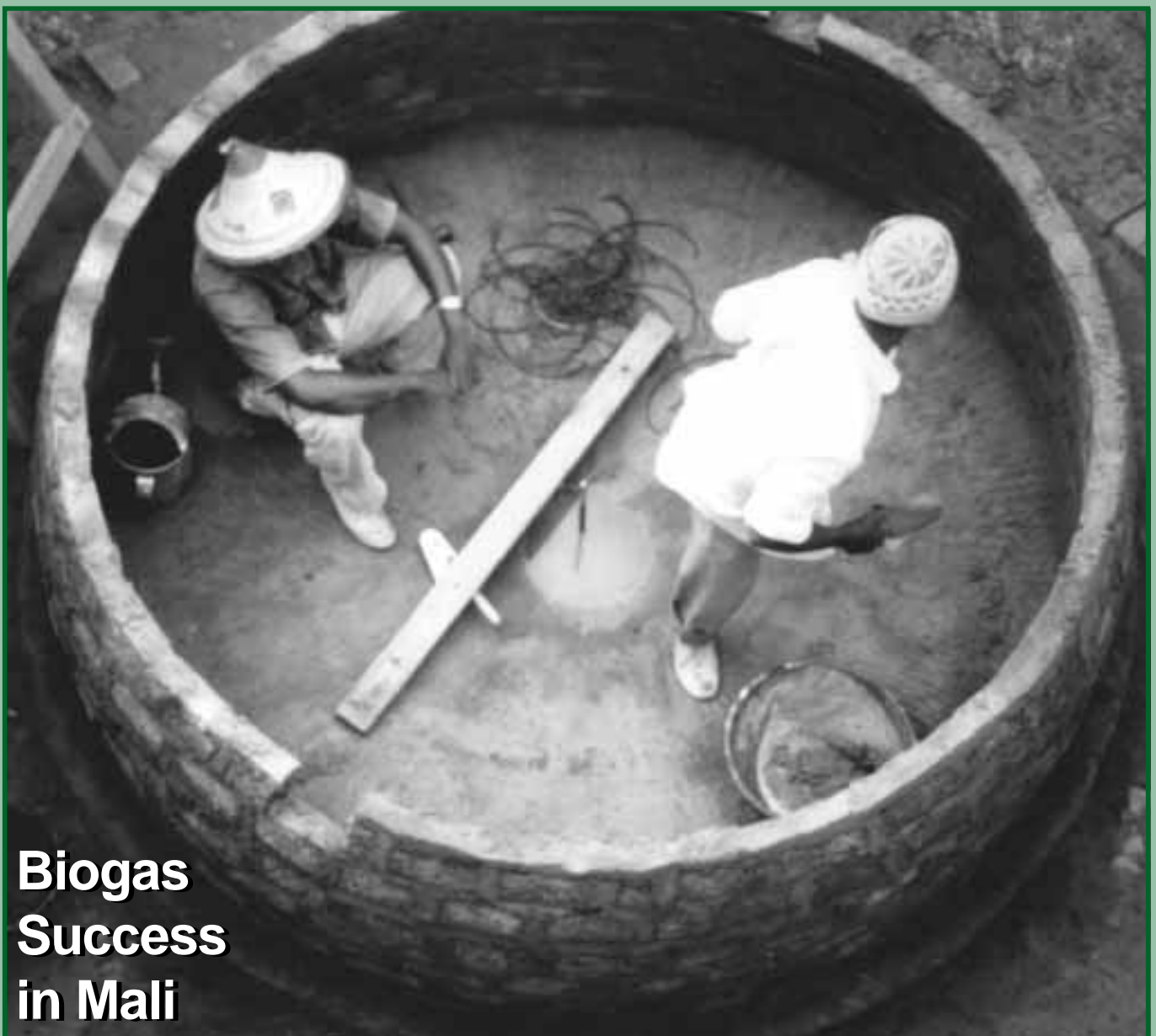


SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

Newsletter for **INFORSE** International Network for Sustainable Energy.

No. 36, March - April 2002



**Biogas
Success
in Mali**

INFORSE's Search for Funding

Rio+10

Sustainable Energy News

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INFORSE

International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)

is a worldwide NGO network formed at the Global Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992.

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Photo on the front page:

Building a biogas digester dome
using locally made bricks in
Mali. See article on pages 8-9.
Photo: Mali Folkecenter.

NGO Network - INFORSE was Needed 10 Years Ago & Today

The lack of Danish Support for INFORSE does not stop INFORSE to fight for a sustainable energy future for the world.

Support the network!

With the sudden lack of support for INFORSE from the Danish state, cuts in support for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Denmark, and a very un-ambitious climate strategy in the USA, the prospects for sustainable energy seems bleaker than they have been for a long time.

From other countries, however, there are more positive signs. Germany has had the largest increase in windpower ever in 2001. The UK and France seem seriously committed to renewable energy. Worldwide renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies are still on the rise.

The lack of commitment to use sustainable technologies for climate change abatement, seen not only in Denmark and the USA, underlines the urgent need for concerned citizens and NGOs around the world to use their resources and campaigning power to change the current clearly unsustainable energy path to one that will cover basic energy needs with renewable energy as proposed by Greenpeace (see page 10). It is vital to exchange fossil fuels and nuclear energy for renewables, and it should be done worldwide in 50 years, as proposed in the Vision2050 by INFORSE and others. There is also a need for development of the vision, combining local, national, regional, and global visions. It should be



Drawing by Claes Morin, Denmark

shown how it is possible, technically as well as economically. Often it can even be shown that the developments included in visions are economical beneficial, if we include a dynamic view on costs, recognising the fact that renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies are becoming cheaper with large-scale use.

