
C U R E S F O R A L L

An NGO Information Bulletin for the Bonn Renewable Energy Conference 2004

*Published by :
Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability*

Introduction:

In early June 2004 the German Government is hosting an international Conference designed to further the use of renewable energy across the world. The conference will bring together Government, industry and civil society and will have three main outcomes.

- A political declaration describing common political objectives, offering a vision of how renewable energy can play a greater role in a more efficient and sustainable energy system, and including agreements on a follow-up process
- An international action plan in which various governments and actors propose concrete actions and voluntary commitments/goals for developing renewable energies
- Guidance for good policy leading to greater impact and increased coherence of the policy strategies employed

NGO Involvement

Non-Government Organisation have been involved in the promotion of renewable energy for decades. They are dedicated to their use as an alternative to the burning of fossil fuels and the use nuclear power. The increasing awareness of the damage caused by global warming makes it imperative that immediate action is taken to rapidly introduce alternative fuel sources and to reduce global energy demand, in particular in Northern countries. This conference is therefore seen as an vital opportunity.

Conference:

The conference is being organised by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). To assist them and International Steering Committee (ISC) has been established. This is made up of 55 representatives from Governments, international bodies, industry, NGOs etc. There are three NGO representatives: Jennifer Morgan – WWF; Shelia Oparaocha- Energia; Steve Sawyer –Greenpeace. The full list of representatives and the minutes of the last meetings can be found at:

<http://www.renewables2004.de/en/preparation/sc.asp>

For those that want to participate in the Conference, the deadline for accreditation is the 31st March. This can be done online at:

<http://www.renewables2004.de/en/participation/application-stakeholder.asp>

Preparatory Meetings:

Numerous preparatory regional meetings have taken place to date, these are included below.

17-19th February: Denmark: Preparatory Conference for Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition

29-30th October: Brazil: LA and Caribbean regional conference.

20th November: Kenya: Africa regional conference.

7-8th February: Delhi: Part of World Social Forum.

http://www.renewables2004.de/pdf/Delhi_Meeting_Report.pdf

19-21st January: Berlin: Europe regional conference.

<http://www.cures-network.org/press.htm>

25-26th March: Thailand: Asia regional conference

21-22nd April: Yeman: Middle east regional conference.

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue:

A fundamental part of the conference is a multi-stakeholder dialogue in which different actors discuss their views on the opportunities for renewables. The MSD has an International Advisory Group, which are assisting in the development of positions from the ten identified stakeholders and then will work to develop two themed positions at the Conference itself. NGOs are one of the ten defined stakeholders. The NGOs representatives are: Jennifer Morgan – WWF International; Jurgen Maier/Setphen Karekezi- Cures network; and Jorg Haas –Heinrich Boell Foundation. However, within other categories, there are other NGO representatives. The full list of stakeholder groups and their representatives can be found at:

<http://www.stakeholderforum.org/practice/renewables/iag.pdf>

The input into the MSD for NGOs will be:

- Through comments on the initial positioning paper of NGOs.
- Through comments on the initial positioning paper of other stakeholder groups, e.g. women, consumers, actors in development and poverty alleviation, business etc.
- In making comments on the themed positions being presented at the Conference itself.

Conference Papers

The conference has prepared 12 thematic papers on issues relating to renewables. These have been used to prepare a Conference Issue Paper (CIP), which will be presented to all participants. The paper is subject to ongoing peer review. The next draft will be meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC) at the beginning of April. It is possible to read all the thematic papers and the CIP at the following site:

<http://www.renewables2004.de/en/cd/default.asp>

Side Events:

As well as the formal conference, a number of side events have already been planned the full list can be seen at:

<http://www.renewables2004.de/en/around/default.asp>

These include:

International Parliamentary Forum: 2nd June: www.ipf-renewables2004.de

Sustainable Energy Finance Event: 1st and 2nd June: sefi.unep.org/sef_bonn/.

Second World Renewable Energy Forum: 29th-31st May: www.wcre.org

Business Forum Renewables: katja.suhr@gtz.de.

Municipal Leaders Conference: 31st May: www.localrenewables2004.de

New Material

A biweekly newsletter, dialogue renew, is being published by the Stakeholder Forum. This can be obtained by emailing: join-renewables2004-dialogue@eforums.healthdev.org

For more information contact:

Jürgen Maier: chef@forumue.de

Gerald Knauf: gerald@forumue.de

Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung

German NGO Forum Environment & Development

Am Michaelshof 8-10

D-53177 Bonn

Tel.: +49 (0) 228 - 35 97 04

Fax: +49 (0) 228 - 923 993 56

<http://www.cures-network.org>