

DEO day 2004:

Public Private Partnerships: Providing energy services to the poor?

Place: Catherijne Convent
Lange Nieuwstraat 38
Utrecht



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www.yes-dc.org

YES-DC and DEO

The Young Energy Specialists and Development Co-operation, in short YES-DC, is an association of students and young professionals interested and/or working in the field of energy and international co-operation. Once in every two years YES-DC organises a 'DEO-day'. DEO stands for 'Debat Energie en Ontwikkeling', which means 'Debate on Energy and Development'. On a DEO-day various junior and senior experts (YES-DC members and non-members) are invited to participate in energy and development co-operation related discussions.



DEO-day 2004

This year's discussion focuses on the concept of Public Private Partnerships (PPP's) regarding energy supply for the poor. PPP's are a relatively new but eagerly adopted concept in the realm of development co-operation. PPP's refer to the collaboration between public entities and private companies to realise public projects and objectives. The recent popularity of the concept in the field of international co-operation partly emerged at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), where the need to increase the involvement of the private sector in the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals was discussed. The enthusiasm for PPP's in international co-operation rests on the idea that a combination of the cost-efficiency and sector specific knowledge in the private sector with the social and environmental consciousness of the public sector will result in successful development projects.

For this year's DEO-day conference the DGIS policy of the Dutch Ministry of International Co-operation (DGIS) document 'Bridging the Energy Gap' will serve as a framework for the lectures and discussions. In the DGIS document 'Bridging the Energy Gap', an outline of Dutch development goals is stated in relation to the WSSD (Johannesburg Summit). In this context, the Netherlands Dutch support aims at providing affordable and reliable energy services to 10 million poor people by 2015. PPP's are envisioned as an important instrument to achieve this goal.



Focus:

On this DEO-day we want to emphasise both the opportunities and the bottlenecks that PPP's imply for energy supply in developing countries. A particular bottleneck focuses on the participation of the end users in the decision making process. This question has been raised before to demonstrate that development aid often has been the result of technocratic decisions made by people far away from 'the field', and that consequently the transfer and implementation of technologies and knowledge was regularly far from successful. On the DEO-day we want to investigate a new angle of this old problem: How how is the consultation of the actual end user taken care of in the forging of public private partnerships PPP's? Can it be assumed that the market mechanisms underlying the 'private' element in this approach will improve the representation of the end-users needs? At the end of the DEO-day, the discussion will be translated into terms that are relevant for the earlier mentioned Dutch DGIS policy.



Programme: lectures and workshops

The morning programme will start with an introduction on the opportunities and bottlenecks surrounding PPPs. This will be followed by presentations from three speakers looking at PPPs from different angles. Each presentation will allow for short discussions afterwards. In the afternoon the participants will be divided into three parallel workshops representing the 'public', 'private' and 'civil' perspectives. At the end of the workshop meetings, the outcomes will be discussed in a final forum. Of course lunch is not forgotten and those who are tired of discussing or those who cannot get enough of it, are all invited to have a drink afterwards.

Organisation committee

This year's DEO-day is organized by the following five enthusiastic volunteers:

Clement Roos: roos@ecn.nl
Roselyne van der Heul: r.vanderheul@etcnl.nl
Ruth Mourik: mourik@ecn.nl
Henry Heine: henryheine@zonnet.nl
Bastiaan Teune: b.teune@etcnl.nl

For any questions please contact one of us.