There is also a need for networks that can facilitate exchange of experience among sustainable energy NGOs worldwide, ensure representation in the UN and other international fora, be a meeting place for NGOs, and support the development of consistent sustainable-energy visions and plans on all levels. ***This was needed 10 years ago, when we started INFORSE. It is needed just as much or more today.*** In spite of all efforts and of demonstrated progress, we are in many ways as far from a sustainable energy future as we were ten years ago.

We hope that many of you will continue to participate in INFORSE, support the network, and help us through the difficult period ahead after the cut of our Danish support.

We also hope that many of you will be able to participate in the Rio+10, where we plan to be present with INFORSE and an event on sustainable-energy communities.

Gunnar Boye Olesen
INFORSE Co-ordinator (Europe)

INFORSE's New Situation

- Search for Funding

Forum for Energy & Development Stops

INFORSE & Sustainable Energy News Continue

We Need YOUR Support



INFORSE Coordinators and Focal points (See back page)

By Gunnar Boye Olesen and Michael Kvemny, INFORSE

FED Closes its Door, INFORSE Continues

In a surprise move, the new Danish right-wing government stopped support for Forum for Energy and Development (FED) retroactive to the start of this year, with the result that the FED will close its doors in May.

The FED had been the host of the INFORSE Secretariat since 1993, sponsoring many INFORSE activities such as this newsletter. The government moved very quickly on this, since it had only just come into power at the end of November. It was also a real surprise because the FED had had its budget increased in 2001, with the expectation of stable support until end of 2003.

INFORSE Secretariat Moves

To save the network, the Secretariat will be transferred from the FED to OVE, The Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy, at the end of April.

OVE will continue the activities as far as possible on a minimal budget, until a solution has been found with new funds and/or with a transfer of the secretariat to an organisation that has the capacity to continue the activities on a higher level.

Meanwhile, we are looking for all possible funds and voluntary assistance to continue the network activities for promotion of sustainable energy development worldwide.

Any funding and ideas for funding is welcome! We will also be happy to cooperate in joint fundraising activities.

INFORSE's lobby Continue

INFORSE has a consultative status at the UN and plans to participate and organise a side event at Rio+10. See article on INFORSE's Plans for Rio+10 on page 4.



Front pages of previous issues of Sustainable Energy News and the Annual Contact List. Among the Themes last years were: Climate, Women, Poverty and School.

Sustainable Energy News Continues

Smaller Circulation, Increased E-mail Edition

Sustainable Energy News will continue in one way or another. This issue is limited in circulation as well as in colours and pages. The circulation is limited to members and paying subscribers. To supplement the limited printed edition, circulation via email will be increased to cover all previous recipients that have email. We hope soon to be able to re-establish the previous print-version circulation with other funds.

Subscribe to Sustainable Energy News!

We also hope that many will begin to subscribe. We are keeping the subscription price at 25 USD/year, which is still low for a quarterly update of sustainable energy news from around the world.

Any additional contributions is also welcome, and will be used to support INFORSE activities.

Contact List Delayed

The Annual Contact list includes 800 organisations active in sustainable energy.

The European part was planned to be included in this issue, but it is delayed.

We hope that it can be included in one of the next issues of Sustainable Energy News.

www.inforse.org Continues

The INFORSE homepage will continue to be open for materials and links from the INFORSE organisations.



Energy Proposals for Rio+10

While the negotiations for Rio+10, the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), are in a state of chaos after the 3rd preparation meeting (Prepcom 3, March 25 – April 5 2002), energy has a more prominent role than at the Rio conference in 1992.

Energy issues are also in focus because of the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, hopefully to be completed before Rio+10.

Overview of Proposals

One of the most prominent proposals discussed at Prepcom 3 would provide energy services by 2015 to half of the 2 billion people who currently have none. It is one of several proposals to reduce absolute poverty substantially.

The US, Japan, and Canada are against a target year, and not all countries agree that it should be an action program.

The EU has proposed to improve international institutions to achieve the goal, and many NGOs have called for the use of only renewable energy in this effort.

Greenpeace even made it into a campaign (see page 10).

There is general agreement that the share of renewable energy must be increased. The small island state of Tuvalu and many NGOs propose that all countries should have at least 20% renewable energy by 2010, whereas others propose 5% or no target.

It also seems that there is a general agreement to phase out harmful energy subsidies, even though there are at least three different wordings proposed by different countries. The official proposals have no deadline for the phase-out, but NGOs have proposed that it should be done before 2010.

The EU countries propose to strengthen international institutions for energy for sustainable development. They propose to give a clear mandate to one international organisation (new or existing) to facilitate the development of action-oriented recommendations on energy for sustainable development for different groups of countries. They also propose networks of international institutions for renewable energy, energy efficiency, rural energy, adequate energy market reforms, etc.

Among the other progressive proposals, Tuvalu has proposed a legally binding agreement to facilitate the mainstreaming and commercialisation of renewable energy technologies, and Norway has proposed to take into account the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams.

Not all energy-related proposals are equally progressive. The proposals for development of cleaner fossil-fuel technologies could be a step in the wrong direction, and the proposals to promote cooperation between oil-consuming and oil-

INFORSE Side-event at Rio+10

We plan to organise a side-event on sustainable energy communities in parallel with Rio+10.

The event will show how different communities from small islands to large cities have chosen a strategy to rely on renewable energy. The event will also draw the link from sustainable energy communities to the global "Vision 2050" for phase-out of fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

The event will take place, in spite of the trouble with INFORSE's funding.

Read more at www.inforse.org

exporting countries does not seem to support sustainable development either. Nuclear power was a big issue at last year's meeting in the Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD9). It is not mentioned in the text, but some could argue that it is included via the references in the text to CSD9.

