

Community Based Integrated Solar Water Systems Pilot Project in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia (CBISWS)

Project Objective

The objective of the regional pilot project is to promote renewable energy, mitigate climate change and alleviate poverty in selected communities of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). The community based approach combines renewable solar energy technology with water supply, income generation, food security and microfinance in order to improve the quality of life of rural poor in the target areas.

Description

The implementation of the project will be carried out in eight communities, four in North East Thailand, two in Cambodia and two in Laos. Training and dissemination activities will also reach out to participants from Vietnam. The project aims to bridge the gap in water supply systems with solar technology resulting in improvement in the quality of life of rural villagers. The endeavor will not only focus on the technology side but will put strong emphasis on community participation. Grassroots organizations such as Village Development Funds (VDF), Women and youth groups will be supported and strengthened. The demand-driven nature and the involvement of the above mentioned communities make it a sustainable venture.

Relevance to the Region's Energy and Environment Policies

Expected project benefits related to increased RE output, reduced GHG emissions, energy/water saving, knowledge/skill development and quality of life improvement are fully in line with development priorities in the Great Mekong Sub-region (GMS). The project also fits in with Thailand's community sufficiency and energy conservation programmes as well as similar initiatives in the partner countries. Relevant statistics show that many villages in the

Project Highlights

Project ID	: 2-R-042
Country	: Thailand, Laos and Cambodia
Lead Partner	: Population and Community Development Association (PDA)
Partners	: Grundfos Holding A/S, Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (JGSEE)
Total Project Cost	: € 295,000
EEP Financing	: € 195,000 (66.01%)
Technical Focus	: Renewable Energy/Solar
Activity	: Pilot Project
Duration	: 12 months



Briefing during the inception meeting (June 2011)

GMS are still without electricity and satisfactory water supply so that there is a large potential for solar powered water supply systems. Inherent advantages of local solar powered water systems are that water is pumped up to storage tanks during day-time allowing gravitational force to distribute the water to users without the need of costly transportation of energy and water.

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Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

The project will combine the knowledge and experience of:

- the partners in Cambodia, Laos PDR; at all
- PDA, the largest Thai NGO as lead partner with proven track record in sustainable environmental, water resources and income generation projects,
- JGSEE as a top-level public research and education organization taking care of international training, dissemination and M&E
- GRUNDFOS as the private sector partner and a world market leader for solar powered water systems providing cutting-edge technology.

The project team will further implement processes and solutions and provide specific knowledge and skills (RE technologies, PV equipment O&M, VDF operation). Knowledge transfer at grassroot level is enhanced by consolidating community institutions, active participation of villagers in construction, operation and maintenance of solar powered water systems, as well as generation of jobs and income. Project results will be disseminated through meetings, seminars, media and publications ensuring outreach far beyond the direct beneficiaries.



Working with local communities

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