27th Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Accelerating and deepening the transition to sustainable energy systems.

26-27 September 2018, Geneva
The purpose of the Regional Advisory Programme on Energy is to provide advice and technical assistance, of an operational nature, to countries with economies in transition.

Operational activities vary according to the needs of the recipient countries and the sub-regions, but invariably they involve a combination of the following: (a) Preparation and implementation of specific programmes, issue-oriented and sub-regional in nature; (b) Preparation of project proposals for donor funding (international organizations or countries); (c) Development and preparation of substantive studies on policy issues and energy strategies; (d) Implementation of capacity and institutional building programmes and training; (e) Organization of workshops, seminars and other group meetings; (f) Consultative and advisory missions; and (g) Study tours.
Current projects:

• Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (United Nations Development Account project (UNDA) in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

• Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia (UNDA project).

• Application of biogas technology model for rural areas in Kyrgyzstan (project sponsored by the Russian Federation).

• Enhancing transboundary energy cooperation through introduction of wind and solar energy into power systems of the CIS countries to meet SDG7 (project sponsored by the Russian Federation).
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Advisory mission to Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia

During the advisory missions we discuss various topics depending on countries’ needs, including:

- provision of support to national sustainable energy policies to meet SDG 7
- developing a legal and regulatory framework to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy projects;
- development of new national resource classification, which will be in compliance with UNFC;
- promoting policies for clean and affordable energy to empower women;
- raising the level of electricity tariffs toward full cost recovery to ensure the development of the power sector;
- diversifying energy resources;
- developing a new model for the electricity market to promote the involvement of private sector participants;
- encouraging transboundary electricity trade.
An Environmental Performance Review (EPR) is an assessment of the progress a country has made in reconciling its environmental and economic targets and in meeting its international environmental commitments. The third EPR of Kazakhstan focuses on the country’s progress in greening its economy, particularly the energy, industry, agriculture and health sectors.

As a result of the mission, the Chapter “Energy and Environment” was prepared. The EPR and in particular, chapter on Energy comes exactly at the right moment as Kazakhstan is in the process of revising its 2013 Concept on Transition to a Green Economy, its Programme on Power-Fuel sector development, and its 2007 Environmental Code.
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• Tasks performed in accordance with countries’ requests

The Regional Adviser:

(a) Formulated the requirements necessary to prepare Coal Mine and Coal Utilization Plants Development Assessment such as a list of the geological data necessary to perform various analyses to identify appropriate coal mining methods, and coal technical analysis necessary to identify coal utilization technology and mode of operation (for the Government of Tajikistan).

(b) Prepared a review of the world best practices on coal-to-liquid technologies/projects (for the Government of Tajikistan).

(c) Provided the Government of Kyrgyzstan with information on electricity tariffs in other Central Asian countries.

(e) Provided the Government of Kazakhstan with an overview of the world best practices on coal gasification technologies and projects.
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Capacity building activities

• Organized (in cooperation with ECE Environmental Division) a workshop “Strengthening national capacity of Central Asia and Caucasus in transitioning to sustainable energy policy and practices based on the recommendations of the Environmental Performance Review”. Its main objective was to strengthen the capacity of experts and government officials in the energy sector in targeted countries to identify and apply best practices, measures and procedures of sustainable energy in order to adapt policy and practices that support transition to sustainable energy. The participants included thirty experts from Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia).

• In collaboration with the ECE Environmental Division the Regional Adviser facilitated the work of the Working Group meeting on the legislation harmonization of the Republic of Kazakhstan in line with the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Capacity building activities

- In response to the request from the Government of Kazakhstan, the Regional Adviser in cooperation with UNDP delivered a national study “Promoting clean and affordable energy to empower women and girls in Kazakhstan (and beyond in Central Asia)” aimed at involvement of women in the energy related decision-making. The findings of the study will be presented during the workshop on Energy and Gender policies organized in cooperation with KAZENERGY (October 1, 2018).

- Relevant best practices on sustainable energy for five beneficiary countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan) have been identified as a part of the Regional Adviser service and his role as manager for the UNDA project “SE4All in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia”. The studies prepared by national consultants developed increased knowledge and understanding of what the best practices are throughout the ECE region and an assessment of their applicability to the national circumstances.
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Capacity building activities

- In collaboration with the colleagues from the Sustainable Energy Division co-organized and held the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) Workshop on Harmonization of Approaches in the Assessment and Sustainable Management of Energy and Mineral Resources.