There is still another preparation meeting (May 27 - June 7, 2002 in Bali) before Rio+10, but that does not allow much time to change the 150 pages of "square brackets" into a good action plan for sustainable development in the 21st century.

It remains to be seen whether Rio+10 will be a trend-setting push for sustainable development or just a big conference in Johannesburg.

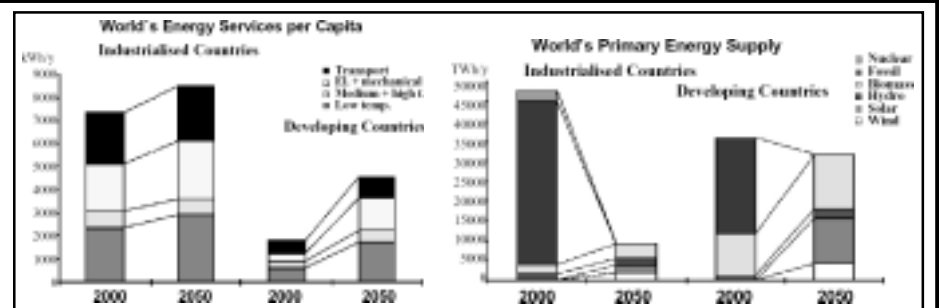
Read more at: www.johannesburgsummit.org, www.rio10.dk, www.inforse.org



INFORSE's Proposal

At the conference "Rio'02 - World Climate and Energy Event", the only energy-related preparatory event for Rio+10, the "INFORSE Vision 2050" was presented.

The Vision of supplying everybody's energy needs with renewable energy by 2050 was presented at the conference by the INFORSE Co-ordinator Emilio Lèbre La Rovere, and it is included in the proceedings from Rio02 as input to the Rio+10 process. The paper is also available on the INFORSE website.



Graphs from the Global Scenario of the "INFORSE Vision 2050" presented in January at Rio'02..

The Rio'02 Conference was combined with an exhibition of solar technology.



See: article in SEN Nr. 32 and www.rio02.org, www.inforse.org.

International Agencies - in Progress

The 2 initiatives (ISEA & IRENA) for international organisations for sustainable energy are progressing.

ISEA /ISEF

The NGO Energy Caucus for CSD has developed its proposal of an **International Sustainable Energy Agency (ISEA)** into an **International Sustainable Energy Fund (ISEF)**.

The proposal was presented at the prepcom 3 to the Rio+10 (see page 4). The main aim of the fund is to support sustainable energy projects and incentives in low-income areas of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The main funding should be 20% of the money saved from phasing out the subsidies for unsustainable forms of energy, such as fossil fuels, nuclear energy and large-scale hydropower, as well as 20% of the funding from reductions in military expenses.

The Caucus proposes to include this fund in the agenda for Rio+10.

IRENA

The World Council for Renewable Energy, which proposed the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**, is planning the First World Renewable Energy Policy and Strategy Forum with the subtitle "*Renewable Energies: Agenda 1 of the Agenda 21*", June 13-15 2002 in Berlin.

The Forum is expected to lead to the adoption of an "*Action Plan on a Global Proliferation of Renewable Energies*", adding to the IRENA plans proposed last year.

Read more at:

www.gracelinks.org, and

www.eurosolar.org,

Events List on page 11 in this issue and article in issue Nr. 34, Aug. 2001 p. 4.

News from Namibia

May 29-31, 2002 Seminar, Missing Link: Poverty, Energy & Gender

REINNAM, Renewable Energy Information Network of Namibia, a new INFORSE member, is successfully increasing energy awareness in Namibia.

The network was established in 1997 and it is jointly hosted by the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia.

In May 29-31, 2002 it organises a regional seminar '*Poverty, Energy and Gender: The Missing Links in Regional Development and Poverty Alleviation Strategies?*'

Info: Robert Schultz, REINNAM,
e-mail: energy@polytechnic.edu.na,

See also at the
Event's list.



News from the Asian Cookstoves Network

Plans for the Next Phase

The Asia Regional Cookstove Program (ARECOP) discussed plans for the Program's phase III on a **Planning Technical Advisory Meeting, 13-16 March 2002, in Dhulikhel, Nepal.**

The meeting was organised by the Centre for Rural Technology (CRT), Nepal, which is member of INFORSE and serves as a National Focal Point, and by the ARECOP Secretariat, Indonesia.

The ARECOP is a strong and active regional network promoting the uses of biomass and improved cookstoves (ICS). The program is now entering the 3rd year of its phase II. See article in issue Nr 34.

Workshop in May 2002

The most important event will be the Regional Workshop on Household Energy, Indoor Air Pollution and Health, May 9-10, 2002, New Delhi, India.

The workshop is organized by the Tata Energy Research Institute, the World Bank in collaboration with the Indian Government. It is co-sponsored by the UNDP, the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities and the Norwegian Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development and the United States Agency for International Development.

Strengthening the Network in Nepal with a Database

Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal (CRT), INFORSE focal point, is the country contact point managing the **Improved Cookstove (ICS) Network, Nepal, since August, 2000.**

CRT prepared an '*Inventory of Improved Cook Stoves in Nepal*' in 1999, which was updated in September, 2001, and is planned to be updated every year.

The inventory is stored as a database of the organizations involved in promoting improved cookstoves (ICS) in Nepal.

It contains detailed information about the activities of 38 member organizations, such as ongoing programs, total number of ICS units built, strategies implemented, impacts of the program, as well as information about future programs. This glimpse of the activities of the Network members is expected to strengthen the network as well as the cooperation and collaboration among the member organizations.

