Energy for Sustainable Development Online Course

for Energy & Development Specialists

26 January – 8 March 2009

Provided by:
International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) at Lund University, Sweden,
in collaboration with
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD)

Supported by:
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Energy for Sustainable Development Online Course

Objectives: This online course is intended to provide deeper knowledge of energy’s relationship to sustainable development and how delivery of clean, affordable energy services, wise management of energy resources, and the leveraging of technological and institutional energy related opportunities can serve as instruments to reach that goal. Participants will learn of sustainable energy options, available modes of implementation, local resources required, and the policy and institutional conditions required to operationalise such options.

Target audience: The target audience encompasses development specialists from government, NGOs, multilateral and bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) organisations, as well as actors involved in the private sector who are engaged in energy and development activities in developing countries. Participants will typically come from a range of educational and professional backgrounds and will have some years of practical experience. The target audience is broader than merely energy-field experts. It also includes development professionals who may have some insight of energy-related issues but desire a more comprehensive understanding of energy’s role within sustainable development.

Course description: This course package is delivered entirely through distance online education. The course is designed to be intensive and will consist of a Foundation Session: Understanding Energy for Sustainable Development and an Advanced Session: Responding to Key Energy for Sustainable Development Challenges. Completion of both sessions will require in total an average of 100 hours of effort, spread over 10 weeks.

Foundation Session: On 26 January - 8 March 2009 the Foundation Session of the E4SD course will be delivered. The 6-week duration Foundation Session is designed to serve as a comprehensive introduction to a range of key energy for sustainable development issues. These include the linkages between the provision of energy services and poverty, economic development, health, security and the environment. The topics selected for coverage will allow development specialists to get a first-hand yet in-depth view of key challenges associated with implementing energy for sustainable development in a variety of development related contexts. The Foundation Session will involve inter alia: a range of readings, quizzes and self assessment, written assignments, and participation in online discussion forums facilitated by international energy and development experts. Feedback for assignments will be supplied on an individual basis.

Outcomes: The key outcome from this course will be improved understanding of the relationship between energy systems and sustainable development. Upon completion, participants will have significant capacity to conceptualize energy activities – and their link to development issues on the ground. In addition, Successful completion of the Foundation Session will lead to a formal European university level certification corresponding to 3 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

The application deadline for this session is 15 December 2008. Please note that this Foundation Session will be offered at no charge to accepted participants. More information about the course including details on how to apply can be accessed at www.e4sd.org.

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