

Ministerial Roundtable C: Strengthening Capacities, Research and Technology Development, Institutions

Thursday, 3 June, 14.30 – 16.30 h

Venue: Wasserwerk

Internationale Konferenz
für Erneuerbare Energien, Bonn
International Conference
for Renewable Energies, Bonn



ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Renewable energy is very important and continues to increase its share to the total global energy supply. Especially the recent events are indicating the finite nature of fossil fuels and making the negative impact on the environment becoming more evident.

However, the cost of renewable energy is a major concern. Renewable energy investments tend to be more expensive than fossil fuels, hence, renewable energy has required subsidies, which are not affordable to many countries in the long-term. Bringing the costs of renewables down will make it easier for many countries to invest in renewable energy. Reducing this cost to make renewables more competitive with fossil energy sources needs the attention of all; while the present costs for fossil fuels needs to reflect social and environmental costs.

Capacity building is an important means to address and overcome these problems. This is also expressed by the fact that 80% of all submissions to the international Action Programme refer to the need of capacity building:

- Capacity Building is the prerequisite for policy development and financing for RE, and capacity building should include R&D, human, institutional, and organisational development.
- Capacity development activities must be geared to policy decisions and development of RE-markets. Capacity development activities and policies should be prioritised and require monitoring, and evaluation of the progress of their implementation.
- Capacity building is effective if it involves many stakeholders, preferably from more than one country, because it allows exchange of best practice as well as lessons learned.
- Capacity building on political frameworks should be supported by international networking efforts at all level of governments. These can focus on exchange of experiences on “proven” instruments. Their work should be based on sound policy analyses that are elaborated on a well-proven database.

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- Capacity building policies must provide a supportive environment for the transfer and diffusion of technology among countries and between actors. Capacities of countries that need these technologies should be strengthened, to transfer and adapt these technologies for their local conditions. The role of the private sector in the transfer of technology, especially relating to hardware, should be considered.
- Capacity development priorities should be given to:
 - Governments and their implementing agencies dealing with policy analysis
 - SMEs, financial service providers on the business level
 - R&D institutions for technological research
 - R&D on innovative financing mechanisms aiming at cost reduction of RE.
 - R&D on models for market dissemination, as well as socio-economic and consumer research
- Capacity building, especially in R&D, should be participatory as well as gender mainstreaming.
- Capacity development should go hand in hand with educational activities through the public education system, adult education and public awareness campaigns.
- An increasing share of ODA should be allocated to capacity development.
- Capacity Building and R&D should be targeted to local perspectives and impacts.