Activities Report 2009

Regional Centre for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency ("RCREEE")

The activities report (the "Activities Report") of the Regional Centre for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency ("RCREEE" or the "Centre") summarizes the Centre's activities in the time period from 1st January to 31st December 2009. The highlights of the Centre's activites and achievements during that time period are the following:

(i) The legal, organizational and financial set up of the Centre was progressed to the level that **RCREEE** is **fully operable**; the remaining legal and administrative tasks are expected to be completed in 2010.

(ii) RCREEE can present the first work products in the field of **policy reaserch**. The Centre has commissioned a comparative study of national regulations and incentives for renewable energies and energy efficiency, the results of which will be presented at the RCREEE Regional Renewable Energy Conference in February 2010 in Amman.

(iii) RCREEE has organized several **high level events**, including the a joint event at the occasion of the IRENA Prepcon in Sharm el Sheikh on 28 June 2009 and workshops on the market introduction and standardization of solar water heaters in Cairo on 24 to 25 March 2009 and Tunisia on 18 to 19 November 2009. This has helped the Centre to obtain visibility well beyond the regional level.

(iv) As a further area of activity, **training and capacity building** has emerged, with RCREEE organizing a training for "Young Leaders in Renewable Energies" in Berlin in November 2009 and a Wind Training Workshop in Egypt in December 2009.

(v) RCREEE has co-operated closely with other international organizations (LAS, ESCWA), development banks and agencies (WB, EU, KfW, JICA, IRENA) The Centre **is acknowledged as a leading regional policy platform** that is recognized and used as such by the community.

(vi) Representatives of RCREEE are regularly invited to speak at academic and policy conferences and are active participants of the relevant working groups at LAS. This underlines the Centre's **reputation on the academic level**.

The following gives a more detailed outline of the Centre's development and activities during the year 2010. It is divided into the sections Set up and Administration (1.), a section dealing with the Centre's activities (2.), co-operation with international institutions (3.) as well as a financial section (4).

1. Set-up and Administration

In the course of 2009, major steps were completed towards the legal, administrative and financial set up of the Centre. As a result, the Centre now is fully operable, with only few administrative issues to be completed.

1.1 Legal Set up

In the BoT Meeting on 3rd February 2009, the representatives of the RCREEE Member States have signed the **RCREEE Organizational Charter**, which outlines the organization of the Centre as well as the various stakeholders' rights and responsibilities. The Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, a leading academic institution in the field of public international law based in Heidelberg, has rendered a legal opinion confirming that, from

an international law perspective, the Centre is validly established and has the capacity to bear rights and obligations.

With the assistance of legal consultants, the RCREEE Interim Secretariat has drafted a **Host Country Agreement** to be entered into between the Centre and the Government of Egypt. The draft presently is under review at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Host Country Agreement will deal with issues such as the Centre's status under internal Egyptian law, the status of staff, taxation and customs. In addition, the Host Country Agreement will provide for standard immunities and privileges, in line with the regional custom.

With the assistance of HR and financial consultants, the RCREEE Interim Secretariat has further drafted Financial Regulations as well as HR rules for the Centre. It is intended to submit the drafts for approval to the RCREEE Member States at the next RCREEE BoT Meeting.

1.2 Representation and Staffing

In the BoT Meeting on 3rd February 2009, the RCREEE Member States elected the following three members of the RCREEE Executive Committee:

Dr. Adel Khalil, Professor at the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University (Chair);
Eng Ziad Sabra, Director of Renewable Energies at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan;
Dr. Abdelali Dakkina, Director of CIEDE, Morocco.

RCREEE is proud that two eminent personalities in the field of renewable energies have accepted to join the RCREEE BoT as advisory members:

Dr. Hermann Scheer, Member of the German Parliament and global leader in renewable energies.
Christoph W. Frei, Secretary General, World Energy Council, London.

The RCREEE Interim Secretariat and the Chair of the RCREEE Executive Committee have been working towards appointing the two private sector representatives for the Executive Committee. It is expected that the voting process will be concluded in the near future.

