

To the State Secretary Herr Müller,

The Ambassadors of India, Malaysia, Jordan, Namibia and the Phillipines,

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

Representatives of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economics,

Representatives of the Program Office for Climate Protection Initiative,

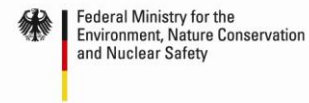
Representatives of the media,

TREE lecturers and fellow participants,

RENAC friends and guests,

Good Evening!

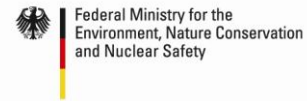
I am Tess Cayton from the Philippines, a chemist and soil scientist by education, former plant and public affairs manager of Bayer chemical manufacturing in the Philippines, currently its technical consultant and environment consultant for Sustainable Development Solutions for Asia and the Pacific. It is such a privilege to be standing here in front of you tonight representing the participants of the RENAC project TREE .Please allow me to give you a glimpse of what we participants have experienced about the project here now there are 37 of us in this batch from 14 countries located in 3 continents – we are from Argentina, Brasil, China, Chile, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, Phillipines, South Africa and Thailand. Some of us work in government ministries, in planning, energy and environment or in power corporations and electric utilities. Some are in industry, academe, energy research, energy training or work with environment NGO, with varied backgrounds and expertise. All of us came united in a common quest for more knowledge on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources particularly wind and solar. Indeed we have been so lucky to be among the chosen 230 out of the 850 applicants.And for this we deeply thank RENAC and Mr Berthold Breid for working so hard for his vision on the TREE project to push through, and all the lecturers and support staff at RENAC for the extremely well coordinated arrangements and quality comprehensive program that they put together in a record time. Our lecturers were all experts in their fields and unselfishly shared all that they knew of their course, bearing with our many varied questions. The support staff especially Ms Uta Zähringer and Ms Tina Völker worked hard to ensure a smooth flow of all schedules and activities, with lecture but still making time for sightseeing in the evening. Most of all they arranged for the special unique snow show in the middle of spring, a lovely first experience for most of us. In fact our engineer trainees had fun playing with the snow during lunch breaks!



Back in 2004 we installed solar thermal heaters to replace traditional electric heaters for our Bayer manufacturing facility in the Philippines. Realizing the return of investment in less than two years, it became my advocacy to inform others of the amazing technology converting the sun's power to clean energy and save energy cost. My dream was to influence industries to explore this untapped potential to assist industries in costly power demands. For the last years we were working on greening the supply chain of companies – this involved mentoring companies on management systems and energy efficiency concepts, plus introduction to renewable energy opportunities. My dream was taking shape but very slowly.

Arriving here at RENAC it was good to meet my co participants and learn of their dreams too –Rural electrification of remote villages by RE, solar cooker for remote rural communities and solar ice makers for a fishing village in Indonesia, application of CDM for rural electrification in Malaysia, obtaining financing and making the electricity generation more affordable through the use of renewable energy for customers in Namibia, influencing more manufacturing industries, to use solar thermal heaters instead of electricity for hot water needs in Jordan, linking German renewable energy suppliers to emerging markets in Brazil, guiding local government units in the Philippines in energy planning with use of energy efficiency and renewable energy, changing street lights to more energy efficient LED's in Argentina and so on. Other colleagues wanted to learn more details about solar or wind technologies to be able to advise clients in a better way or influence local governments, still others wanted to understand how Germany's highly successful feed in tariff system works, to get ideas for their own policy and law makers. Some participants wanted to get correct information on how the on-grid system works for RE. The engineers wanted hands-on- experiences on RE technologies. Still others just wanted to exchange information among colleagues on best practice, dos and don'ts on energy efficiency and renewable energy. We all wanted to learn from German expertise and technology on EE and RE and most important, learn from previous mistakes. All our varied dreams for sectors in our countries needed a push – more technology and techniques on how to make it work on the ground, and this we learned in a compact, organized and even funny way at the Renewables Academy.

We have learned so much in the past days which will help us realizing our varied dreams and interests. We have learned how individuals and governments can make foolish and costly decisions on energy matters if they don't have information on the possibilities for energy efficiency and renewable energy in their areas. We have learned how to counter misconceptions on renewable energy use. We have also learned that solar energy has sort of an equalizing effect – all countries have the sun's power to make use of! We have learned that energy efficiency is most important to address first, and we were given lots of examples and techniques on applying this. We learned about the basic technologies of PV's, solar thermal heaters, solar heating, grid connection, the RESA law and how it was instrumental in driving the market to shift to PVs. We learned about energy efficiency in buildings, industry and trade, financing, funding and supporting schemes, for RE, even a bit about the global financial crisis. Our engineer participants learned more in depth technology and did hands on trouble shooting and maintenance



training for solar thermal heaters and visited actual sites where these are installed. Never again can I look at a PV cell without remembering the striking video of how it was painstakingly and slowly produced from quartz sand to an incredible purity of 99.9999% a perfect example of German precision technology at its best. How can we fail to appreciate, this fact that a part of the humble earth is actually transformed by man till it can capture the power of the sun!

What can we do with our new leanings? A pilot project with on-grid RE in eastern Indonesia, promotion of RE , influencing laws, regulations and policies in Peru through the ministry of envt , transferring the new knowledge to the electricity regulation commission which is responsible for tariff issues, and planning to introduce RE to transmission grid operators in Jordan. In China, pilot projects can be initiated with the new knowledge. In Thailand targets to increase proportion of RE to 20.4 % from 0.3% in 2003, will be helped by the informations obtained in TREE training through the ministry of energy. Dept of alternative energy and EE, I'm proving the efficiency of energy projects such as rural electrification with the Malaysian Building Integrated P V. Designing technical and legal instruments to promote the use of RE EE in Argentina through the office of the secretary of energy, modification and improvement of programs under the ministry of energy, and influence on energy planning and policy in Mexico. Developing new projects to help industry in the field of EE in Jordan - these are just some of what the TREE training participants plan to work on back in their countries.

Our learning can't be done in just one week, and project TREE does not stop here, in fact it is just a beginning for us as we head back to our home countries. RENAC has arranged a continuing communication link among the network of TREE project participants / lecturers around the world to seek advice on practice related issues. In addition, the participants have the option of further training through distance learning on line. This gives us much needed guidance, information and technical support as we start to implement on the ground what we learned at project TREE which could help towards the fulfillment of our varied dreams on energy efficiency and renewable energy. It's exciting to imagine how much more each one of us can achieve if we maximize our links within this network of experts!

Once again we participants thank RENAC and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, for sharing with us all the knowledge and the expertise, indeed knowledge is the only commodity that increases as it is shared. As we return to our countries with fresh eyes and loaded minds, I remember the saying –“when one dreams alone it is only a dream, but when we dream together it is the beginning of reality” thank you all for dreaming with us, and helping us start to realize our dreams – and now for us, after Berlin, it is all back to reality and the hard work begins !!!

Berlin, 19.02.2009

Ms. Theresa C. Cayton

Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production, TREE D6 participant