HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR: “ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL IN LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS”

October 24-25, 2016
Can you please highlight the progress that your country has made towards Sustainable energy for all. What are the priority areas for action?

• Government of Afghanistan has formulated a long-term power development plan that is both pragmatic and achievable. This plan has been formulated after careful consideration of the difficulties and barriers that we face in developing our infrastructure.

• The power development plan covers both Supply side and Demand side measures.

• Supply Side Measures:
  ▪ Concrete steps have been taken to augment domestic power generation capacity.
  ▪ We have formulated and announced the National Energy Policy (NEP), which lays emphasis on development of power generation resources of medium to large size.
  ▪ Our demand for electricity and water is growing at a fast pace. We have to narrow the gap between supply and demand. Long term sustainability of our power sector would largely depend on our ability to become self-reliant in power generation. We import large quantities of power today. This exposes the country to significant uncertainties and financial risks.
  ▪ We have, therefore, recognised that there is no substitute for domestic power generation resources. These resources would make Afghanistan self-reliant for its power needs in the long term. Power projects built in the country are our national assets and we are developing and building these so that the entire country could be justifiably proud of our achievements.
  ▪ While new power generation projects have been planned for development, renovation, rehabilitation and modernisation of the old inefficient projects is underway.
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**Supply Side Measures:**

- We have recently commissioned the first phase of Salma hydroelectric power project, which would be generating around 40MW. The rehabilitation work of 18.5MW Kajaki Phase 2 was completed last month. This will increase the capacity of the power plant to 51.5MW.
- Private sector is being actively encouraged to participate in development of power projects in the country.
- Government of Afghanistan organised an Energy Investment Roadshow, which was supported by USAID in Sep 2016 in which a large number of private investors participated.
- MEW has identified 19 projects for which pre-feasibility work has been done. Factsheets of these projects were presented at the Roadshow. Several private sector companies have expressed interest to develop these projects.
- A 50 MW gas based power project is being developed at Mazar-e-Sharif with the support of private sector.
- Development of renewable energy sources is an important part of the National Electricity Policy. Solar energy is being considered by us as one of the key elements of Afghanistan’s energy security initiatives.
- MEW has announced a National Renewable Energy Policy and demonstrated strong commitment for its implementation.
- MEW has announced solar, wind, mini hydro and bio-mass power projects aggregating to 100MW.
- The bidding process for the first set of solar power projects is in the final stages of completion.
- The transmission and distribution grids in the country are being strengthened.
- A number of large transmission projects have been planned and some are in advanced stages of construction. Construction of a 220 kV transmission line from Arghandi to Kandahar is in progress. This will connect our Northern Grid to the Southern Grid. This would be an important milestone for establishing an integrated national grid in the country.
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**Demand Side Measures:**

- MEW has prepared the Afghanistan Energy Efficiency Policy (AEEP), which would govern energy efficiency activities in the country.
- AEEP covers all segments of the energy value chain from extraction to transformation, transmission, distribution and end use.
- AEEP will be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 (2017 – 2020) will endeavour to create an enabling environment for the establishment of an energy efficiency industry in Afghanistan. Phase 2 (2021-2032) will enable transition of the energy efficiency industry from a government led activity to a private investment led marketplace.
- An Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) is proposed to be created within the MEW. OEE will have primary responsibility for strategizing, planning, budgeting and coordinating the implementation of AEEP.
- The policy will adopt an integrated approach to harness all resources on the supply side while applying robust demand side management practices.
- The policy would set targets for reducing losses in extraction, generation, transmission & distribution and end use.
- The policy will encourage households; and small and medium business enterprises to reduce costs by improving access to energy efficiency projects through technology and financing.
- The policy will support setting up minimum and acceptable standards across a range of options – minimum energy performance scheme for appliances, energy efficiency rating schemes for buildings, minimum renewable energy integration targets for new developments etc.
- The policy will focus on enhancing consumer awareness in order to empower them to make informed choices for energy efficient purchasing.
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**Demand Side Measures:**

- MEW has developed a large scale Energy Efficient Lighting (EEL) program for the country and would be implementing it soon.
- Under this programme, large scale replacement of inefficient lighting systems by LED Lighting Lamps has been planned.
- The LED Lighting programme is proposed to be rolled out in the state capital in the first phase.
- All Government buildings and residential consumers will be covered in this phase.
- MEW would procure the LED lamps of standard capacities in bulk from manufacturers of LED and distribute these to the Customers and recover the costs from them in instalments as a part of their electricity bills.
- Bulk procurement of LED lamps will reduce their price considerably and the consumers will be burdened with minimal additional costs for replacement.
- The EEL programme will be extended to the other provinces after it is implemented in Kabul.
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• **Our Priority Areas for Action:**
  - Augmenting and strengthening domestic generation resources; and transmission and distribution Network.
  - Development of Renewable Energy Resources.
  - Developing and Implementing an effective Energy Efficiency Programme.
Thank You