In addition, in the course of 2009 staffing of the RCREEE Interim Secretariat was completed, now consisting of the following members:

Dr. Kilian Bälz, Acting Director and Head of Interim Secretariat (GTZ – Germany)
Eng. Samir Hassan, Technical Director and Senior Advisor (former Chairman NREA, Egypt)
Ms Amel Bida, Senior Expert (ANME, Tunisia)
Eng Bothayna Rachid, Senior Expert (NREA, Egypt)
Eng. Ashraf Kreidy (NERC, Syria)

They are assisted by Ms Reem Hanna, Program and Communication Coordinator and Ms Heidi Sarwat, Office Management and Financial Officer as well as support staff.

A job description for the **RCREEE permanent director** (the Executive Director) has been drafted and will be submitted for approval to the Exective committee and the BoT. It is expected that the search process will commence without delay thereafter. Following recruitment of the RCREEE permanent director, the positions at the RCREEE secretariat will be converted into permanent positions.

The term of Dr. Kilian Bälz as acting director of RCREEE will come to an end on 31 March 2010. GTZ will make a long term expert available to the RCREEE secretariat, who is expected to take office on 1 April 2010, and who will serve as principle technical advisor to the Centre.

1.3 Ongoing Administration

RCREEE is administered through the RCREEE Interim Secretariat. The Interim Secretariat regularly liaises with the Executive Committee and the representatives of the Development Partners.

In 2009, two BoT meeting were held (3rd February in Cairo and 27 June in Sharm el Sheikh), chaired by Eng. Abel Rahman Salah (CEO NREA Egypt and 2009 RCREEE BoT Chairman). In the BoT meetings, the fundamental decisions relating to RCREEE were discussed, in particular regarding the strategy to be adopted by the Centre.

The term of the present BoT Chairman, Eng. Abel Rahman Salah, will come to an end at the next BoT meeting in February 2010 in Amman. As agreed, the RCREEE will be chaired in the year to follow by the Jordanian BoT representative.

1.4 Communication and Marketing

RCREEE has set up a **web page** (www.rcreee.org) with information on the Centre, its activities and covering issues of renewable energies and energy efficiency at large. The web page is in the process of being further expanded and shall, in the future, also host a data base of renewable energy and energy efficiency regulations.

RCREEE regularly issues a **newsletter**. In 2009 four issues have been published. In addition, two conference brochures were issued (for the Sharm el Sheikh event and the SWH Workshop in Tunis).

RCREEE, further, has issued a **flyer** serving as a basic fact sheet on the Centre's program, strategic direction and scope of activities.

2. Activities

In 2009, the Centre had an active first year

2.1 Studies and Research

Under the supervision of the Centre, the following studies were carried out:

- A policy paper on the **use of EU policy initiatives** in the field of renewable energies investigated the question of how the MENA countries can best benefit from initiatives such as the Mediterranean Solar Plan and other recent policy initiatives. The results of the study were presented at the RCREEE BoT Meeting in Cairo in February 2009.

- A comparative study of the **effectiveness of policies in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency in the RCREEE Member States**. For the study, financed by DANIDA, a consortium of consultants consisting of MVV Decon and Wuppertal Institute were selected on the basis of a tender process. The results of the study will be presented at the RCREEE BoT Meeting in February 2010 in Amman.

- A study trying to define **best practices for project agreements** for private financed renewable energy projects, carried out jointly with MED EMIP and the financial support of the EU. A particular focus is on land use agreements and power purchase agreements. The results of the study, which were discussed in several workshops in Cairo during summer 2009, have been presented to the Egyptian Ministry of Energy and Electricity. It is intended to further disseminate the results on the regional level.

- RCREEE has issued a call for applications for **RCREEE Research Grants** in order to support and enhance applied research in the field of renewable energy technology. A total of 12 proposals were received, which at the end of 2009 were under evaluation.

- A study about the current situation of Solar Water Heater Certification and Standardization in the RCREEE Member States. This study is intended to guide the establishment of a regional certification program for solar water heaters in the region that shall be implemented in cooperation with LAS in 2010.

In addition, RCREEE has commissioned a number of smaller studies, in particular in order to prepare the work shops on the market introduction and standardization of solar water heaters.

2.2 Workshops and Conferences

In 2009, RCREEE convened a number of high level conferences and workshops on RE policies and technologies:

- On the occasion of the RCREEE BoT Meeting in February 2009 in Cairo, RCREEE convened a one day conference in which the **use of EU policy initiatives** in the field of renewable energies (in particular the MSP) were discussed. In addition, in a Electricity Law Roundtable representatives from the RCREEE Member States represented and discussed recent experiences with regulatory reform aiming at the enhancement of renewable energies. The event, which was opened by HE the Egyptian Minister of Energy and Electricity, was attended by more then 100 high level participants.

