers, not to mention the media.

www.energywatchgroup.org

Oil: Crude Oil Supply Outlook, Report, Summary: 14 pp, (pdf 493 kB);
Full Report, 101 pages, (pdf 2MB),
Press Release: Peak Oil Could Trigger Meltdown of Society, October 2007.
Coal: The Capacity of Coal is Significantly Overestimated,
Press Release: 3 pp., (pdf 162 kB), Full report: 47 pp., 629 kB. March 2007.
Uranium: EWG Warns: Depleting uranium reserves dash hopes for atomic energy supply,
Press release: 5p, (pdf, 173 kB); 8 pp., (pdf 614 kB);
Full Report: 48 pp., 404 kB, December 2006. Background Report: update, April 2007.

COAL REPORT

The major results from the EWG's analysis of the coal production is that there is significantly less coal left to be burnt than most people think This contradicts the conventional wisdom that says we have coal resources for hundreds of years left.

EWG estimates that the production of coal will peak in 2025, at 30 % above the current level, if it is not reduced earlier to mitigate climate change. After the peak, production will slowly decline because of diminishing resources.

Suprisingly, EWG also found that many data about proven reserves is out of date. In some countries the data have not been updated for 15-40 years. There is an urgent need for up-to-date and transparent data collection, without inclusion of speculative resources. In some cases, for lignite, there have also been dramatic devaluations of more than 80 % of the resource estimate. China is the country with the most reserves, although it is not the largest producer. Just around 1/5 of the Chinese reserves are being mined. Coal production in China will pass its peak within the coming 10 years.

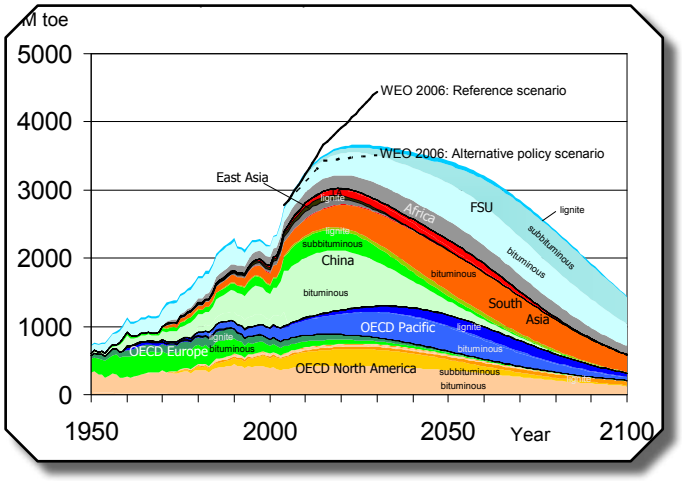
ENERGYWATCHGROUP

URANIUM REPORT

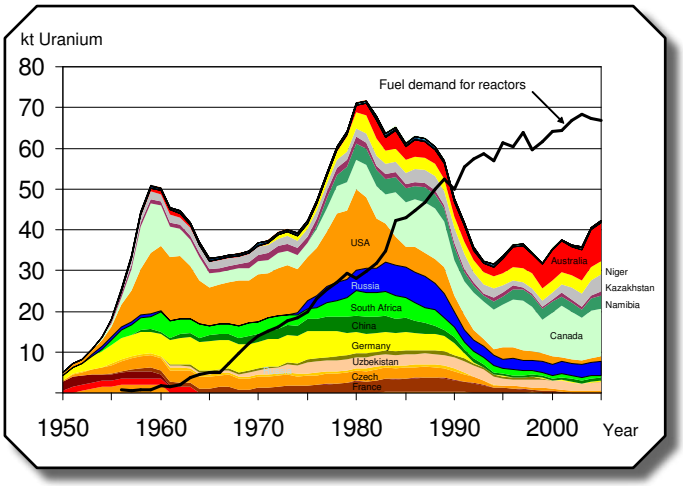
Today, uranium-mining capacity is only about 2/3 of the amount needed to meet consumer demand. EWG has concluded that the dramatically increased amounts of uranium that would be necessary for expanded reliance on nuclear power will not be available.

Due to the increasing prices of uranium, the EWG opposes the claims that nuclear fuel is cheap and that its prices have hardly any effect on the cost of nuclear power production.

Graph: EWG Global Scenario of Coal Production [Mtoe] according to the availability of coal in countries. The black line is the coal forecast according to the World Energy Outlook (WEO) report of IEA, 2006. The IEA scenario assumes further increasing coal consumption and production until at least 2030. According to EWG, this will not be possible due to limited reserves.



Graph: EWG Global Statistics of Uranium delivered amount and demand, Uranium [kt], according to producing countries. The black curve shows the annual uranium use in atomic power plants world-wide. Since the beginning of the 90s demand has been higher than the delivered amount.



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1,000 Contacts - Online

INFORSE maintains a database of more than 1,000 NGOs and public officials, including as well research and educational institutions that are actively working in renewable energy. These contacts include all INFORSE members and span 159 countries. The database is available through our website and can be searched by membership, country and name.

Check your organisation ! Corrections are welcome

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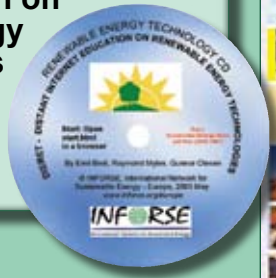

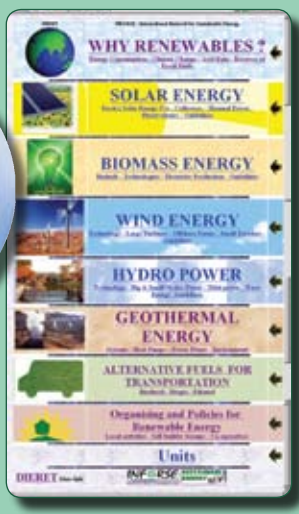

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