

PROMOTION OF THE EFFICIENT USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (REEPRO) 2007–2009 Finland Futures Research Centre

Location of the action: Cambodia, Lao PDR

Total costs of the project: 996 000 €

Funded by: Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme, European Commission

Length of the project: 1/2007–12/2009

Project partners: International Solar Energy Society/German Section DSG e.V. (DGS), Germany; European Forum for Economic Co-operation (EFEC), Germany; Cambodian Education and Waste Management Organisation (COMPED); Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC); National University of Laos (NUOL), Lao PDR; Technology Research Institute (TRI), Lao PDR; Community Development and Environment Association (CDEA), Lao PDR

REEPRO project was motivated by the fact that poor households in the Global South often lack access to basic energy services. The project focuses on the provision of energy services to those currently underserved by higher quality energy services on the basis of introduction of renewable energies and energy efficiency. The project was funded by the European Commission under COOPENER Programme. It focused on the commercialisation of renewable energy technologies in the partner countries. Therefore potential (micro-) entrepreneurs were trained in basic business and management skills to develop their own renewable energy based business.

The ultimate beneficiary and target group of the proposal were the energy starved rural poor. The target groups received a profound know-how basis necessary for the



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creation of a multiplier effect for renewable energy applications in technical, financial and policy matters. This was done through a renewable energy training programme in the partner institutions. A prerequisite for renewable energy demand to materialise is information of the targeted beneficiaries on 'how does it work', 'how to make it happen and 'how to finance and pay for it'. The training tackled these questions and introduced renewable energy technologies, financing options, policy strategies and project development approaches to the trainees.

The approach of the project was the qualification of local trainers from renewable energy experts down to the community stakeholder level and the joint development of appropriate renewable energy training kits for each level. The training followed a train-the-trainer programme and happened on three levels. On the first level, the training was done by the project team. The target group included local in-country (renewable) energy experts, policy makers and representatives of main stakeholders from governments, private sector, communities, energy service companies and NGOs. On the second level, the first level trainees trained technicians with basic understanding of engineering subjects. On the third level, the second level trainees trained community stakeholders with often very basic education level. The trainees of each level were involved in the on-going development of the respective training kits. Adapted renewable energy training materials were created and translated into local languages.

There were five showcase communities selected in both Laos and Cambodia. The trainings in the pilot communities were accompanied by hands-on renewable energy project implementations. The communities stakeholders selected and implemented renewable energy applications suitable for their communities.

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