

Energy and the Discourse on the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development at Rio+20

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Roundtable on “Learning from emerging energy innovations in Asia with a focus on energy access and clean energy: Contributing to the discourse on an institutional framework for sustainable development”

Habitat Center, New Delhi, India

Mark Elder, Principal Researcher
Director, Governance & Capacity Group
IGES, Japan

What kind of proposal could be made at Rio+20? Some considerations

- Very little time left for discussion, many issues remain
- Too much focus on specific issues can overburden the agenda
- There is some tendency for countries to highlight what they are already doing (show and tell). This is good, but reduces time to discuss concrete future actions
- May be difficult to reach agreement between countries on details of big or complex new initiatives.

Suggestions for Rio+20 overall strategy

- For new initiatives, can start discussions or launch a process
- What can regional bodies, countries, the private sector, & NGOs do?
 - Energy is still mainly influenced by national governments & the private sector
 - Doesn't necessarily need to be a concrete outcome of Rio+20 itself, but can be inspired by it
 - Stakeholders and other bodies can make their own commitments
 - => Focus on accelerating shift from fossil fuels towards RE, EE
- Integration of energy into post MDGs/SDGs
- How energy will be related to institutional reform of sustainable development
 - (Sustainable Development Council, CSD/ECOSOC reform)
 - Focus on distributed governance and coordination
- Emphasis on multistakeholder participation
 - Already a key theme of Rio+20; also applies to energy
- Emphasize capacity development, technology transfer financing
- Reduce fossil fuel subsidies and shift to RE, EE, poverty reduction

Concluding observations

- Some progress already achieved; clearer lessons on implementation, there are a number of success cases already in Asia.
- However, action is needed on a much greater scale; the challenges are expanding faster than the solutions
- Many of the recommendations highlighted in this study can be implemented by existing institutions and actors:
 - International organizations
 - National governments
 - Project proponents
 - NGOs
 - Private sector
- Major reform of UN institutions may not be necessary for energy
- UN reform is desirable, but we cannot expect the UN to solve all of our problems. Further actions are needed by all actors at all levels.



Thank you !!

<http://www.iges.or.jp/en/index.html>