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Partnering with Business Project

Activity:	Partnering with Business Project
Program Area:	Energy Sector Governance
Geographic Focus:	Global
Implementer:	The Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Duration:	October 1999 – March 2004

Project Background

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) began the “Partnering with Business Project” in 1999 to: (1) strengthen relationships with the private sector in USAID target countries; (2) ensure that market-based mechanisms to reduce greenhouse emissions take into account industry concerns and that all parties are informed of their benefits; and (3) understand and communicate best practices in clean energy technologies and use.

Over the past four years the Partnering with Business Project has held roundtables and events in Washington, DC, Mexico, Poland, India, South Africa and Kenya (among others) to educate developing country governments and leaders on the economic, social, environmental and climate change

benefits of clean energy technologies and to foster private sector participation and input in the development and implementation of foreign and international energy policies. The Project has also worked to strengthen and expand clean energy industry and policy networks in developing countries. It has also sought to reduce barriers and increase market access and financing for clean energy technologies through the use of market mechanisms in developing and transition countries.

Development Objective

The program’s development objective is to alleviate poverty, promote sustainable development, improve the quality of life and the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries through the increased financing, promotion and use of clean and sustainable energy technologies, goods and services.



Approach

To achieve its development objectives, the BCSE has focused on three main areas:

- 1) Providing private sector feedback and input into the development and implementation of USAID and other US government climate change and clean energy initiatives in developing countries through roundtables and other policy forums. The Project also provided feedback and input on multilateral programs, including the United Nations and the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- 2) Convening industry roundtables on climate change and clean energy issues within developing countries.
- 3) Developing industry policy papers on market-based and financial mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote clean energy technologies and achieve sustainable development.

USAID's role has been that of collaborator and partner working with the private sector companies and governments to promote the adoption of market based policies and mechanisms to protect the environment, increase access to clean and renewable sources of energy and promote sustainable development.

Project Activities

The following activities were undertaken in 2003:

A. WSSD Follow-Up

- Hosted with USAID, a post-WSSD roundtable on "Energy and the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Results and Next Steps." Provided input and recommendations to the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) Secretariat on ways to more actively engage the private sector.

B. Roundtables

- Hosted with USAID, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a side event at the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP8) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in New Delhi, India, on "The Role of Business in Promoting Integrated Strategies to Address Local Air Quality, Public Health and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions."

C. East Africa Geothermal Market Acceleration Conference

- Published and distributed the Eastern Africa Geothermal Market Acceleration Conference brochure and agenda along with a Market Assessment Report on geothermal market opportunities in Eastern Africa.



- Organized with UNEP the Eastern Africa Geothermal Energy Market Acceleration Conference, in Nairobi, Kenya from April 9 to 11, 2003 sponsored by USAID, USTDA, USDOS, UNEP, the GEF and UNESCO, which was attended by over 220 representatives from 23 countries.
- Attended the Eighteenth Subsidiary Body meeting (SB-18) of the UNFCCC in Bonn, Germany from June 7 to 12 to meet with Eastern African and developing country delegates to promote the results of the Conference and the climate change benefits of geothermal energy and other clean energy technologies.

D. Private Sector Engagement

- Met with representatives of the BCSE Private Sector Working Group, USTDA and the US Export Import Bank to discuss ways to accelerate the financing and bundling of small clean energy technology projects overseas.
- Hosted a meeting with clean energy companies and representatives of the US-Afghanistan Reconstruction Task Force to discuss the potential role of clean energy in the rebuilding of Afghanistan and put USTDA in contact with clean energy companies to participate in TDA's Afghanistan Reconstruction Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Project Results

- Helped bring about structural reforms within the CSD to increase private sector participation.
- Educated and engaged developing country leaders on clean energy regulatory and finance policies at the Eleventh Session of the CSD in New York; COP8 in New Delhi, India; SB-18 in Bonn, Germany; and the East Africa Geothermal Market Acceleration Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Educated over 40 developing country government leaders at COP8 on the importance of private sector participation in developing and implementing integrated strategies to address local air quality, public health and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.
- Educated over 50 East African energy sector government representatives on project finance and regulatory issues for promoting greater private sector participation in energy development in East Africa.
- Arranged for meeting with East African government representatives that has lead to at least one new project funded by USTDA in Kenya.
- Educated representatives of the Environment Ministries of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Uganda at SB-18 on the results of the East Africa



- Geothermal Market Acceleration Conference in Nairobi, Kenya and the potential climate change benefits from geothermal energy.
- Helped to launch the UNEP/GEF East Africa Geothermal Regional Finance Initiative.
- Increased US government engagement with clean energy companies.

Development Impact

- Increased the understanding of more than 95 developing government leaders on clean energy policy and governance issues and created market opportunities for US geothermal energy companies in East Africa and new clean energy financing in the region.

Lessons Learned

Every event or meeting should lead to a concrete follow-up activity.

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