

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)



SAARC ENERGY CENTRE  
ISLAMABAD

# THE REPORT

Program Activity: PRG-83/2015/PROMO



SAARC Workshop

**"Energy Based Livelihoods Contributing to Economic Empowerment  
of the Marginalized Sectors and Women in the SAARC Region"**

01 - 02 December 2015  
Male - Maldives

Organized by

**SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad**

in collaboration with

**Ministry of Environment and Energy  
Government of Maldives**



**December 2015**

SAARC Energy Centre  
697, Street 43, Sector E-11/4, NPF,  
Islamabad, Pakistan  
[www.saarcenergy.org](http://www.saarcenergy.org)



SEC Program Activity (PRG-82/2015/POSIT)

**Workshop on  
Energy Based Livelihoods Contributing to Economic Empowerment  
of the Marginalized Sectors and Women in the SAARC Region  
1-2 December 2015,  
Male, Maldives**



**In Collaboration with  
Ministry of Environment and Energy,  
Government of Maldives**

---

## The Report

### Introduction

SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad under its program for FY 2015 organized a two day workshop on **Energy Based Livelihoods Contributing to Economic Empowerment of the Marginalized Sectors and Women in the SAARC Region** in Male, Maldives on 01-02 December 2015. The event was arranged in Mookai Hotel, Male in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Government of Maldives. Copy of the Workshop Program is available at **Annexure I**.

2. SEC has especially organized this workshop with a view to focusing its deliberations on issues around rural women and their energy needs. The overall expected outcome of this workshop would be to bring out realistic and achievable recommendations for economic empowerment of women and marginalized groups. The workshop focused on the following four specific areas:

- a) Recognizing energy based livelihood and energy technology needs for the economic integration of women and the marginalized sectors especially in the rural population
- b) Draw attention to the differential contextual conditions such as poverty and sustainability of resource base and financing that are contributing towards improving livelihood security of those who deserve immediate solutions
- c) Demand recognizing productive use of energy as an input and a means for empowering women and the marginalized sectors
- d) Clean energy and technology contribution to improving efficiency of the reproductive domain through which women grasp economic opportunities

### Participation

3. A total of 18 delegates from Member States Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, 4 Resource Persons from Bangladesh, India Nepal and Pakistan and 4 staff from SEC participated in the workshop. Participants list is available at **Annexure II**. The delegates and resource persons participated in the workshop discussing the opportunities and challenges faced by the marginalized groups and women in the region in regard to access to modern energy for livelihood, identifying the gaps that exist in the laws and showcasing different energy projects targeted to rural women and marginalized groups.

### Major Aspects Covered

4. The workshop agenda was divided into four major themes, namely:
- Energy, Gender and Poverty Nexus
  - Access to Energy Sources: Gender Perspective
  - Energy based livelihoods and Economic Empowerment
  - Integration of Gender Perspectives in Energy Policy

The technical session started with the country presentation by the Delegation of participating Member State, which offered participants the overview of the situation of energy with respect to social and economic activities of women and marginalized groups. The last technical session was a plenary to discuss the way forward.

### **Inaugural Session**

1. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Abdul Matheen, Honorable Minister of State for Environment and Energy, Government of Maldives. The session was graced by His Excellency Mr. Md. Khewar Ali Shah, High Commissioner of Pakistan for Maldives, Mr. Ajwad Mushtafa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Government of Maldives and Mr. Muhammad Naeem Malik, Director, SAARC Energy Centre.
2. The workshop was commenced with a Welcome Speech by Mr. Malik, Director, SAARC Energy Centre. Mr. Malik welcomed the resource persons and all the delegates from SAARC Member States for attending the workshop and extending keen interest. He especially thanked Chief Guest, Mr. Abdul Matheen, Honorable Minister of State for Environment and Energy, Government of Maldives for his gracious presence at this workshop and for encouraging the SAARC endeavors with respect to economically empowering Marginalized Groups and Women.
3. Mr. Malik informed that 80% of the women, within the SAARC region belong to the rural areas and that the Livelihoods of a majority of women within this region are sought from the informal sector. They depend largely on the traditional forms of energy. Despite the issues and challenges involved in using these resources there seems no significant effort to improve this misery. The importance and impact of modern energy on the livelihoods of women and men is enormous. Women and men in the rural sector lack information on new renewable energy options and their potential for improved livelihoods. As managers of the house, women need to be more informed about energy conservation and energy efficiency. Since women are over represented among the poor, overall economic development will only be possible through access to clean and cheap energy by women.
4. Director, SEC shared his strong belief that the workshop would definitely shed light on the importance of the topic and eventually facilitate the SAARC Member States to enhance the initiatives in increasing access to modern energy by the rural and marginalized groups through awareness campaign and by integrating gender issues in the energy policies.
5. Mr. Ajwad Mushtafa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Energy mentioned that Maldives is entirely dependent upon imported petroleum fuel for energy. He mentioned that Maldives does not practically have disparities between women and men in terms of access to modern energy. All the inhabited islands in Maldives are electrified and women cook in gas or electricity and they do not rely on traditional energy for their economic activities. He, however, emphasizes that Maldives has to diversify its energy sources and so Maldives is now planning penetration of more renewable energy in the country.