- In connection with the second IRENA PrepCon in Sharm el Sheikh, RCREE, jointly with the MED EMIP Project, convened a one day high level conference "**MENA Energized: Regional Challenges to Green the Power Sector**" that dealt with regulatory and financing issues in the field of RE. In addition, issues of private sector participation and local manufacturing were discussed. The event included prominent speakers from the regional and international level and was opened by HE the Egyptian Minister of Energy and Electricity.

- RCREEE organized two workshops on the **market introduction and standardization of solar water heaters** in Cairo on 24 to 25 March 2009 and Tunisia on 18 to 19 November 2009.The Cairo workshop was organized jointly the Private Sector Development Program in Egypt and the Regional Promotion Program for Technology and Innovation for SME, both supported by GTZ. The Tunis workshop was organized in cooperation with ANME, under the participation of the LAS and the Arab Organization for Standardization.

- Responding to the set up of the DII, a recent initiative of German and other companies to study implementation of the DESERTEC concept, RCREEE convened a **Desertec Stakeholder Dialogue** on 10 October 2010 in Cairo, where the concept was presented and discussed. The event was organized jointly with JCEE. The discussion revealed a need for further information and discussion. In view hereof, RCREEE decided to have a further and broader discussion of the issue in connection with the February 2010 RCREEE BoT meeting.

In addition, RCREEE, through members of the Interim Secretariat and the Executive Committee, was represented at a number of high level events, including the following:

- EU Round Table on Energy Tariffs and Investment in Cairo on 11.-12. February.

- MED EMIP Work Shop in EU Solar Initiatives in Brussels in May 2009.]

- Second Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Carbon Market Forum which took place in Cairo, Egypt, on 6 to 7 May 2009

- World Bank Office Marseille: Fifth Urban Research Symposium: Cities and Climate Change, Responding to an Urgent Agenda 20 to 30 June 2009

- Workshop on Solar Cooling Technologies: Technical Aspects and Feasibility in the Mashreq Region in Syria, 6 to 7 July 2009.

- IRENA Abu Dhabi, workshop on capacity building, 14 October 2009.

- London School of Economics, At the Crossroads – Pathways of Renewable and Nuclear Energy in North Africa (a conference jointly organized by the LSE-Alcoa Foundation Programme and the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy) 16 to 17 October 2009.

- Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin: Round Table „Electricity from the Desert," 5 November 2009.

- International Green Renewable Energy Conference(organized by the Alexandria Business Association), Cairo, 1. and 2. December 2009.

- MEDRES Final Conference: Cost Effective Renewable Energy in Rural Areas in the Mediterranean Region, organized by OME, in Cairo on 14 December 2009.

2.3 Capacity Development and Training

Responding to the demand of the RCREEE Member States, RCREEE has become active in the field of capacity development and training.

From 1 to 12 November 2009 RCREEE organised a **Young Leaders in Renewable Energies Academy**, which was implemented jointly with RENAC, a leading training institution in Berlin. The training, focussing on latest technological and policy developments in the field of RE, was attended by 25 future leaders in renewable energies from the RCREEE member states. The young leaders training shall be continued with targeted courses on certain technologies and financing structures in 2010.

From 6 to 15 December 2009, RCREEE organized a **wind energy training course**. The training was implemented through the Egyptian New and Renewable Energy Authority (NREA) in Cairo, Hurgada and Ain Sukhna. The Minister of Energy and Electricity, HE Dr. Hassan Younes, personally congratulated the participants and handed over the training certificates at a ceremony at the Ministry. The wind energy training course shall be continued in 2010.

2.4 Co-operation with other regional and international organizations

RCREEE has worked closely with other regional and international organizations:

- RCREEE is closely working with the energy department of the League of Arab States and, moreover, is a member of the experts team in charge of preparing the Arab Strategy for Renewable Energies.

- RCREEE has received an invitation to participate in the renewable energy working group of MEDREG.

- RCREEE was granted observer status at IRENA. RCREEE intends to play a supportive role in the set up of IRENA and has offered to serve as the IRENA regional platform in the MENA region.

In addition, RCREEE works closely with the EU funded MED EMIP and MED ENEC projects as well as the German BMZ funded JCEE.