

ADDRESSING DEMAND-SIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS LARGELY AVAILABLE

- All statistics and data available indicate that energy efficiency is the largest renewable energy resource.
- While energy efficiency is well understood and targeted on the supply side, the bulk of the savings is to be achieved on the demand side.

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- The barriers to energy efficiency, especially on the demand side, have been deeply analysed for long and are well-known.
- Nevertheless, in many countries, such barriers still exist, to a more or less large extent, and prevent from making significant progress.
- The main reason is generally the lack of a fully fledged institutional framework.

IMPLEMENTING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY

- Giving authority and financial resources to an ad hoc body has proved to be an efficient way to implement energy efficiency policies.
- A major pillar of these policies is the setting up of a comprehensive regulatory framework, including an active and voluntarist action plan in the field of norms, standards, labeling and certification.

IMPLEMENTING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY

- In this framework, allowing for the steady phasing out of obsolete technologies and their replacement by the modern efficient ones, can the necessary technology transfer policies be implemented.
- Local capacity and expertise in energy auditing is another stumbling block when designing and developing energy efficiency strategies on the demand side.

ESCOs

- This can be best achieved by the emergence of a local business dedicated to Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) through third party financing schemes likely to provide both technical expertise, financial engineering and financing.
- In many countries, the lack of understanding and knowledge or even some negative lobbying, have prevented so far the creation of the relevant enabling environment likely to back ESCOs activities.

ESCOs

- Local banks as well as International Financial Institutions have, in general, had difficulties to fully understand the concept and adapt to take into account its constraints.
- But the most concerning, over the last years, has been the poor track record of the financial mechanisms established for energy efficiency purposes, especially the Investment Funds, in supporting the development of the ESCO industry.
- There is a need for a completely different approach in terms of creating the conditions for ESCOs to start up and to expand.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

- Knowledge management, capacity building and dissemination of results and best practices are core activities of UNEP-DTIE.
- Various initiatives are taken in this respect, focusing at the moment on the creation of regional climate change networks.
- One has been already established covering 10 countries of South East Asia, while another one is just starting in 5 Central Asian Countries.
- Three other regional platforms/network are under preparation for Eastern Europe, South America and West Africa.