6. Mr. Abdul Matheen, Minister of State for Environment and Energy, in his inaugural address, stated that access to modern energy is very important with respect to social and economic development of both men and women. He welcomed the delegates to the beautiful island country of Maldives and expressed his belief that the discussion among the participants from the Member States would bring about a implementable recommendations in developing energy sector with respect to livelihood enhancement and economic empowerment of both women and men in the region.

### Technical Proceedings

7. Brief information on the technical proceedings, designed in multiple sessions, is as follows (All the presentations delivered during the workshop are available at SEC's website [www.saarcenergy.org](http://www.saarcenergy.org)):

#### Session 1 (Gender and Energy: Setting the Perspective)

- Introduction to SAARC Energy Centre and its Activities
- Introduction to Workshop and its Objectives

**Suresh Shrestha,**  
Programme Coordinator/ RF (ETE), SEC

- **Country Scenario: Presentations by the participating Member States**

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

#### Session 2: Energy, Gender and Poverty Nexus

- Defining vulnerable groups : Issues and Challenges for socio-economic development
- Barriers to economic development of Women and Marginalized Groups with Energy Perspective
- Implications on the health and environment of the women and marginalized groups due to energy use in the rural settings in South Asia

**Ms. Huma A. Chughtai**  
Law, Governance, Human Rights & Gender Specialist

#### Session 3: Access to Energy Sources: Gender Perspective

- Differentiated social and economic impacts of energy access on women and men
- Enhancing accessibility to modern energy by women and marginalized groups
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies as tools to meet energy requirement in the rural settings

**Ms. Lachana Shresthacharya**  
Biomass Energy Expert,

## Centre for Renewable Technologies, Nepal

**Session 4: Energy-based livelihoods and Economic Empowerment**

- Identifying energy-based livelihood and energy technology needs for the economic integration of women and marginalized sectors in the rural population in the SAARC Region
- Energy based livelihoods and potential energy technology options in SAARC for Women and Marginalized Groups
- Financing schemes for Women and MG to fulfill energy needs for their economic development

**Ms. Asma Haque**  
**Managing Director**  
**Prokaushali Sangsad Ltd.**  
**Bangladesh**

**Session 5: Integration of Gender Perspectives in Energy Policy**

- Identifying energy-based livelihood and energy technology needs for the economic integration of women and marginalized sectors in the rural population in the SAARC Region
- Energy based livelihoods and potential energy technology options in SAARC for Women and Marginalized Groups
- Financing schemes for Women and MG to fulfill energy needs for their economic development
- Identifying gender gaps in energy laws and policies
- Advocacy and awareness raising for behavioral/attitudinal change of women and men in energy practices

**Ms. Svati Bhogle**  
**Chief Executive,**  
**Technology Informatics Design Endeavour (TIDE),India**

**Session 6: Panel Discussion: Way Forward**

- **Panelists:**
  - **Mr. Muhammad Naeem Malik**
  - **Ms. Asma Haque**
  - **Ms. Huma A Chughtai**
  - **Ms. Lachana Shresthacharya**
  - **Ms. Svati Bhogle**

8. South Asia is a home of large population of women and other marginalized groups. Economic empowerment of this group is possible only through enabling policies that would address the difficulties and challenges these groups face with reference to access to modern



energy, particularly electricity. These groups are dependent on traditional fuels, because of which their health and education and their economic prosperity becomes difficult.