The network publishes a quarterly Newsletter to enhance the flow of information/experiences on ICS among the members as well as at an international level.



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Edited by Gunnar
Boye Olesen, OVE,
INFORSE-Europe

EU Update

EU Proposal for Biofuels

As part of the EU strategy to fulfil the Kyoto target for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (see Sustainable Energy News 35), the EU Commission has proposed a directive for promotion of biofuels with targets for the EU countries.

For most NGOs, the main problem is that the draft directive does not include any regulation regarding agricultural pollution. The risk of this is that intensive farming for biofuels will cause more agricultural pollution because of increased use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Another important objection is that the draft directive does not prioritise among the different biofuels, nor does it recognise the environmental benefits of using pure vegetable oil and ethanol rather than derivatives such as rapeseed oil methyl ester (RME) or mixtures. Pure vegetable oils can be produced locally on farms; they have no environmental or health impacts in distribution and storage. The main drawback of the pure oils is that they require changes in the motors and/or fuel system.

Third, the draft directive includes an option for targets beginning in 2009 for mixing biofuels into normal petrol and diesel. Use of such mixtures will not realise some of the benefits of biofuels, such as the opportunity for local production or the reduction of environmental impacts of the fuel supply.

While there is no joint NGO position on the draft directive, it seems obvious to demand that:

- biofuels not be allowed to increase agricultural pollution. One option would be to give the largest tax reduction for organically grown biofuels only;
- support be given to pure vegetable oil and ethanol rather than to less environmentally benign derivatives;
- there be no EU demand for mixtures of biofuels in mineral oil products;
- there be firm national targets for renewable energy in transport.

Protest Against the Danish Cuts !

Denmark's Cuts in Sustainable Energy, Development, and Environment

When a right-wing government replaced the social democrats after the elections last November, everybody knew that they would reduce development assistance. That they also would cut completely programs and institutions for renewable energy and energy efficiency, give up off-shore windpower parks, cut down environmental assistance, etc. came as a surprise to many. These plans were made public only in January of this year.

Hard Hit on INFORSE members

INFORSE is one of the networks that are hard hit by this, as described in the editorial. Also, Danish INFORSE members have been hit, in particular the Danish Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, which has lost its state support.

NGOs & Citizens - Protest

Many concerned citizens and NGOs from Denmark and abroad have protested against the cuts. One petition against a 10% cut in development assistance has been supported by 33,000 people.

Recent polls have shown that while the government still has a majority of voters behind it, more than half of the voters are against the same government's cuts in environment and development.

More info at: www.inforse.org, www.folkecenter.dk.

Further, we suggest that the scope of the directive be broadened to include all types of renewable energy in transport. Windpower used for trains and trams is just as good for the environment as are biofuels in cars.

The council of energy ministers will discuss the issue on June 7, 2002. A decision might be made in November.

See draft directive at www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/search/search_lip.html
search: Commission proposal 2001-547.

Consumer Information and Investment Limitation in EU?

At the EU Summit in Barcelona in March, it was decided that EU businesses can choose their own electricity and gas supplier(s) after 2004. As part of the same revision of the Internal Energy Markets, it has been proposed that all consumers should be able to see on their energy bills a listing of the sources of their electricity. It has also been proposed to limit the ability of nuclear power companies to use their decommissioning funds as investment capital. Both proposals are strongly supported by INFORSE-Europe and other NGOs. It will be exciting to see whether we manage to have the proposals included in the final decision in November.

Information: www.climnet.org and
www.orgve.dk/inforse-europe

sun21
energy first

Basel, Switzerland June 28-29, 2002

In the framework of the 5th International Energy Forum and sun21 events in Basel, there will be a "Symposium on Solar Energy in Developing Countries" organised by Oekozentrum in Langenbruck an INFORSE member organisation.

There will be also workshops on:

- fund-raising for sustainable energy projects and companies and
- the active role of Switzerland at the World Summit Johannesburg 2002.

The event is combined with the sun21 Festival and events like sun21 Art Objects, Mini Solar Challenge, Midsummer's Day, Solar Tales and Every Day Technologies, Vacation Energy Calendar.

Information:

Oekozentrum, Schwengistr. 12,
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Ph: +41623873111,

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sitzmann@oekozentrum.ch,

www.oekozentrum.ch,

www.sun21.ch

Anti Nuclear News 100,000 Signatures, Siberia

Krasnoyarsk is a city of a million inhabitants in the Siberian part of Russia located near the national spent-nuclear-fuel storage. A citizens' committee there collected over 100,000 signatures for a regional referendum to stop the storage, re-processing, and dumping of nuclear waste in the region. A regional referendum requires the collection of 35,000 signatures. In February, however, the Krasnoyarsk election committee decided to accept only 4,000 of the 100,000 signatures, thereby stopping the referendum.

Plans have also been made in secret to store the imported radioactive waste on an uninhabited Russian island in the Pacific, the Simushir island. The island has a valuable nature. In addition, it has elevated seismic activity, which is not conducive to safe storage of nuclear waste.

The plans for the storage at Simushir of radioactive waste from Taiwan were discovered by Ecodefense in March. Several NGOs have protested these (possibly illegal) plans.

Info: www.ecoline.ru/antinuclear.



K2R4 Still Ongoing

When the Ukraine government rejected the criteria of the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) loans for the proposed nuclear reactors Khmelnytski 2 and Rivne 4 (K2R4) in November of last year, many believed that this questionable project was permanently gone. Just a month later, however, in December, representatives of EBRD visited Kiev to try to save the project. The apparent success of this delegation shows that the K2R4 project is not dead. While no new decisions have been made, it is likely that after the Ukrainian elections in March, a new loan agreement could be negotiated, starting in April and maybe signed as early as July. The new loan agreement will need support from the EBRD Board of Directors as well as from the EU Commission.

