



The Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP) with the Mekong region is a grant programme funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Nordic Development Fund.

EEP Mekong Newsletter 2

EEP Mekong promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology investments in the four Mekong countries - Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. The objective is to combat climate change while providing sustainable energy services to those who lack them. The programme is designed to facilitate the development of innovative ideas, approaches and concepts into sustainable and bankable investment projects that will bring substantial benefits to the partner countries.

The EEP Mekong is based on Calls for Proposals, which are open to public entities, companies, research institutions, universities and civil society organisations. So far, three calls for proposals have been organised with the 4th call currently open. The 4th call closes 13 August 2012.

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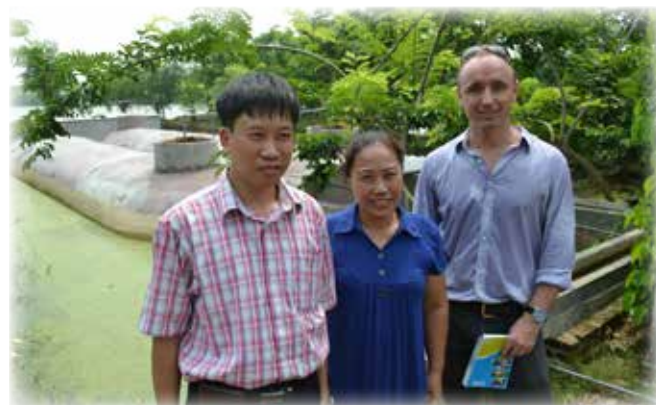


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Biogas Provides Environment And Revolutionizes Pig Production in Vietnam

Vietnamese farmers are aware of environmental issues. Often, they are ashamed of smell problems from their pig farms making it unbearable for neighbours and village environments. A lot of estimated 27,000 Vietnamese agricultural farms have taken a giant step forward. They have, in collaboration with SNV Netherlands Development Organization, installed medium scale plug flow biogas digesters. The project is a great success and currently farmers in Que Vo district, Bac Ninh province have had the great opportunity to get biogas plants. That means they can expand their production without nuisance to local residents, thereby creating a better environment and resource base for their existence.

Matthew Carr, adviser for SNV: “We are supporting small projects on individual farms, but the goal is to demonstrate expansion of the size of the plants throughout Vietnam, building on the success of our household biogas program. The environment will be improved, as the gas is used for back-up power generation, heating purposes and cooking on individual farms. If the gas production of an individual farm is increased, the neighbours can benefit – one farmer plans to sell excess biogas to his neighbour’s brick factory to be used by the staff for cooking meals instead of LPG. Another farmer intends to expand their business to use biogas to heat chicken incubators. Biogas is one of the projects that create better living conditions for everybody in the future,” says. Matthew Carr continues: “This is more than a win-win solution, actually it is a solution where there are no minuses anywhere and this is unmatched in many respects. Animal waste is collected in digester tanks where it ferments to produce gas that can be used for a multitude of purposes – power generation, heating, cooling, hot water, lighting, and cooking. One of the important features is that the environment is improved in a sustainable way. After the gas is extracted the slurry that comes out of the digester is a high quality organic fertilizer or can be used to supplement fish feed. The ecological chain is closed.”



Tran Duc Kien, Global Energy Consultancy Investment and Trading Company, ms, Huong, Institute of Energy, Hanoi, and Matthew Carr, adviser of SNV Netherlands Development Organization in front of the tank producing biogas

“The project takes eighteen months to complete. We are working with ten farmers and the future looks bright for them. The project might develop into a large-scale collaboration between the farmers enabling them to supply villages with gas. There is a great potential in this project.”

SNV is responsible for the entire project which is funded through EEP Mekong, (EEP Mekong is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Nordic Development Fund). Co-partners are Institute of Energy in Hanoi, Global Energy Consultancy Investment and Trading Company (GECI) and Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI). The starting point is that farmers receive subsidies equal to 40 percent of the project costs and the rest is financed by from their own sources. The farmers participating in the project does it with an enthusiasm and an idealistic dream of a better environment and higher earnings.

