



Scaling up Renewable Energy León, Mexico, 7-9 October 2009

The development of a sustainable, long-term solution to meeting the world's energy needs is a defining issue of our time.

Energy is directly linked with the key global challenges that the world faces -- poverty alleviation, climate change, and global, environmental and food security.

Renewable energy has immense potential in promoting access agenda besides providing social, economic and environmental benefits.

The Context

Despite a strong increase in the interest for renewable energy technologies in the recent years, business-as-usual scenarios depict an energy future largely dominated by fossil fuels. Dedicated actions are therefore required for profiling renewable energy as a competitive alternative to fossil-based energy.

A combination of issues related to ever increasing emissions of greenhouse gases, a lack of wide-spread access to adequate energy services in the developing world, and energy security concerns makes a strong case for the promotion of renewable energy systems.

High uncertainty and volatility in regard to fossil energy costs represent a challenge for development. At the same time, it offers an opportunity for market forces to gradually shift towards alternative sources of energy, such as renewables, provided that enabling policies are in place.

There is a very high potential for renewable energy in most regions, including in Latin America. Notably, there are large untapped opportunities to exploit renewable energy sources for productive uses and industrial applications. Yet, the full potential does not unfold for the numerous challenges and barriers a wide-spread deployment of renewable energy faces. It is crucial to address those challenges and barriers in a timely fashion.

The Objective

The overall objective of this Global Forum is to provide a platform to policy makers, experts and the private sector for a proactive dialogue on scaling up renewable energy in the region. Also, the event will strengthen interregional cooperation and encourage innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships aimed at promoting investments and public private partnerships in the field of renewable energy for productive uses. The Global Forum will provide a platform for profiling leadership in regard to the promotion of renewable energy in Latin America and elsewhere, thereby increasing the visibility of political commitments towards the development of alternative energy systems.

The Audience

The Mexican Ministry of Energy and United Nations Industrial Development Organization will convene some 1000 officials, planners and energy experts from all over the world to this event, including high-level representatives from governments, international organizations, academia, and the private sector.

The Topics

Plenary Sessions

- Energy Poverty, Financial Crisis, and Climate Change
- Renewable Energy and Energy Transition
- Renewable Energy Potential – Reality or Utopia
- Renewable Energy and the Access Agenda
- Future of Biofuels: Potential and Challenges
- Scaling Up Investments in Renewable Energy
- Renewable Energy for Industrial Applications

Parallel Sessions

- Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy – New Technologies
- Renewable Energy for Industrial Applications
- Energy Efficiency
- Institutions and Innovative Financial Mechanisms

A **Technology Exhibition** and **Side-Events** will be held in parallel

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