Project supported by:

tree
transfer renewable energy & efficiency

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Dear State Secretary, Herr Müller,

Dear ambassadors of India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Jordan and Namibia,

Dear embassy representatives from China, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand and Indonesia,

Dear representatives of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economics,

Dear representatives of the Program Office for the Climate Protection Initiative,

Dear representatives of the media,

Dear TREE participants and lecturers,

Dear Friends of RENAC,

Dear guests,

I am very happy to be able to welcome you today to this TREE Presentation.

The TREE project is unique in the way it combines know-how transfer for renewable energy and energy efficiency with international network building, both for decision makers and engineers, and across four continents.

What is TREE? TREE stands for Transfer Renewable Energy & Efficiency.

We are undertaking this transfer of know-how, with the support of the Federal Ministry for the Environment using funds from the International Climate Protection Initiative. This is because knowledge is a key factor for the market development of renewable energies and energy efficiency which, being distributed technologies, come in many different sizes, and need the involvement of a wide variety of experts for their expansion and spread.

Those working in ministries have the task of promoting the goals for reductions in energy consumption and the expansion targets for renewable energies. This task, which has in some areas already led to concrete formulations, must be undertaken wisely, taking into account country-specific conditions.

For its part, the private sector requires practical know-how in order to be able to plan, fund, implement, operate and maintain renewable energy- and energy efficiency technologies. These technological areas, being relatively young, are rarely part of normal employment training or of college courses.

Through the TREE project, we have created a vehicle in a short period of time that will, in the near future, effectively spread theoretical and practical knowledge across the whole spectrum of renewables and energy efficiency. Around 230 TREE scholarships have been awarded, with participants coming from 14 developing and emerging nations. In TREE, we present an overview of the technologies for wind power, solar thermal

energy, photovoltaic, all forms of bio-, and geothermal energy. We examine the connection of renewable energy systems to the grid network and investigate energy efficiency in buildings and for industry and commerce. Since non-technical issues are crucial to the development of the market, we deal in depth with energy economics, supporting policies and business environment, law, financing and CDM.

Decision makers from public institutions and business organizations get an overview on the technologies, policy-frameworks and financing. Through this, the business representatives receive essential input and an impetus for the development of new business' areas. And those representing public institutions benefit from the experience of experts for the development of their own policy frameworks.

Engineers receive practical knowledge on solar thermal projects, grid-connected photovoltaic systems and island systems. Through our Training Center, we can combine theory and practice, and also demonstrate a wide range of products and applications.

The initial seminars will be followed up by five advanced courses being held in Berlin during the summer of 2009, which will focus the formulation of legal regulations and standards, as well as funding for specific areas of the technology.

We are also undertaking seminars on Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) in South Africa, Namibia, Chile, Peru and Jordan. By this means, we want to provide substantive input to both the relevant public institutions and the private sector, in order to stimulate the discussion on CSP.

The one-week course in Berlin is only one part of what is offered by TREE. Participants can undertake distance-learning on non-technical issues related to renewable energies and energy efficiency, such as project finance, project management, contract law and marketing. This will be offered in collaboration with the Distance Learning Institute of the TFH {University of Applied Sciences} in Berlin.

Each participant also receives a modest contingent of consultation time, providing support for any issues that might arise subsequent to the seminar week.

The TREE Community website, to be launched in April, will be a platform for building network contacts and for exchanging experiences. In a protected area, the participants will be able to raise questions and offer answers on RE and EE issues. They will be able to give a profile of their own expertise and describe projects. I very much hope that this aspect of the TREE project will be used by many participants and become a fruitful platform for mutual support and exchange.

Through the TREE project a very personal vision has been realized: the dissemination of the extensive knowledge that is available on RE and EE in Germany, and the creation of an international network of engaged experts. This is a fitting project for Berlin, being a center for expertise with international pulling power.

The TREE project could have only been realized in such a short period - and I think very successfully - through the support of numerous people and institutions. Here, first and foremost, we would like to thank the

Federal Ministry of the Environment for their support and trust. Our thanks also goes to the national embassies - which are represented here for almost all TREE countries - together with the Federal Foreign Office and the German missions abroad, for their support in raising awareness about the program. Only through the support of this network, we could have managed to achieve some 850 applications within a three-week deadline. We would like to thank all lecturers and institutions involved in the preparation of training materials, and who have fully engaged themselves in conducting the seminars.

We also thank all those companies that have helped with the equipping of the Training Center and who are seeking to build long-term business relationships with the TREE participants. We are grateful to the Program Office for its assistance and to all other providers of services and supporters of RENAC. Above all, I would especially like to thank the members of the RENAC team, who have demonstrated their complete dedication and pride in bringing this project to fruition.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all TREE participants for the interest they have shown in the program and for the efforts that they have made to come here. All this despite the cold shock provided by Berlin's winter. Many participants have had to wear gloves against the cold for the first time in their lives!

TREE is a show case for how the transfer of know-how can be quickly realized and how capacity building for renewable energies and energy efficiency will be achieved. Know-how transfer doesn't just mean the acquisition of knowledge, but also learning from the experiences of others, so as to avoid mistakes and to be able to positively tackle the challenges of energy policy.

The transfer of expertise and the exchange of experience should be a major task for the newly established International Energy Agency for Renewable Energies - IRENA. We would like, through TREE, to show an example of how IRENA can be truly brought to life.

What next? This phase of the program ends in 2009. From the summer, we will be planning a new TREE project for the following years, with new initiatives. Here, the undertaking of seminars in South-East Asia, South America, South Africa and India should be intensified. After the emphasis on solar technology in this TREE project, we would like to expand our offerings for engineers in the areas of energy efficiency and wind power.

TREE has been able to exploit globalization positively. The TREE-participants will be able to build a network of contacts with partners from 14 countries, from which they will be able to benefit in numerous ways. TREE participants from an individual country will be able to work effectively together in key situations for the establishment of sustainable and climate-friendly energy supplies for the future.

I would like to thank everyone for turning this project into a reality and now wish you a pleasant evening, with interesting partners for conversation.

Berlin, 19.02.2009

Berthold Breid, CEO RENAC