In the meantime, Kiev might make more progress in meeting conditions set by the EBRD. For example, in December, the Ukrainian parliament increased the level of third-party liability for nuclear operators. That is one of the conditions for the loan.

Info: www.bankwatch.org/k2r4

NGOs Protest Finnish Nuclear

"The European Anti-Nuclear Platform" is a new platform of NGOs and networks, including INFORSE-Europe. Its first action is a protest against Finland's plan to build a nuclear reactor. The network is seeking additional NGO support for this protest.

Contact the organisers via Women Against Nuclear Power – Finland, email: ullaklotzer@yahoo.com.

More info about campaigns actions:

WISE - NIRS website:

<http://www.antenna.nl/wise/index.html>

Success for Solar Energy in Catalunya

During the year 2001, three important projects in Catalunya received international recognition:

- The EUROSOLAR Award 2001 was given to the Solar Ordinance of the city of Barcelona. This local law forces all future new buildings in the city to have solar heating systems that will cover 60% of the heating of hot water.
- The Poul laCour Award 2001 was given to the founders of Ecotecnia, a Barcelona co-op that has been working on the development of wind technology since the early 80s.
- The EUREC Technology Prize 2001 was given to Trama Tecnoambiental, a Barcelona-based small company that has been working on PV technology for rural environments since the 80s.

Info: Barcelona Grup d'Energia Local - BarnaGEL, c/o Ecoserveis
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www.energiasostenible.org



Child drawing made in Belarus at a school.

News from Belarus

The Belarus youth environmental movement "Belaja Rus" has organised campaigns for energy efficiency, waste separation, and public participation in environmental decision-making.

In Minsk, young people including pupils were invited to discussions of environmental problems of waste and energy in Belarus, and of what people can do themselves to reduce the problems. In an environmental awareness bus tour, volunteers from Belaja Rus visited 13 schools around Belarus, introducing the campaigns.

The campaigns are supported by leaflets on energy efficiency, waste, and public participation in Russian, made by "Belaja Rus". In addition, the organisation produced teacher-guides, along with the newsletter "Zelenie Novosti" for young people and teachers in Belarus.

The activities were conducted in co-operation between two INFORSE members, 'Belaja Rus' and OVE the Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy, with support from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

More info:

www.orgve.dk/inforse-europe

www.eibelrus.narod.ru/gn/gn01/gnr.htm

www.eibelrus.narod.ru/gn/gn00/gnr.htm



School children looking at the exhibition (above), and standing with their eco-set (down).





Training a local mason to build a biogas digester dome using locally made bricks.

Biogas Can and Does Work Tackling Desertification – a Daily Reality

Success story of a small NGO in Mali

By Kate Burrell visiting Mali folkecenter



Desertification is a commonly discussed problem in reference to Sub-Saharan Africa.

The problem is well known and the processes that bring it about are understood. It is rare, however, for viable alternatives to the use of wood derivative fuels to be found and accepted into traditional societies.

Here is the success story of a small NGO, called Mali-Folkecenter, that has been working to prove that the use of biogas in Mali, West Africa, can and does work.

Desertification affects the lives of millions of people world-wide, so the experts tell us, but in Mali, West Africa, desertification is a daily reality for much of the population.

Mali lies within the environmentally fragile Sahel region - about one third of the territory is actual desert, the Sahara, and the other two thirds is semi-arid savannah land vegetated with bushes, grasses and baobab trees.

Mali's population depends directly on the land for water provision, for fuel, and for food supply. The cutting of trees for domestic fuel causes soil deterioration and erosion; it also alters the climate in large areas of the country.

The environments of regions which surround and supply cities are particularly pressured with rural overpopulation coinciding with massively increasing urban populations. Bamako, Mali's capital, has doubled in size in the last 20 years, meaning that pressure on its supply zone today is enormous.

Traditional Fuels in a Traditional Society - Shortcomings

The burning of wood does play a large role in the energy supply of poor countries and in Mali, it is thought that 92% of domestic needs as well as much of the small scale industry is powered by wood and wood derivatives (mainly charcoal). The collection and sale of wood and charcoal provides income for many rural and urban people, but also brings about a rapid decrease in vegetative cover which exceeds the rate at which forests can regenerate and so is absolutely not sustainable. Population pressure on cultivated lands means that traditional systems of fallowing are disappearing, pastures are being overgrazed, and certain species of animal and vegetation are becoming extinct. These factors combine to propel a progressing disappearance of vegetation and biodiversity, as well as degradation and erosion of soils, most of all in the areas that surround cities, where a healthy environment is vital to people's lives.

Biogas – a Combined Effort

Since 1970, the Malian Government has taken some measures to curtail these problems, but without any real co-ordinated strategy. Then, in 1990, a global approach was taken and the National Domestic Energy Strategy was put together, with international financial support. The strategy aimed to better organise the use of wood resources so that development could occur without harming the environment and to improve access to renewable energy resources. It was within this context that

Mali-Folkecenter, an independent NGO working to promote renewable energy in Mali and West Africa, initiated a project funded by the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Program administered by UNDP, involving domestic biogas installations in the region surrounding Bamako. The aim was to provide a model for non-commercial transfer of technology to un-served areas.

The Benefits of Biogas

Household biogas installations produce kitchen fuel and fertiliser, using raw animal waste (usually from cows). Waste is fed into a digester, where fermentation occurs, a gas fuel is produced, and organic bound nitrogen is mineralised within the waste. The resulting slurry is very fertile, and when used on crops at opportune moments, can actually increase crop production. The technology is very simple, and has enjoyed significant success and diffused widely in China, where there are 7 million installations. The successful Chinese implementation model uses household installations rather than community-type plants, which often are neglected after one or two years because of the lack of personal responsibility.