One of the most important things is the awareness. There is a need of behavioral change on a reasonable scale. Awareness about different techniques and technologies and awareness around existing funding opportunities—Consumer Financing, Climate Financing and subsidies should reach the target group. The role of government is very important in terms of acting as an enabler by integrating the issues of marginalized groups in energy policies. Women need to be included in energy policy decisions to develop programmes with an aim to increase access to modern energy, use of renewable energy and use energy in a more prudent way (Energy Efficiency).

SAARC Energy Center can play a pivotal role in knowledge sharing among the SAARC Member States. It may collaborate with other organizations working in this area. Grass root voice is very important in addressing the real need of the group. SAARC energy centre can make videos to include the voice of women from the rural setting and their energy needs. Wherever and whenever possible these sort of workshops also need to reach the grass root voice through video conferencing so that need based technologies could be developed and enabling policies be developed.

### **Dinner Reception**

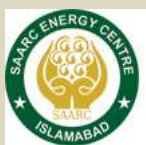
8. SAARC Energy Centre hosted Welcome Dinner on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 for the workshop delegates providing an informal opportunity for close interaction and networking. The Welcome Dinner was hosted in Lime Restaurant in Hotel Jen.

### **Valedictory Session**

9. Mr Suresh Shrestha thanked all the participants for their active and interactive participation in the two day workshop. He recapitulated the proceedings of the two day event. It was then followed by distribution of certificates to the participants. Mr. Muhammad Naeem Malik congratulated all the participants for successfully concluding the workshop and distributed certificates to all the participants.

18. Vote of Thanks was delivered by Ms. Mrs. Noorul Munawwara Mohideen, the delegate from Sri Lanka. On behalf of the participants, she thanked the organizers of the workshop, the resource persons and Mookai Hotel, Male, Maldives

19. The Ministry of Environment and Energy arranged for the delegates a site visit to Hulhumale island

**Annexure I****Programme**

**SAARC Workshop on Energy Based Livelihoods Contributing to  
Economic Empowerment of the Marginalized Sectors and Women in  
the SAARC Region  
1-2 December 2015,  
Mookai Hotel, Male, Maldives**

<b>Monday, 30 November 2015</b> Arrival of Guests	
<b>Tuesday, 01 December 2015</b>	
0830- 0900	<b>Registration</b>
<b>Inaugural Session</b>	
0900 -0930	<b>Welcome Addresses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Naeem Malik, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Director, SAARC Energy Centre</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Mr. AjwadMusthafa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
0930 - 0940	<b>Inaugural Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr. Abdul Matheen Mohamed Minister of State for Environment and Energy, Maldives</li> </ul>
0940-1010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Introduction to SAARC Energy Centre and its Activities</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Introduction to Workshop and its Objectives</b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Suresh Shrestha</b> Programme Coordinator, SEC</p>
1000-1045	<b>Coffee Break and Group Photograph</b>



<b>Session 1</b> <b>Gender and Energy (Setting the Perspective)</b>	
1045 -1200	<p><b>Women and Marginalized Groups as Consumers of Energy for household and economic activities (Country Presentations)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bangladesh</li> <li>• Bhutan</li> <li>• Maldives</li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Nepal</li> <li>• Pakistan</li> <li>• Sri Lanka</li> </ul> <p>Delegation from each member state will make a presentation of about 10 minutes.</p>
1200 - 1220	<b>Q &amp; A</b>
<b>Session 2</b> <b>Energy, Gender and Poverty Nexus</b>	
1220-1300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Defining vulnerable groups : Issues and Challenges for socio-economic development</li> <li>✓ Barriers to economic development of Women and Marginalized Groups with Energy Perspective</li> <li>✓ Implications on the health and environment of the women and marginalized groups due to energy use in the rural settings in South Asia</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ms. Huma Chughtai</b> Law, Governance &amp; Gender Specialist Pakistan</p>
1300 - 1310	<b>Q &amp; A</b>
1310-1400	Networking Lunch
<b>Session 3:</b> <b>Access to Energy Sources: Gender Perspective</b>	
1400- 1440	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Differentiated social and economic impacts of energy access on women and men</li> <li>✓ Enhancing accessibility to modern energy by women and marginalized groups</li> <li>✓ Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies as tools to meet energy requirement in the rural settings</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ms. Lachana Shresthacharya</b> Biomass Energy Expert CRT, Nepal</p>

