



SUSTAINABLE  
ENERGY FOR ALL

ENERGY ACCESS  
PRACTITIONER NETWORK

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**January 2016**

## **Energy Access Practitioner Network - monthly call summary**

### **Special briefing: 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations**

**Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21)**, Richenda Van Leeuwen, Executive Director for Energy Access, United Nations Foundation

- COP 21, hosted by the UNFCCC from November 30-December 12, concluded with a global agreement among the nearly 190 countries represented there. Many of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) have renewable energy weaved throughout. UNF is working with partners to look at where energy access is included, so we can help the Practitioner Network members navigate opportunities in respective national contexts. At the same time, as of January 1, the Sustainable Development Goals implementation period officially started, and to remind everyone that SDG7 focusing on assuring access to energy by 2030, alongside goals on energy efficiency and renewable energy is a key one of those 17 goals.
- During COP21, UNF co-hosted an official side event that focused on the nexus of energy access and health, particularly looking at how energy access provides health benefits in terms of improved lighting, lowering air pollution, as well as powering community health facilities that help to ensure better health service provision, especially for women during delivery. This was one of only a few energy access side events held at COP21. Energy Day had more of an energy access focus, and served as an opportunity to advocate for new action and stronger, ongoing action, and to get out key messaging. UNF was a key convening partner, along with the City of Paris, in “Earth to Paris”, whose speakers featured several Practitioners, such as Off-Grid: Electric, Mobisol, We Care Solar and SELCO India.
- The Practitioner Network’s 2015 Investment Directory was also officially launched at the Earth to Paris event, and UNF is appreciative for all the input received by members. Limited hard copies are available upon request. Otherwise, please visit the [Practitioner Network](#) website to download the PDF and access the interactive online portal. In the future, UNF is looking to finalize a mechanism for companies to continue to add and update their profiles regularly. The critical message is showcasing the aggregation of a solid, and growing, off-grid sector, with significant existing investment opportunities in dollar terms across many countries.
- The new CEO of Sustainable Energy for All, Rachel Kyte, will be invited to a future call- possibly in February or March- to speak about she plans to develop the energy access work further under the new organizational structure of SE4All.

## Special presentation: The Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN), India

Hari Natarajan, Interim CEO, CLEAN [hari@thecleannetwork.org](mailto:hari@thecleannetwork.org)

- CLEAN is a one year old network of 80 enterprises focusing on off-grid solutions, drawn from the energy access sector across India. The primary focus of the network is on financing, information and networking, technology, and skills and capacity building, with a heavy focus on capacity building and technology.
- India has an aggressive target on renewable energy, and is aiming to add 167 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2022, with a breakdown of 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 5 GW from micro- hydro, and 2 GW from biomass. Of the expected solar contribution, 40 GW is expected to be from rooftop solar, and 60 GW from larger home systems. The Renewable Energy Invest program had significant commitments, in excess of the 167 GW target, which is why these aggressive targets have been set in place. None of these large numbers have been split out to talk specifically about the energy access component.
  - Access to electricity is primarily through grid extension, and there has been a fair bit of pressure to get the grid to everyone. Some 18,000 villages have been identified where the grid has not reached, for approximately 3,000 of which grid access is not expected to be possible. This is just talking about electrification at the village level, and does not address household level within the community. It is unlikely that universal energy access will be achieved by 2020, which is where the off-grid solutions have a role to play. For example, the lantern and product base sector has seen success, and the market for lighting is rapidly growing. Solar home systems have had a fairly start and stop year because subsidies stopped a year ago. Subsidies will return in a month and the government focus will be on LED lighting (up to 300 watts), with CFLs having now been dropped from the program.
  - There is a lot more confusion in the mini-grids sector. The main concern at the policy level is how do you treat them when the grid arrives? Mini-grids are therefore not scaling up as rapidly as expected. The Rockefeller Foundation's Smart Power initiative is the lead in the sector, and have targeted 1000 mini-grids in next three years, and had installed around 70 over the last six months.
  - The solar water pumping market- with 40% government subsidies and large bank financing- is expected to grow. Biomass/micro-hydro haven't had much attention and, while CLEAN will still look at these sectors, the Indian government is primarily focusing on solar.
- Thus far, CLEAN's engagement on policy has been more reactive, however during this coming year there is an emphasis around setting a policy agenda for the off-grid sector.
- What does that mean for the sector? How can we create that roadmap for achieving SE4All targets? CLEAN working with key stakeholders and will, over the next 6 months, outline a path forward.
  - Policy issues CLEAN is looking into include:
    - Mini-grids: what happens when the grid arrives?
    - Financing (particularly enterprise financing): What is the process for leveraging public funds, such as the National Clean Energy Fund in India and the Green Climate Fund? How can these funds be used as a guarantee mechanism to leverage enterprise funds?
    - Recent changes at the national level include legislation requiring private sector companies to set aside 2% of their net income for CSR work. Questions for CLEAN include how they can create a platform to channel the money

