

**BANGKOK STATEMENT ON RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
**26 March 2004      Bangkok, Thailand**

The participants from the countries of the Asia-Pacific region in the Regional Preparatory Conference of the International Conference for Renewable Energies, Bonn 2004,

Taking into account various national and international initiatives undertaken as a follow up to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in 2002,

Recalling that the WSSD recognized the important contribution of increased use of renewable energy resources to meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development,

Further recalling that several Asia-Pacific forums leading to WSSD also recognized that renewable energy together with energy efficiency can play a key role in enhancing energy supplies, particularly in the rural areas of the Asia-Pacific region,

Welcoming the initiative of the German Government to host in June 2004 an International Conference for Renewable Energies,

Noting the conclusions and recommendations of the Renewables Asia Regional Workshop in preparation to the Bonn International Renewable Energy Conference held last February 2004 in New Delhi, India, and that from the AOSIS Meeting in Niue in the Pacific 2003,

Recognizing that most countries in the Asia-Pacific region are endowed with substantial renewable energy resources,

Noting the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region and thus the specific needs and priorities of other sub-regions,

Recognizing the efforts of Asia-Pacific countries in promoting utilization of renewable energy by setting national targets and adopting regulatory instruments by some countries such as Thailand, one of the countries in the region that adopted a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) policy in addition to existing fiscal and financial incentives to commercialize renewable energy technologies,

Underlining that renewable energy, while not an end in itself, is a significant means to sustainable development of the countries in the region, particularly in the following areas:

- a) Poverty alleviation by improving agricultural productivity and creating off-farm employment and income generation opportunities, and improving education and health by providing access to modern energy services in rural areas,
- b) Environmental protection, climate change and human health by reducing emissions of harmful pollutants and greenhouse gases and improving air quality in urban areas, mega-cities as well as in rural households,

- c) Energy security by reducing dependency on imported fuels,
- d) Technological and industrial development by creating new manufacturing and service industries, and
- e) Sustainable use of natural resources by assuring sustainable management and production of biomass from forests and non-forest areas and increasing its efficient and clean utilization through adoption of modern technologies,

Taking into consideration the challenges related to achieving the goals set forth in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and pertaining to increased utilization of renewable energy for Asia and the Pacific,

Acknowledging the importance of regional coordination in formulating policies that place energy consumption and supply within a sustainable development framework, such as the relevant policies and plans of sub-regional organizations like Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Agree as follows as appropriate to the circumstances of each country:

1. To foster the adoption of public policies needed to further the development of renewable energy sources with a view to their full and effective integration into the energy system,
2. To encourage policy makers to ensure the establishment and the strengthening of institutional, legal and regulatory/administrative frameworks to create a level playing field and an enabling environment for the renewable energy sector, recognizing the initiatives already taken by countries in the region,
3. To cooperate with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, for removing barriers and increasing the uptake of renewable energy technologies, through technology development, transfer and adaptation, aimed at lowering the costs and encouraging local manufacture,
4. To promote increased community, public and private sector participation in renewable energy development and access to sustainable energy services and infrastructure,
5. To develop long-term strategies and commitments to R&D investments for modern renewable energy systems and operate them efficiently,
6. To encourage policy makers to ensure focus on renewable energy in national, regional and international policies, with an aim of substantially increasing the contribution of renewable energy sources in meeting energy needs
7. With strong government leadership, foster the creation of markets for renewable energy that i) provide long-term regulatory and price stability, ii) provide incentives for renewables (through mechanisms such as feed-in tariffs, renewable portfolio standards, etc.) recognizing the social and environmental benefits, iii) reduce transaction costs associated with project preparation, permitting, etc., iv) encourage cost reduction, reparability and sustainability through increased local manufacturing and local management, v) allow non-

discriminatory grid access and ensure its preferred use in appropriate off-grid applications, and vi) address issues of fuel security for biomass projects, which are of particular relevance to the region ,

8. To urge donors and financial institutions of all types to provide flexible financing and support to regional funding facilities for the development and implementation of renewable energy projects,

9. To take into account the social needs of the poorest sectors of the population, in particular women and children, in the countries of the region when developing renewable energy markets,

10. To take into account the special needs of, the least developed countries (LDCs), and the small island developing states of the region in developing mechanisms to support the development of renewable energy,

11. To facilitate the sustainable development of human resources for, *inter alia*, managing and conducting applied research, accelerating the diffusion of renewable energy technologies and practices, and providing technical and financial services, while taking into account the end-users of renewable energy as an important component in the training and learning process,

12. To incorporate/promote renewable energy education and awareness in educational curricula at primary and secondary levels; and to promote the same at tertiary and non-formal education levels,

13. To undertake, with the support of the United Nations and other international/regional bodies, an exchange of information, experiences and practices regarding the adoption and implementation of policies, regulations and programs for encouraging the efficient use of renewable energy, among the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and with other regions,

14. To disseminate experience, success stories, and benefits of renewable energy use to all sections of society,

15. To foster local capacity development (institutional and human) targeting energy policy and legislation, finance and private sector involvement especially of small and medium scale enterprises,

16. To address relevant issues on capacity building for RE development,

17. To enable the establishment of national and regional knowledge centers for renewable energy development while considering the wide variances of conditions in which renewable energy is applied,

18. To extend full cooperation and support of all stakeholders to promote renewable energy in the Asia-Pacific region,

19. To express strong support to the International Conference for Renewable Energies, to be held in Bonn, Germany, in 2004, to promote global technical and financial cooperation

to facilitate cooperation by industrialized countries with countries of the Asia-Pacific region in the field of technological development and cooperation to reduce costs and increase investment in renewable energy sources in the countries of the region,

20. To encourage the preparation of comparative studies on centralized versus decentralized energy distribution, with priority being given to small-scale distribution options in areas where the use of local renewable energy resources is desirable,

21. To request the United Nations in accordance with their respective mandates and the resources at their command, to provide support to the countries of the region at the International Conference for Renewable Energies and in the follow-up and implementation of agreements reached at that event,

22. To express our appreciation to the Royal Government of Thailand for having organized the Regional Conference, to the Government of Germany for having funded the Regional Conference and to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Environment Programme for their support of this Conference,

23. To declare that this Statement, adopted on 26 March 2004 in Bangkok, constitutes the contribution of the participants from the countries of Asia and the Pacific region to the International Conference for Renewable Energies, Bonn, Germany, 1 – 4 June 2004.