Biogas Succeeds in Mali

In the past, it has been reported that biogas cannot work in Africa. Rather than this being due to perhaps a lack of raw materials, inappropriate bio-climatic conditions, or issues relating to human resources, this opinion seems to have become established simply because previ-

ously, management structures have not been adapted to indigenous cultures. Mali-Folkecenter have however made a meaningful break from the past through their in-depth understanding of Malian rural life. As a result, biogas is being proven as a real option for Africa today and in the future. Many women who have benefited from Mali-Folkecenter biogas installations have been enthusiastic about the use of biogas in kitchens. On a recent visit to the village of Sinsina, a beneficiary told Mali-Folkecenter technicians, 'My wife loves cooking with biogas because it gives less smoke'.

The Selection Process for People Participation

Mali-Folkecenter carefully selected 5 large families in the region surrounding Bamako, out of many that volunteered, using strict criteria. Each family needed to be near to a water supply, as the installations use a lot of water; needed to have at least 20 sheep or cattle, so that enough animal waste would be provided for the digester; and needed to be considerable consumers of wood resources, so that the installation of a digester would actually make a difference to local wood resources. In addition, each family had to show an enthusiasm for the project, to volunteer their manual labour, and to provide a financial contribution that would help to pay construction costs.

Technology that Works

The technology is very simple. It consists of a domed cement brick digester (underground) with fibro-cement feeding and outlet tubes, a floating metal drum to collect gas, plastic, metal pipes to transport gas, and burners to cook food. Total cost is around 750 USD, although this could be significantly reduced if a larger program were initiated, by economy of scale. Experience in China indicates that with a large-scale program, a cost of less than 200 USD can be achieved.

Cooking Using Biogas Stove

During the 18-month project, families helped two experts in the construction of the installations. Whilst doing so, they were instructed in the principles behind domestic biogas and in the maintenance that would be needed. Today, all 5 installations are up and running and being used by the women of the family to prepare food.



Biogas installation in the village of Konyobla, 30km outside Bamako, Mali's capital

Hope for the Future of Biogas in Mali

In September 2001, Mali-Folkecenter held a seminar in Bamako to distribute information and to share lessons learned with an audience of other sustainable development NGO workers. The biogas seminar was also attended by the General Secretary of Mali's Ministry for Mines, Energy and Water, who expressed his interest in the project and thanked Mali-Folkecenter for their contribution to Mali's sustainable future.

Mali-Folkecenter, while continuing follow-up work at the installed sites, is now seeking funding for a biogas program of 100 sites that could allow the successful Chinese model to diffuse widely. A program should be considered for the future of partial subsidy to make the installations more affordable to local people.

This would provide a real incentive to help introduce the technology on a wider scale, allowing the cost of installations to be lowered to an affordable level so that a true tradition of biogas use in Mali could develop. Components, including burners, can all be manufactured in Mali, creating new jobs and industry while simultaneously reducing pressure on the environment.



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Ph: +223 20 06 17,
fax: +223 20 06 18,
e-mail: mali.folkecenter@afribone.net.ml
www.folkecenter.dk*

Mali Folkecenter and the Danish Folkecenter are both members of INFORSE.

The biogas being tested for combustibility

Publications



Enabling Innovation

A Practical Guide to Understanding and Fostering Technological Change

- Lessons on success and failures from adopting new technologies like rice driers in the Philippines and in Vietnam.
 - How 'bottom-up' beat 'top-down' for the billion-dollar wind turbine industry? Study on the Danish and the American experiences.
 - Open and Closed: Linux vs Windows
 - Food for Thought: Aftermath of the Green Revolution
 - How to Catalyse Innovation: A practical guide to learning selection
- By Boru Douthwaite, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria.
 ISBN 1 85649 972 3 Pb, 266 p. 2002,
 \$25.00, Published by ZED Books Ltd.

Our Simmering Planet

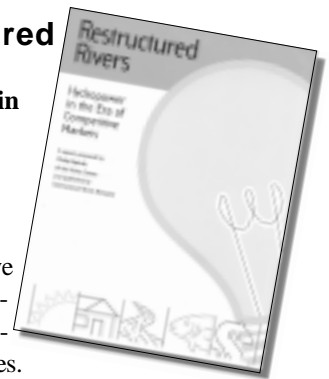
What to do about Global Warming?

- What is Climate Change?
 - Do we need to worry?
 - Are we at a boiling point?
 - What happened during the climate negotiations? Why are the politicians disagreeing? Who are the players? Does the Bonn agreement, without the US on board makes sense?
 - What are the conflicting concerns North and South? Are we re-thinking the North? Facing the cracked mirror?
- By Joyeeta Gupta, Institute for Environmental Studies, Amsterdam.
 ISBN 1 84277 079 9 Pb, 180 p. 2002,
 \$17.50, Published by ZED Books Ltd.



Info about both books: Zed Books Ltd.,
 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, UK.
 Ph: +44 20 7837 8466,
 fax: +44 20 7833 3960,
 e-mail: hosie@zedbooks.demon.co.uk.

Restructured Rivers Hydropower in the Era of Competitive Markets



The competitive markets are replacing regulated monopolies.

This affects the tools available to ensure that the environmental impacts of power generation are kept in minimum.

These tools (demand side management, green power marketing, portfolio standards, labelling, emission cap and trade mechanism) are addressed showing the impacts of hydropower.