available, and a pipeline of projects. They expect to have a pilot underway before the end of the year.

- Other projects include:
  - Bridging the gap between people who offer technology solutions and people who need technology solutions.
  - Skills and capacity building: Building out a training program for mini-grids, circulating and improving, and getting it accredited.
  - Improving networking.

## Practitioner Presentation

Terri Walters, Clean Energy Solutions Center

[Terri.Walters@nrel.gov](mailto:Terri.Walters@nrel.gov)

- The Clean Energy Solutions Center is a Clean Energy Ministerial initiative, with a goal of increasing clean energy across the globe, primarily focusing on transitional and developing countries. CESC puts on webinars (editor's note: many of them in partnership with UNF) and training on a variety of subjects but the hallmark of what they do is their "Ask an Expert" service.
- Ask an Expert is a quick and responsive program that facilitates access to world renowned experts offering governments (at all levels) free and objective assistance in developing their clean energy policies and programs. The program is free, provides up to 40 hours of assistance, and can have an expert connected and assisting the government within just a few days after the request. For more complex issues, there is the possibility of extending assistance.
- After successfully completing 160 requests in 9 countries, the program is now poised for rapid expansion.
- For practitioners working in developing countries if they find that any issues or opportunities are identified that could be addressed through this service, please let them know this service is available, and contact Terri using the e-mail address above.

## Events

### **Practitioner Network webinar, "The Future of Energy Innovation: Applications for Off-grid Energy in Developing Countries", January 19, 2016 at 11AM EST**

- The webinar will feature UN Foundation, DBL Partners, Tesla, and Advanced Microgrid Solutions (AMS). Please register using [this link](#).

### **Practitioner Network & Rexel Foundation webinar, February 17, 2016**

- Further announcements on time and exact focus area will be forthcoming.

[World Economic Forum, January 20-23, 2016, Davos](#)

[Sixth session of the IRENA Assembly, January 16-17, 2016, Abu Dhabi, UAE](#)

### [World Future Energy Summit, January 18-21, 2016, Abu Dhabi, UAE](#)

- On January 19, Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) Executive Director Marcus Wiemann on behalf of the SE4All Clean Energy Mini-grids High Impact Opportunity area, will present the first Annual Report of the HIO at the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

### **Member Updates and Requests**

- The current draft of the REN21 Renewables Global Status Report is out for peer review. It comprises a strengthened section on distributed renewable energy in developing countries for energy access. Please see the attached document for instructions.
  - Please contact Rana Adib ([rana.adib@ren21.net](mailto:rana.adib@ren21.net)) for more information.
- January 24-26, ARE President Ernesto Macias will present the activities and experiences of ARE members for rural electrification off-grid power in Lima at an event organized by Smart Villages.
  - Please contact Ling Ng ([l.ng@ruralelec.org](mailto:l.ng@ruralelec.org)) for more information.

The next call will take place on February 11, 2016 at 9am Eastern U.S. time.