

AIDE-MEMOIRE

**Global Energy Network for Urban Settlements [GENUS]
Interregional Steering Committee Meeting
3rd September, 2012**

**Organized by
Urban Energy Unit
Urban Basic Service branch
UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
[UN-Habitat]**

August, 2012

1.0 BACKGROUND TO GENUS

The Global Energy Network for the Urban Settlements (GENUS) aims at creating a platform of multiple institutions and stakeholders including the public and private sectors, governmental and non-governmental organizations, grass-roots groups, national and international development agencies, working in the urban energy sector to facilitate a new and dynamic collaboration, dialogue and information sharing.

The main objective of GENUS is to work for encouraging and supporting the design, implementation and replication of affordable and environmentally sustainable energy programmes and projects for the urban poor worldwide by:

- Working for a better understanding of the links between sustainable energy and other development priorities, and technology and policy options leading to better formulation of practical policies that can be adopted to promote and highlight the crucial role of energy for sustainable development in poor urban settlements.
- Working to provide analytical inputs to Governments for consideration in formulating their policies and programmes, and the private sector to attract investments in the urban energy sector, so that these favor growth of the energy sector for sustainable development especially for the urban poor in the developing countries.
- Promoting a communication infrastructure that provides a means for the network members to share experiences and to draw on each other's strengths, expertise and skills.
- Strengthening South-South and North-South exchange of knowledge and collaboration on urban energy issues of common interest.
- Strengthening the ability of the network members to acquire, assimilate and apply existing knowledge and experiences.

The network also facilitates the sharing of information through a global base of knowledge on energy related topics focused on urban poor. This is aimed at increasing the commitment and interest in the application of new and improved energy-access policies; and the number of local authorities active in the area of improving access to clean modern energy services for the urban poor.

2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Establishment of the GENUS Secretariat

The GENUS Secretariat, the UN-Habitat, was created following consensus made during the Nairobi Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Energy Access for the Urban Poor in Africa held on 26th – 28th October 2009. The GENUS Secretariat is charged with responsibility of coordinating the Network's core activities which includes communication, network events, financial and technical reporting. It is also in charge of creating new partnerships with national energy utilities, private sector, policymakers, non-governmental organizations, donors, regional economic communities, development banks and other development partners.

2.2 Regional Workshops

To-date a total of three workshops have been conducted in Africa, Latin America and South Asia. The workshops are summarized below:

- (a) *Access to Transport for the Urban Poor in Asia:* This was an expert group meeting which took place on 27th – 28th May 2009 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This workshop was jointly organized by UN-Habitat and the Institute of Transportation and Development (ITDP). During the two day workshop, a total of six presentations were made. The presentations focused on deepening the understanding of the issues affecting transport services among the urban poor. It also explored ways of strengthening the GENUS network in Asia. The workshop attracted a total of 21 participants. The host institution for the South Asia region is The Energy Resource Institute (TERI) based in India which is also the Chair of the Asian Regional Steering Committee. .

- (b) *Promoting Energy Access for the Urban Poor in Africa: Approaches and Challenges in Slum Electrification:* This event was an expert group meeting which was held in Nairobi on 26th – 28th October 2009. This workshop discussed the challenges and issues pertaining to slum electrification in Africa with emphasis on policy, program design and data or evidence. A total of 16 presentations were made at the workshop which attracted more than 40 participants drawn from the national electricity utility companies, non-governmental organizations, private sector, government ministries and research institutions. The host institution for the Africa region is Centre for Sustainable Energy Technology (CSET) based in Liberia. CSET is also chairing the Africa Regional Steering Committee.

(c) *Energy from Waste Workshop*: This workshop was held on 25th – 26th October 2010 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The aim of this workshop was to launch the GENUS Network in Latin America and the work program on energy from solid waste. The workshop attracted 21 participants drawn from representatives of national energy agencies and institutions in Latin America. The presentations made at the workshop facilitated the exchange and integration of best practices, experiences and lessons learned particularly with regard to challenges and opportunities among options of energy generation from waste. Institute of Renewable Resources (IRRI) which is based in Mexico is the host institution for the Latin America region and the Chair of the Latin America Regional Steering Committee.

2.3 GENUS Newsletters

The GENUS Secretariat regularly compiles Newsletters which are posted on the UN-Habitat Urban Gateway to keep members posted on relevant key developments. The newsletters also act as a platform for exchange and dissemination of best practices and technologies. To date, a total of six (6) newsletters have been compiled with each newsletter addressing the three main themes of the GENUS Network, namely: Slum electrification; Waste-to-energy; and Pro-poor mobility.

2.4 GENUS on the Urban Gateway

The GENUS Network is available online and is hosted by the UN-Habitat Urban Gateway. The Urban Gateway is an internet-based tool that gathers UN-Habitat related networks under one umbrella, providing tools for sharing, interaction and action. It provides a user-friendly tool for partner engagement in UN-Habitat's work. The GENUS Newsletters are posted on the UN-Habitat Urban Gateway for easy access by all. In addition, network partners can post articles, best practices, experiences, videos, pictures, etc. onto the Urban Gateway. GENUS Network can be found on this link: <http://www.urbangateway.org/genus>.

