



DIREC 2010 Side Event on-**TOWARDS A RENEWABLE ENERGY LAW IN INDIA**-*Locally adaptable, globally competitive*



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INDIA: RENEWABLE ENERGY CONTEXT:

- India is one of the fastest growing renewable energy markets in the world today. The investment on solar energy alone is expected to reach 20 billion U.S. dollars by 2011. However, it is estimated that financing India's ever growing energy demand will require \$1.25 trillion investment in energy infrastructure till 2030.
- India's 11th Five Year Plan calls for 80 GW of new electric power to be built between 2007 and 2012; a figure which includes 14 GW from renewable energy.
- Oil dependence, increasing demand for both power and transport represents additional challenges India's energy situation is, therefore, precarious and all top-level decision-makers recognize the important role that alternative energy must play.

INDIA: RENEWABLE ENERGY CHALLENGES AND TRENDS-climate concerns, energy security and environment protection

Climate concerns, growing economy, large population, rising energy demands, employment challenges and the obligation to bring hundreds of millions out of poverty are the challenges that the India is faced with today. Renewable energy could play a significant role in meeting these challenges.

India is today ranked fourth globally for installed wind capacity as well as second for biogas generation. At the same time, there are immense untapped small hydro resources in north India, and the country is on its way towards global leadership in solar power generation with "Solar India"-the only country to have a dedicated National Solar Mission at a massive scale.

CURRENT RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Recent policy initiatives taken by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, especially with regard to Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS-mandatory renewable energy targets) and tariff fixation by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Solar Mission indicate that there is a dynamic and positive policy environment in India to promote renewable energy development and investment.

NEED FOR THE RENEWABLE ENERGY LAW

India being the only country to have a dedicated ministry, Ministry for New and Renewable Energy for renewable energy promotion since 90's, however, does not have a national renewable energy policy or law. The current renewable energy framework comprises number of initiatives including policy statements, regulations, programmes, missions and schemes. Besides, a number of ministries and departments have been taking standalone initiatives in promoting different RE sources. National Biofuel Mission by Ministry of Science and Technology in coordination with Ministry of Agriculture and National Biofuel Policy by MNRE are classic examples of such initiatives.

RE growth in India is also faced with enormous challenges with inconsistent and varying implementation by the states, varying or absence of any renewable portfolio standards, poor enforcement measures, complex clearance mechanisms, land allocation systems and lack of civil society participation. More pressing issues such as building RE equipment manufacturing capacity within the country, creating a facilitative, market oriented, pro-poor yet competitive environment that can sustain the energy contribution from renewable resources are some of the other important concerns that need immediate and streamlined initiatives and probably through a legal instrument.

From the international experience where RE has been a success, it is realized that for smooth and consistent RE growth, consistent legal and regulatory framework is quintessential and has a more certain status than a collection of policies, mission and programs which is the case in India. Needless to say, legal framework provides for a clear legal mandate for RE promotion and development to guarantee investment certainty and project viability, therefore the need for a very clear, consistent and long term renewable energy legal and regulatory framework for India.

THE SIDE EVENT: It is with view that a side event "**Towards a Renewable Energy Law**" is being organized jointly by ELDF and HBF at the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference, 2010. As the Central Government is considering the possibility of an enabling legal framework for India and where ELDF has contributed in the process of thinking through such a legislation. It is hoped that the discussions in the event will enable sharing of views among the experts involved in the drafting of RE law and other stakeholders, and will provide inputs for formulating a strengthened RE law framework in the country.

TENTATIVE AGENDA: Date 28th October 2010, Time: 17.30-19.00 hrs

What and by whom:

1. **Introduction:** Michael Koeberlein
2. **Chair** Navroz Dubash
3. **Legal Perspective:** Sanjay Upadhyay
4. **Global Experience:** Martin Shoeppe
5. **Institutional Perspective:** Srinivas Krishnaswamy
6. **Business perspective:** Mr. Anil Patni

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: The event is primarily meant for decision-makers, regulators, funding agencies, academia and all those interested in strengthening RE governance in India.

WHERE AND WHEN: India: Room: Narmada, India Exposition Mart Ltd., Knowledge Park –II, Greater Noida (National Capital Region of Delhi). On, October 28, 2010 at **17h30-19h00**

How to Apply: You can apply for registration on the following link
<http://www.direc2010.gov.in/official-side-events.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Please visit: <http://www.direc2010.gov.in/>

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ABOUT US:



The Enviro Legal Defence Firm (ELDF), India's first environmental law firm, aims at mainstreaming the discipline of environment and development law, resolving conflicts over natural resources and strengthen environmental jurisprudence. ELDF aims at providing a unique institutional framework that would sustain major legal initiatives both within and outside the courts. ELDF is an independent team of erudite legal professionals, which provides services to Government, Non Government Organizations, Educational Institutions, Individuals, Private and External Agencies engaged in areas of environment and development law.

HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION

The Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF) is part of the Green political movement that has developed worldwide as a response to the traditional politics of socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. Based in the Federal Republic of Germany, also an international actor in both ideal and practical terms HBF is a Green Think Tank and promotes democratic reforms and social innovation, ecological policies and sustainable development on a global level. HBF is also an International Policy Network and part of the global Green network and promote the development of the Green political movement on all continents supporting the participation of civil society in politics and, within the framework of multilateral organisations, take part in conferences and negotiations.