Ms. Huong, Institute of Energy Hanoi: “The projects have great perspectives with respect to the environment as well as the farmers. We have almost completed phase one and are now facing the next. Also we have gained a lot of experiences from the process (like what?). The systems are being improved to higher efficiency. As a result of the project farmers are getting better opportunities

to develop their pig production.”

Tran Duc Kien, Global Energy Consultancy Investment and Trading Company, lived as a child in the countryside, 70 kilometres from Hanoi. He has experienced the nuisances from the smell of pig farms. He says: “I have always wanted to solve the problems of pig farms. That is what we do now and a dream has come true. Many farmers

are holding pigs in Vietnam. The pig production is vast. Now it appears that many farms want to collaborate on common projects, partly to protect the environment, and partly to provide for higher income opportunities. We have now completed three pilot projects out of ten. In the beginning it was hard, but now it works. Farmers participate 100 percent in the projects and with an indescribable energy to the environment.”

Factory Complaints of Odors: Biogas improves environment and solves food production

Farmer Tran Van Quang of Chau Cau village, Chau Phong commune, Que Vo district, Bac Ninh province got odour problems as he expanded his farm to 800 pigs. But now the problems are completely solved. Soon he will be supplying cooking gas for the employees at a nearby factory who complained of the odour. At the same time, in order to make the news perfect, he is expanding his farm by additional 800 pigs making a total production of 1600 pigs.

He has two large houses on a 1.5 acre large farm partly financed through loans from family and friends. The pig production is going well and has noticeably increased. Tran Van Quang: “I received complaints about odours, but the problems are now solved thanks to the new biogas plant. The employees at a nearby factory are happy that the odour has disappeared and we have even been in dialogue with the factory management about gas supply via a pipe line. The gas will be used for cooking at the factory. A positive solution to the problem has been reached - thanks to the biogas plant that solved the environmental problems.”

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(GECI) and Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI). The starting point is that farmers receive subsidies equal to 40 percent of the project costs and the rest is financed by own means. EEP Mekong is funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Nordic Development Fund.



Mr. Tran Van Quang from Chau Cau village is a happy farmer. He is now expanding his farm and has a nice cooperation with a factory nearby

Female Farmer: Biogas is the way for agriculture and environment

Trinh Thi My, 42, a female farmer in Phu Lang Village, Phu Luong commune, Que Vo district, Bac Ninh province is developing her farm by installing biogas. And she does so with an incredible enthusiasm and energy. She is a true farmer, paying respect to animals and environment as well. She and her husband have been operating the farm for ten years. The idea of introducing biogas stems from her husband and son. The family is involved in the project to secure nature and create a better standard of living. Before, the profit from the farm was not that big, but now she has realized that they made the right decision.

“We are growing quietly and steady. Prior we had permission to hold 50 pigs, now we have 200. We want sows at our farm, because, the piglets available on the market are not always medically okay. We will run the entire process. From the sows to feeding piglets up to the proper slaughter size.”

The large quantities of pig waste meant that the biogas plant she had before became too small. Now she has had the luck to receive help from the project to get a much larger plant. The environmental problems are solved now and the gas from the system is used for cooking, electricity generation, and heating the stables in winter. In the near future the excess gas will be sold.



Trinh Thi My, female farmer in Phu Lang village, produces electricity using biogas. In May, the village electricity is cut and then Mrs. Trinh Thi My starts to use her gas generator.



Biogas provides Mrs. Trinh Thi My and her family with hot food. They no need to buy gas from the local dealer

Trinh Thi My is active within agriculture. She teaches the other farmers participating in the project and she is also at the political frontline. The biogas project is her favorite topic and she constantly talks about it. She is active in the women’s groups. Typically women are the active part in maintaining the environment.

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EEP Mekong 4th Call For Proposals: Updates and upcoming events

The Energy and Environment Partnership with the Mekong Region 4th call for proposals is open with a deadline of 13 August 2012 at 12:00 noon (Bangkok Time) for online submission of proposals. A hard copy of the signed proposal and the Partnership Commitment Letter must be sent by courier to the relevant National Coordination Unit (NCU) in the case of national projects or to the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) in the case of regional projects on 14 August 2012 no later than 16:00 hours (Bangkok time). For this call, we are calling for pre-feasibility studies, feasibility studies, pilot projects and demonstration projects.

