

Project DIREKT Report to the PEOG August 2012

1. Introduction

This year was a special one for Project DIREKT. Apart from its usual networking and capacity-building activities, the Project saw the eventual realisation of its Pilot Project. The focus of this activity was the demonstration of the programme of actions required for the successful implementation of renewable energy projects for the rural sector in the PICs.

The year also saw the eventuation of one of the major events planned by the Project's global network. This was *the International Conference on Technology Transfer and Renewable Energy* that took place in Mauritius in June.

The four main events that the Project organised in 2012 benefited, as usual, from the collaboration and support received from all members of the PEOG. As the Project draws to a close this year, there is every hope and expectation that this spirit of cooperation will last beyond the Project's official end.

2. Achievements

The events calendar of the Project for 2012 included

- two capacity building workshops (one local and the other regional)
- the final workshop for the Pilot Project, and
- the Project's flagship event, ***the International Conference on Technology Transfer and Renewable Energy*** (ICTTRE 2012) in Mauritius

The **two capacity building events** were both unique and relevant. The Suva workshop on PV systems identified and elaborated on three issues of current relevance: the economics, lack of local know-how and virtual absence of enabling legislation for the implementation of grid-connected PV systems in most of the Pacific Island Countries. The special feature of the Tonga workshop was the inclusion of discussions on the ***Tonga Energy Roadmap***.

The **Pilot Project workshop** (titled "Hydropower to our rural people") was the culmination of activities involving the pre-feasibility study of the renewable energy potentials of a typical PIC rural community. It carried out an analysis of the energy demand for the rural community, and identified hydropower as a potential source, with the possible availability of up to 100 kW of generation capacity from a local water source. The workshop brought together all stakeholders, including government, business, NGOs and potential donors with members of the community in an occasion that served as a melting pot of

ideas for the understanding of the energy needs and challenges faced by the community and creating opportunities for further developments.

The **Mauritius conference** was the first of its kind, being organised by a consortium of four universities, three of which were from the ACP region. Of the six papers that originated from the Pacific, two were regional in nature. One of these was produced through the active collaboration of members from the SPC /North REP with USP. All these papers will be published in an online conference to be held in November this year. They will later be published in a book.

The aims, outputs and collaborating agencies that made these events successful are summarised in the table below.

Project DIREKT – List of activities and outcomes 2012				
Date	Activity, aim, venue	Participating organizations	Speakers	Significant Outcomes
16 March 2012	<i>RE – Economics, Application and legislation</i> (one day capacity building workshop, USP Laucala Campus)	DIREKT, SPC-GIZ, PPA, UNDP, FEA	Shivneel Prasad (USP); Sunil Kumar (USP); Katerina Syngellakis (SPC-GIZ); Iese Toimoana (PPA); Thomas Jensen (UNDP); Anand Nanjangud (FEA)	FEA commits to Grid-connected PV in Fiji.
11-12 April 2012	<i>Tonga Renewable Energy and TERM Workshop</i> (two-day workshop to build RE capacity and promote the Tonga RE Roadmap, USP Tonga Campus)	DIREKT, USP Tonga Campus, TERM IU, SPC-GIZ, SPREP, PPA, REEEP, World Bank	Dr. Anirudh Singh, Atesh Gosai (DIREKT), Shivneel Prasad (USP), Katerina Syngellakis, Iese Toimoana (PPA), Lano Fonua (IIEC), Mark Fogarty (TERM-IU), Kate Greer (REEEP), Roberto Aiello, Tendai Gregan (World Bank)	Undertaking by TERM to hold capacity-building workshops in RE in Tonga.

<p>Small Developing Island Renewable Energy Knowledge and Technology Transfer Network</p> <p>25 May 2012</p>	<p>Hydropower to our rural people (one-day workshop reporting on the research output of the DIREKT Pilot Project, USP Laucala Campus)</p>	<p>DIREKT, USP Laucala, IUCN, LTD(SEED), Hydro Development Ltd, FDB, FDoE, GEF</p>	<p>Pro. John Bythnell (USP), Dr. Anirudh Singh, Mr. Atesh Gosai (DIREKT), Community reps from Ra, Mr. Leo Nainoka (LTD SEED), Mr. Ross Brodie (HDL), Ms Sylvia Low (FDB), Mr. Mikaele Belana (FDoE), Ms. Sholto Fanifau (GEF)</p>	<p>1. Video on the energy needs of a rural community in the Ra Province, Fiji, highlighting the extreme hardships faced by the community.</p> <p>2. The Peoples' Republic of China agreed to fund the hydro project feasibility study via FDoE</p>
<p>21-22 June 2012</p>	<p>International Conference on Technology Transfer and Renewable Energy (ICTTRE 2012)(a two-day conference on renewable energy organized by DIREKT</p>	<p>DIREKT (all 5 partners), University of Mauritius, SPC, SPC North REP, USP</p>	<p>Presenters of papers from the region included Dr. Tony Weir, Ms Pritika Bijay, Mr. Shivneel Prasad, Dr. Anirudh Singh (USP), Mr. Emmanuele Taibe(SPC North REP), Dr. Lalit Kumar (UNE)</p>	<p>Six papers presented from the region, with 4 from USP, 2 from SPC-North REP.</p>

The contents of the table above are a graphic demonstration of success achieved through a sharing of resources amongst the PEOG members. What is not obvious here is the cooperative strategizing of activities, via co-financing and optimizing the use of opportunities, that was also instrumental for success. Much of this was in keeping with the “many partners, one team “ theme implicit in FAESP.

3. The future

The project's next activity is the publication of a book that has been motivated by the observation of the need to raise basic awareness amongst all sectors in the PICs of RE and its significance. This will not only be an introductory text on RE and its relevance and practical application to the region, but also a ready reference to information on RE resources and facilities in the PICs. It will also contain a section on Energy Policy and its Management in the Pacific. The Project will once again be looking towards the PEOG members for information and support in this venture.

It is abundantly clear that most of the DIREKT activities have benefited tremendously from the spirit of cooperation within the PEOG family of agencies. This has, amongst other things, enabled the pooling of expertise and human resources that were necessary to facilitate the events.

The project is officially coming to a close in November this year. But there is every hope that its objectives will be sustained through ongoing collaborations amongst the PEOG members. The Project is confident that the publication mentioned above will benefit from such cooperative effort. Other activities that are possible are the production of joint papers similar to that presented at the Mauritius Conference, and reports and assessments of energy in the region.

Members of Project DIREKT wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support and encouragement received from the PEOG towards the Project's objectives.

Dr. Anirudh Singh (Project Supervisor)

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