1440 -1450	Q & A
<b>Session 4</b> <b>Energy-based livelihoods and Economic Empowerment</b>	
1450 - 1530	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identifying energy-based livelihood and energy technology needs for the economic integration of women and marginalized sectors in the rural population in the SAARC Region</li> <li>✓ Energy based livelihoods and potential energy technology options in SAARC for Women and Marginalized Groups</li> <li>✓ Financing schemes for Women and MG to fulfill energy needs for their economic development</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ms. Asma Haque</b> Managing Director, Prokaushali Sangsad Ltd, Bangladesh</p>
1530 - 1540	Q & A
1540 - 1600	<b>Coffee Break</b>
1900 onwards	<b>Welcome Dinner</b>
<b>Wednesday, 02December 2015</b>	
<b>Session 5</b> <b>Integration of Gender Perspectives in Energy Policy</b>	
0930 - 1010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Identifying gender gaps in energy laws and policies</li> <li>✓ Advocacy and awareness raising for behavioral/attitudinal change of women and men in energy practices</li> <li>✓ Role of SAARC Governments in promoting rural potential for sustainable economic development: Policies and Programs</li> <li>✓ Networking and capacity building on Gender and Energy from the SAARC Platform</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ms. Svati Bhogle</b> Chief Executive, Technology Informatics Design Endeavour(TIDE),India</p>
1010-1020	Q & A
1020 - 1100	<b>Coffee Beak</b>

<b>Session 5</b> <b>Panel Discussion – Way Forward</b>	
1100 - 1140	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Asma Huque</li> <li>Ms. Huma A Chughtai</li> <li>Ms. Lachana Shresthacharya</li> <li>Ms. Svati Bhogle</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Moderation by Mr. Suresh Shrestha</b></p>
1140 - 1150	Q & A
<b>Session 6</b> <b>Valedictory Session</b>	
1150 -1300	<p>Wrap of the Workshop  <b>-Mr. Suresh Shrestha,</b>  Programme Coordinator, SAARC Energy Centre</p> <p>Distribution of Certificates : <b>Mr. Naeem Malik,</b>  Director, SEC</p> <p>Vote of Thanks</p>
1300 - 1400	Networking Lunch
1400 onwards	Site Visit: Facilitated by the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives
<b>Thursday, 03 December 2015</b>	
<b>Delegates Depart</b>	

## Annexure II

**SAARC Workshop on Energy Based Livelihoods Contributing to Economic Empowerment of the  
Marginalized Sectors and Women in the SAARC Region**

1-2 December 2015,  
Mookai Hotel, Male, Maldives

### List of Resource Persons, Delegates & SEC Team Members

#	Delegate's Name and Organization	Contact Information
<b>Resource Persons</b>		
1.	<b>Mr. Asma Huque</b> Managing Director, ProkaushaliSangsad Ltd, Bangladesh	<a href="mailto:psldhaka2@gmail.com">psldhaka2@gmail.com</a>
2.	<b>Ms. Huma Chughtai</b> Law, Governance & Gender Specialist Pakistan	<a href="mailto:chughtai.huma@gmail.com">chughtai.huma@gmail.com</a>
3.	<b>Ms. Lachana Shresthacharya</b> Biomass Energy Expert CRT, Nepal	<a href="mailto:lachanasthapit@gmail.com">lachanasthapit@gmail.com</a>
4.	<b>Ms. Svati Bhogle</b> Chief Executive, Technology Informatics Design Endeavour(TIDE),India	<a href="mailto:svati.bhogle@gmail.com">svati.bhogle@gmail.com</a>
<b>Delegates from SAARC Member States</b>		
<b>Bangladesh</b>		