Information seminars on the 4th call were held in late July-early August in Bangkok, Vientiane, Phnom Penh, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. The information seminars provided insight into what EEP Mekong is looking for in a strong project, how to develop your project idea by using the Logical

Framework Approach, how to prepare the project concept form and what are the procedures for the Call for Proposals Mechanism. If you missed the information seminars, the presentations can be downloaded from EEP Mekong website (www.eepmekong.org) from "Document Centre".

Successful proposals will be pre-selected in an EEP Mekong Steering Committee meeting on 22 October. The proponents will be required to prepare a Full Project Proposal (FPP). Submission of FPPs is mid December 2012. After that there will be a final review and the successful projects will proceed to contract preparation and signing in first quarter 2013 onwards.

More Information on the EEP Mekong 4th call for proposals can be found in the Submission Guidelines available via http://eepmekong.org/_downloads/4thcall/4thCall+SUBMISSION+GUIDELINES+REVISED_240512.doc



Now Open

Submission Deadline:

13 August 2012 at 12:00 noon (Bangkok Time)

EEP Mekong Got A New Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)

On the 1st of June 2012 Niels Juhl Thomsen started as Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) in EEP Mekong. He is a well experienced Energy Economist that has been working in the Energy Sector for more than 30 years. His experience is from ministries, research, and consulting in his home country, Denmark, and as resident in Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, and South Africa. Niels can be contacted at niels_thomsen@eepmekong.org.

Niels would like to introduce himself in detail:

I am a MSc. Econ from University of Copenhagen. Since 1979, I have been working with energy planning, energy management, and renewable energy technologies. I am widely versed in management of complex and integrated projects and programmes as well as personnel and knowledge management.

I have worked in ministries as Head of Section, on a research institution as Head of Group, and later as a consultant in Energy and Environmental Planning.



EEP Mekong Got A New Chief Technical Advisor (cont'd)

I have managed energy projects in several countries and among the on energy projects in Developing Economies are: Nepal (resident) South Africa (resident), Egypt, Cape Verde Islands, Thailand (resident), and Vietnam (resident).

These and other projects were funded by a wide range of organisations – among them were: Danida, Sida, Norad, KfW, DFID, EU, World Bank, Danced, ministries, government agencies, municipalities, utilities, and private companies. My experience as Head of Section in several Danish ministries (Education, Housing, and Energy) has provided me with a strong practical foundation for working in and with various international ministries. More specifically, it has provided me with the skills and tools required for strategic planning and implementation of international programmes/projects.

My work in Nepal was as Chief Advisor (Programme Manager) for the Energy Sector Assistance Programme. The programme was implemented as a demand driven multi-donor programme (Danida, Norad, KfW, and DFID) with the aim of providing renewable energy services to rural areas.

My work in Vietnam was as Team Leader for the Preparation Phase of a Sida funded programme for rural energy and renewable energy. The programme was about capacity building in planning and application of rural energy with extensive use of renewable energy, technical standards for rural electricity grids, mobilizing financing and organizational and management models for

independent grids. The programme also included a Planning and Implementation Phase of four pilot projects. For the implementation phase of the programme, I was section leader for Institutional Strengthening of the Rural Energy Sector and Implementation of Pilot projects.

In addition to the above, I have worked as a CTA on a Capacity Building project in Energy Planning, Renewable Energy, and Energy Efficiency in South Africa where institutional strengthening, organizational development, and team learning were the key components. It was within this context I first introduced knowledge management theory and concepts in the field of capacity building. In Egypt, my position was as manager of the national Wind Energy Planning Component of a Wind Energy Programme. My previous assignments in Thailand was as resident Task Manager on an Urban Development project in Khon Kaen and in 2004 I did capacity building in CDM of One Stop Biomass Clearing House in Bangkok.

As an economist, I am by instinct focused on the economic and financial feasibility. However, just as important is that technologies are appropriate for the setting, ownership/responsibilities are undisputed, and the organization must be efficient to ensure continuous operation.

I have always been working in multidisciplinary teams and experienced its value. I have over the years developed a good understanding of the technical issues involved, without becoming an engineer, but very capable of discussing applications.



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More information about the Partnership and the Calls
for Proposals is available at
www.eepmekong.org
www.finland.or.th/en
www.ndf.fi

or through mail at eepmekong@eepmekong.org



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