By Philip Raphals, Helios Centre for Sustainable Energy Strategies, Canada.
 ISBN 0 9662771 8 X, 113 p. 2001

Info: International Rivers Network (IRN)
 att. Elizabeth Brink, 1847 Berkeley Way,
 Berkeley, CA 94703, USA.

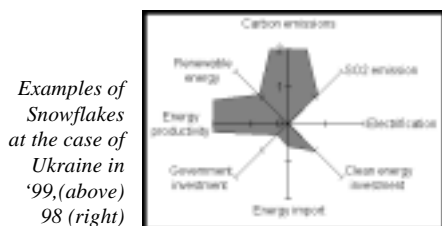
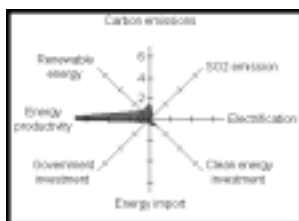
Ph: +1 510 8481155, fax: +1 510 8481008
 e-mail: ebrink@irn.org,
 www.irn.org.

Helio Indicators

Sustainable Energy Watch (SEW) is the main activity of HELIO International an INFORSE member organisation.

It analyses energy policies using 8 indicators, selected according to the 4 characteristics of sustainable development - environmental, social, economic and technological. The calculations results with vectors which draw a snowflake diagram.

More info: fax : +331 42248633
 E-mail : helio@helio-international.org
 www.helio-international.org



Examples of Snowflakes at the case of Ukraine in '99, (above) 98 (right)

Power to Tackle Poverty Campaign

Greenpeace has a launched a campaign calling for the countries to provide sustainable energy to the 2 billion poor that lack basic access to energy today.

They want the countries to decide upon this at Rio+10, and they want to see the task finished by 2012. The basic energy services should include light, healthy cooking, water pumping, health centres, and schools. They find that there are no insurmountable technical, financial, or institutional barriers to achieving this goal, but we need the political will to make it happen. They propose that key international organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations, as well as developed countries, use their funds to help bring about the necessary transformation in the countries where the world's poorest people live.

The global investment costs are estimated to be 200 – 250 billion US\$, or 20-25 billion US\$/year. Over half of the rural population in developing countries would be able to pay for the service, if long-term credits were available. As the program developed, costs would de-

crease, and more people could afford to change. In addition, redirecting subsidies from fossil fuel could free funding to support the change, including in some developing countries. All of this makes the task easier, but contributions from the developed countries are still very important.

The campaign is being conducted in co-operation with The Body Shop, and it includes a petition entitled, "Choose Positive" that is addressed to world leaders, which is currently supported by over 120,000 persons.



More info:
 www.greenpeace.org
 and
 Theme "Poverty and Energy" issue Nr. 35.
 www.inforse.org

EVENTS

* = See article in this issue,
INFORSE organisations are involved

May 9-10, 2002, New Delhi, India

Regional Workshop on Household Energy, Indoor Air Pollution and Health

Info: Tata Energy Research Institute, Darbari Seth Block, Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003 India. Ph: 91-11-4682100, fax: 91-11-4682144/45, e-mail: IAP@teri.res.in, <http://teri.in.org>

May 15-16, 2002

10th Int'l Climate Alliance Annual Conference & General Assembly, Graz, Austria

Info: Climate Alliance, Galvanistr. 28, 60486 Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Ph: +49 69 717139 0, fax: +49 69 717139 93 e-mail: europe@klimabuendnis.org, www.klimabuendnis.org

May 23-24, 2002

8th Int'l Cogeneration & Environment Conference & Exhibition, Istanbul, Turkey

Info: Teknik Yayincilik, Taniyum A.S., Balmumcu, Barbaros Blv., Bahar Sk., Karanfil Apt 2/11-13 Kat 4-5, 80700-01 Besiktas, Istanbul, Turkey. Ph: +90 212 275 8359, fax: +90 212 288 1614, e-mail: tekyay@turk.net, www.teknikyayincilik.com

May 23-26, 2002

Solar Expo '02 & Conference, Verona, Italy

Info: Ph: +39 439840922, fax: +39 43984 9854, exhibition@solarexpo.com, www.solarexpo.com

May 28-29 2002

All-Energy Opportunities, From Creation to Marketplace, Aberdeen, UK.

Conf. & Exhibition in association with BWEA Info: Media Generation Events Ltd, Ph: +44 20 8241 1912, fax: +44 20 8940 6111, info@all-energy.co.uk, www.all-energy.co.uk

May 27-29, 29-31, 2002

Right Light 5 + IEECB, Nice, France

2nd Int'l Conf. on Improving Electricity Efficiency in Commercial Buildings, 5th European Conf. on Energy Efficient Lighting, Info: ADAME, 500, route des Lucioles, 06560 Valbonne, France. Fax: +33 493 653 196, infos.ieecbr15@online.fr, <http://ieecbr5.online.fr/>

May 29-31, 2002*

Poverty, Energy and Gender: The Missing Links in Regional Development and Poverty Alleviation Strategies? Namibia

Info: Robert Schultz, REINNAM, Polytechnic of Namibia Private Bag 13388, Windhoek, NAMIBIA, Ph/fax: +264 61 2072088, e-mail: energy@polytechnic.edu.na

May 27 - June 7, 2002*

Renewable Energy 2002, Indonesia

June 12-14, 2002

Sustainable Energy Technologies, Portugal

Info: University of Nottingham, School of Built Environment, Institute of Building Tec., University Park, Nottingham. Ph: +44 115 - 951 3158, fax: - 951 3159 www.nottingham.ac.uk/sbe

June 13-14, 2002

Role for Municipalities in a Liberalised Energy Market, Odense, Denmark

7th Annual Seminar of Energie-Cities Info: Energie-Cities Secr. 2 chemin de Palente 25000 Besancon, France. Ph: +33 3 81653680, fax: +33 3 81 507351, sem2002@energie-cities.org, www.energie-cites.org