#	Delegate's Name and Organization	Contact Information
5.	<p><b>Mr. Md. Abdur Rouf Miah</b> Director (Sustainable Energy), Power Cell. Ministry of Power, Energy &amp; Mineral Resources, Bangladesh.</p>	<a href="mailto:dir.sus@powercell.gov.bd">dir.sus@powercell.gov.bd</a>
<b>Bhutan</b>		
6.	<p><b>Ms. Dema Damchu</b> Engineer, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan.</p>	<a href="mailto:ddema@moea.gov.bt">ddema@moea.gov.bt</a>
7.	<p><b>Mr. Galey Dorji</b> Engineer, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan.</p>	<a href="mailto:gdorji@moea.gov.bt">gdorji@moea.gov.bt</a> ,
<b>India</b>		
8.	<p><b>Shri Satish Kumar</b> Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power, India.</p>	<a href="mailto:satish@arpg.nic.in">satish@arpg.nic.in</a>
9.	<p><b>Shri Braj Mohan</b> Director, Ministry of Power, India.</p>	<a href="mailto:braj.mohan@nic.in">braj.mohan@nic.in</a>

#	Delegate's Name and Organization	Contact Information
10.	<b>Mr. Sandeep Sharma</b> Deputy Director(NRLPS), Ministry of Rural Development, India.	<a href="mailto:sands341@gmail.com">sands341@gmail.com</a>
<b>Maldives</b>		
11.	<b>Ms. AishathZuha</b> Program Officer, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives.	<a href="mailto:aishath.zuha@environment.gov.mv">aishath.zuha@environment.gov.mv</a>
12.	<b>Ms. Maliya Kurik Riza</b> Project Management Unit, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives.	
13.	<b>Mr. Ibrahim Nizam</b> Senior Engineer, State Electric Company Ltd, Maldives.	
14.	<b>Ms. Aminath Saadhaa</b> Assistant Engineer, State Electric Company Ltd, Maldives.	
15.	<b>Ms. Aminath Laila</b> Assistant Manager, Male' Water and Sewerage Company Pvt Ltd, Maldives.	

#	Delegate's Name and Organization	Contact Information
16.	<b>Ms. Mariam Shahula</b> Director, FENAKA Corporation Ltd, Maldives.	
17.	<b>Ms. Aminath Nathasha</b> Asst. Director, FENAKA Corporation Ltd, Maldives.	
18.	<b>Ms. Fathmath FiznaYoosuf</b> Assistant Engineer, Maldives Energy Authority, Maldives.	
19.	<b>Ms. Shazeena Ismail</b> Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives.	<a href="mailto:shazeena.ismail@environment.gov.mv">shazeena.ismail@environment.gov.mv</a>
<b>Nepal</b>		
20.	<b>Mr. Laxmi Narayan Upreti</b> Under Secretary Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Government of Nepal	<a href="mailto:lnuprety@yahoo.com">lnuprety@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		



#	Delegate's Name and Organization	Contact Information
21.	<b>Mrs. Susilapambagoda Pathirana</b> DGM(C&RRT), Ceylon Electricity Board, Sri Lanka.	<a href="mailto:dgmcagen@ceb.lk">dgmcagen@ceb.lk</a>
22.	<b>Mrs. Noorul Munawwara Mohideen</b> Project Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board, Sri Lanka.	<a href="mailto:munaw61@yahoo.com">munaw61@yahoo.com</a>
<b>SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad</b>		
23.	<b>Mr. Muhammad Naeem Malik</b> Director	<a href="mailto:naeemmalik@saarcenergy.org">naeemmalik@saarcenergy.org</a> Tel: +92-51-2221943 Fax: +92-51-2221937 Cell: + 92 305 5555233
24.	<b>Mr. Suresh Shrestha,</b> Program Coordinator	<a href="mailto:suresh@saarcenergy.org">suresh@saarcenergy.org</a> Tel: +92-51-2228802 (Ext 109) Fax: +92-51-2221937 Cell: +92-314-2580555
25.	<b>Ms. Saira Ahmed</b> Communication Specialist	<a href="mailto:cs@saarcenergy.org">cs@saarcenergy.org</a> Tel: +92-51-2228802 (Ext 105) Fax: +92-51-2221937 Cell: +92-334-5551982

#	Delegate's Name and Organization	Contact Information
26.	<b>Mr. Arshad Munir Khan,</b> Computer Operating Officer	<a href="mailto:arshd.munir@saarcenergy.org">arshd.munir@saarcenergy.org</a> Tel: +92-51-2228804 (Ext 113) Fax: +92-51-2221937 Cell: +92-321-5693781

Brief Pictorial View of the Workshop