- In cooperation with CIS Electric-Power Council and Moscow Higher School of Economics the Regional Adviser co-organized a session "The development of renewable energy in the post-Soviet area: targets and directions for the international cooperation" under the framework of the International Congress "Renewable Energy - XXI Century: Energy and Economic Efficiency”

- In collaboration with the colleagues from the Sustainable Energy Division co-organized and held the Workshop/Stakeholder Consultation “Pathways to Sustainable Energy: National Sustainable Energy Action Plans & Scenarios for Central Asia”.
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Field projects

• Initiated the implementation of the new extra-budgetary project “Enhancing transboundary energy cooperation through introduction of wind and solar energy into power systems of the CIS countries to meet SDG7” (project sponsored by the Russian Federation). The objective of the project is to enhance transboundary cooperation on renewable energy sources in the CIS countries. The project will develop approaches to assess renewable energy sources, to share information, and to develop methodology for regional wind and solar energy development programs.

• Launched the implementation of the UNDA project “Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia”. National consultants have been engaged into preparation of assessment to examine the obstacles to the sustainable development of energy and water resource both at policy as well as operation levels. The international consultant has been engaged as a trainer on data collection related to sustainable energy and water resources management and monitoring and UNFC application as a tool for policy and strategic decision making.
The Regional Adviser implemented a field project “Application of biogas technology model for rural areas in Kyrgyzstan” (sponsored by the Russian Federation). The objective of the project is to introduce a cost-effective green technology biogas model in the rural areas of Kyrgyzstan.

The objective of the project has been achieved by installation of a biogas unit. The unit was launched on 19 September 2018 in Nurmambet village. The biogas plant with a methane tank of 25 cubic meters is producing around 110,000 cubic meters of biogas annually for heating purposes. Aside from biogas, the plant is producing 200 tons of organic fertilizers annually, which is sufficient to fertilize 200 hectares of arable farmlands. The production of bio-fertilizers helps replace mineral fertilizers and result in US$ 14,000 savings annually. Moreover, the methane produced substitutes 6.4 tons of diesel fuel, which was recently used to heat farm and this will save US$ 3,120 annually.
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**Energy**

**Fund raising:**

The Regional Adviser initiated, discussed with a donor and with governments of a beneficiary countries, and raised funds (US$ 147,000) for the project “Enhancing transboundary energy cooperation through introduction of wind and solar energy into power systems of the CIS countries to meet SDG7”.

Based on prepared by the Regional Adviser a project document “Integrated energy and water resource management in support of sustainable development in South-East Europe and Central Asia”, funding (USD 490,000) from the UNDA Eleventh Tranche has been awarded to the ECE Sustainable Energy Division.

In-kind contribution for all capacity building events was provided by the host countries or UNDP country offices.
Cooperation with other United Nations entities

The Regional Adviser worked in close cooperation with ESCAP, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and UNDP in particular, during the period 2017–2018 in the implementation of UNDA projects. The Regional Adviser additionally is organizing sessions of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Working Group on Water, Energy and Environment jointly with ESCAP to be held in October 2018 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Through cooperation arranged by the Regional Adviser, important administrative support has been provided by UNDP country offices in implementation of capacity-building activities and field project in the countries.

Inter-divisional cooperation within ECE

The Regional Adviser works in close cooperation with the ECE Environment Division. The Regional Adviser also participates in the work of the ECE Working Group on Technical Cooperation.
The way forward

Technical assistance activities in energy will focus on supporting policy dialogue, the exchange of best practices and facilitation of the use of energy sector performance indicators, which are in growing demand.

The work of the Regional Advisor will be based on two major principles/approaches: a Programmatic approach, and the Countries’ demand-driven approach. Through a Programmatic approach the Regional Advisor will provide substantive assistance to the Division colleagues in charge of various energy programmes and projects.

Emphasis will be done on efforts to achieve concrete progress to the 2030 Agenda at the country and regional level, including broader thematic activities, such as: Reducing the environmental footprint of fossil energy, Sustainable resource management; and Deep transformation of the energy system. The Regional Advisor will also connect the SED’s work to the country level through a broad mobilization of national experts.

New field projects with installation of small scale renewable energy facilities are planned by the Regional Adviser.
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Thank you!