2.5 Cooperation Agreements

UN-Habitat has signed a Cooperation Agreement with The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) which is based in India. On the basis of the Agreement, TERI is to carryout the following activities:

- (a) Organize a three days pro-poor mobility workshop in India with relevant experts, as an initial step for developing the pro-poor mobility component of the Knowledge Management Toolkit.
- (b) Undertake case-study research of 50 pro-poor mobility projects primarily from the South Asia Region guided by the Knowledge Management templates provided by the GENUS secretariat and 10 elaborated policy guidelines for pro-poor mobility.
- (c) Provide follow up support for the GENUS website in regard to updating on E-debate, events, online partner communication and uploading relevant reports and the case-study research in line with the other thematic areas of GENUS.

2.6 GENUS Network Mailing List

A comprehensive mailing list consisting of 130 contacts has been created which is updated on a regular basis. The mailing list contains names and email contacts of individuals, national utilities, organisations and institutions engaged in the GENUS three thematic areas. The mailing list is categorized into:

- Local government and municipalities
- Financial/donor agencies
- Government agencies
- Research institutions
- Private sector
- National utilities

3.0 THE GENUS INTERREGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

UN-Habitat is convening the Interregional Steering Committee Meeting which will be held on 3rd September 2012. The main objective of the meeting is to provide an update of the status of the GENUS initiative. This meeting will also discuss the Anchoring Strategy for the initiative beyond the Development Account Support scheduled to end in December 2012.

The meeting brings together Regional Steering Committee Members as well as energy and mobility experts drawn from regional and international NGOs and development agencies involved in energy research and development in the urban energy and mobility sectors

representing Africa, South Asia and Latin America and Caribbean regions. At the end of the meeting, it is expected that it will have achieved the following:

- An update presented on GENUS-related activities in the three regions;
- Comments provided on the Draft Anchoring Strategy for the initiative beyond the Development Account Support;
- Proposals made for case studies to be compiled into a booklet;
- Tentative dates set for organizing Regional GENUS meetings.

4. ANCHORING STRATEGY

As you may be aware, GENUS has been getting support from the United Nation's Development Account which will come to an end on 31st December 2012. We, therefore, need to develop a strategy that will see GENUS continue to exist beyond December 2012. This will be the key task of our meeting in Naples. These will entail thinking about:

- Fundraising
- How to anchor GENUS to other networks and/or existing activities;
- How to improve the current network to attract more partners;
- Expanding the thematic areas (namely slum electrification, waste to energy and pro-poor mobility) to include other areas such as renewable energy technologies (RETs), feed-in tariffs, green charcoal, etc.

We welcome your thoughts on this.

Global Energy Network for Urban Settlements [GENUS] Interregional Steering Committee Meeting

Naples, Italy
3rd September 2012

Tentative Agenda

2.00 – 2.10pm	Welcome Address – Vincent Kitio, Chief, Urban Energy Unit, UN-Habitat
2.10 – 2.30pm	Status of GENUS Project – John Kimani, Urban Energy Unit, UN-Habitat <i>(10 mins presentation, 10 mins brief discussion)</i>
2.30 – 2.50pm	Slum electrification in Africa: The Case of Liberia - Hady Sherif, Centre for Sustainable Energy Technology (CSET) <i>(10 mins presentation, 10 mins brief discussion)</i>
2.50 – 3.10pm	Slum electrification in Africa: The Case of Kenya – Harun Mwangi, Kenya Power Company (KPC) <i>(10 mins presentation, 10 mins brief discussion)</i>
3.10 – 3.15pm	Tea Break
3.15 – 3.35pm	Waste-to-Energy in Latin America and Caribbean Islands - Alexander Eaton, Network of Bio-digesters for Latin America (RedBioLAC) <i>(10 mins presentation, 10 mins brief discussion)</i>
3.35 – 3.55pm	Pro-poor Urban Mobility in South Asia - Akshima Ghate, The Energy Resource Institute (TERI) <i>(10 mins presentation, 10 mins brief discussion)</i>
3.55 – 4.15pm	Pro-poor Urban Mobility in Indonesia – Maria Renny, Institute for Transportation Studies (INSTRAN) <i>(10 mins presentation, 10 mins brief discussion)</i>
3.55 – 4.15pm	Waste-to-Energy in Latin America and Caribbean Islands – Eliseo Gavilan <i>(10 mins presentation, 10 mins brief discussion)</i>
4.15 – 4.30pm	Presentation of the Draft Strategy - John Kimani, Urban Energy Unit, UN-Habitat
4.30 – 5.30pm	Discussion
5.30 – 5.45pm	Planning for Regional Workshops
5.45 – 6.00pm	Way forward and Closing Remarks - Vincent Kitio