June 13-15, 2002 *

1st World Renewable Energy Policy and Strategy Forum, Berlin, Germany

Towards Johannesburg: renewable Energy: Agenda 1 of the Agenda 21. Info: WCRE, Bonn, Germany. Ph: +49 228 362373, info@world-council-for-renewable-energy.org, www.world-council-for-renewable-energy.org

June 17-21, 2002

Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection, Amsterdam, Netherlands

12th European Conference and Exhibition Info: WIP- Munich, Sylvensteinstr., 2, 81369 Munich, Germany. Ph: +49 89 7201235, fax: +49 89 7201291, e-mail: wip@wip-munich.de, www.wip-munich.de

June 18-21, 2002

Wind Energy 2002, Hamburg Germany

Int'l Trade Fair, Export, Finance Offshore Info: PO box 302480, 20308 Hamburg, Germany. Ph: +49 40 35 69-2120, fax: +49 40 35 69 2171, e-mail: info@windenergy-hamburg.de, www.windenergy-hamburg.de

June 28-29, 2002 *

SUN 21, Symposium on Renewable Energy in Developing Countries, Basel Switzerland

Info: Oekozentrum, Schwengstr. 12, CH-4438 Langenbruck. Ph: +41-62 387 31 11, fax: +41-62 390 16 40 sitzmann@oekozentrum.ch, www.sun21.ch

July 2-6, 2002

The World Wind Energy Conference and Exhibition, Berlin, Germany

Info: WIP -Munich, Germany. Ph/fax: +49 89 720-12735/ -12791, wip@wip-munich.de www.world-wind-conference.org

June 29 - July 5, 2002

World Renewable Energy Congress - VII, Cologne, Germany

Side Events: June 29: Australia & Europe July 1-3: Renewable Energy Expo. Info: Prof. A Sayigh, WREN, 147 Hilmanton, Lower Early, Reading RG6 4HN, UK. Ph: +44 118 961 1364, fax: +44 118 961 1365, e-mail: asayigh@netcomuk.co.uk, www.wrenuk.co.uk, www.det.csiro.au www.renewenergy.com

July 22-24, 2002

Int'l Conference on Passive and Low Energy Architecture, Toulouse, France

Info: Ecole d'Architecture de Toulouse, 83, rue Aristide Mailol, BP 1329, 31106, Toulouse cedex 1, France. Ph: +33 5 - 62 11 50 49, fax: - 62 11 50 48 e-mail: plea2002@toulouse.archi.fr, www.toulouse.archi.fr

July 23-25, 2002

ICTTS 2002, Guilin, China

3rd Int'l. Conference on Traffic and Transportation Studies Info: Guiping Xiao, gpxiao@center.njtu.edu.cn /www.njtu.edu.cn/depart/xyjtyts/ictts

August 4-8, 2002

Int'l Symposium on Renewable Energy Education, Orlando, Florida, USA.

Info: Florida Solar Energy Center, 1679 Clearlake Road, Cocoa, FL 32611, USA. sheinkopf@fsec.ucf.edu, www.alpha.fsec.ucf.edu

August 26 - September 4, 2002 *

Earth Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa

Info: Johannesburg Summit Secretariat, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2 UN Plaza, DC2-2220, New York, NY 10017, USA.

dss@un.org, 2002participation@un.org <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>, www.earthsummit2002.org

September 23-27, 2002

Biomass for Energy Kyiv, Ukraine

Info: Institute of Engineering Thermophysics of National Academy of sciences of Ukraine, 2a, Zhelyabov str., 03057, Kyiv, Ukraine. Ph: +38 044 4417344, fax: +38 044 4466091, e-mail: conference.bimass.kiev.ua, www.biomass.kiev.ua

October 7-11, 2002

PV in Europe, Rome, Italy

Conference and Exhibition Info: WIP-Munich, and ETA Florance, Piazzas Savonarola, 10, 50132 Florance, Italy. Ph: +39 055 5002174, fax: +39 055 573425, eta.fi@etaflorance.it, www.etaflorance.it

October 22-24, 2002

Sustainable Energy Expo '02, London UK

Annual Exhibition and Conference. Info: fax: +44 20 7850 7502, www.sustainable-expo.org

October 30-November 2, 2002

New Energy Husum '02, Germany

Exhibition and Conference Info: Kielsburger str. 8-10, 25813, Husum, Germany. Ph: +49 48419020, fax: +49 4841902266, www.new-energy-husum.de or Bundesverband Erneuerbare Energie (BEE), e-mail: lackmann-paderborn@t-online.de

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- INFORSE in Brief

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<http://www.inforse.org>

INFORSE in Brief

INFORSE is a global network of independent non-governmental organisations working for sustainable energy solutions to reduce poverty and protect the environment. It was formed at the Global Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Currently the network has about 150 members.

INFORSE's common vision is to develop a world where energy services, necessary for a just and human centred development, are provided in a sustainable way using renewable energy. This implies phase out of nuclear and fossil energy consumption, and increased reliance on local solutions.

INFORSE is open to membership for independent non-governmental, non-profit organizations. Membership is free of charge. Activities include meetings workshops, campaigns, and projects. INFORSE lobbies for and develop projects to promote sustainable energy solutions.

INFORSE participated in several UN events and their parallel NGO Forums including: Conferences of the UN Climate Convention, Combating Desertification, and follow-up of the Rio Conference. INFORSE has Consultative Status to the UN.

INFORSE publishes this quarterly newsletter "Sustainable Energy News" and the annual "Contact List" including 800 addresses of organizations in the field.