



Press Release

Ministry of Energy and GIZ kick-off Thai-German Renewable Energy Community Project

Bangkok, 20 October 2015. Thailand is aiming to maintain its position as a frontrunner when it comes to renewable energy deployment in South-East Asia. In order to bring about even more renewable energy installations with a special focus on creating local value in Thai communities, the Thai Ministry of Energy (MoEN) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH have now signed an Implementation Agreement to carry out joint activities that promote community-based renewable energy projects. “We aim to utilise the full potential for local renewable energy projects in Thailand by cooperating and sharing experiences with German companies and experts in the field”, said Director of Office of Public Participatory Promotion Kanapong Tepakorn. According to Mr. Kanapong, the focus on community-based renewable energy projects will not only advance the renewable energy sector in Thailand as a whole, it will also create more awareness for clean energy solutions and bring considerable added value to local communities. “In Germany, more than 40% of all installed renewable energy capacity is in the hand of citizens, so the communities play a crucial role in the energy sector. We want to cooperate with the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and GIZ to advance this sector in Thailand as well and create local jobs and income”.

In Germany many thousand renewable energy systems are operated locally in communities by a variety of actors. Since 2006, almost 800 energy cooperatives have been established, currently owning a total of 933 MW installed capacity. Sharing German experiences with Thai communities will create more awareness for the benefits of local energy production. “The prevalent scenario for future energy generation will likely be decentralized renewable energy generation close to local demand”, stated Thomas Chrometzka, Director of Renewable Energy for GIZ Thailand. “Community-based renewable energy projects are picking up speed in many countries in the world and have the potential to form a central piece of that energy network of the future.”

To make this vision come true MoEN and GIZ kicked off their joint project with the Thai-German Renewable Energy Community Conference with approximately 200 representatives from Thai and German communities, government agencies and the private sector. Experts from Germany and Thailand discussed challenges and drafted ideas for concrete projects in approximately 8 communities within the Kingdom of Thailand. Several

Facilitator

Thai and German enterprises gave feedback to the interested communities about technical solutions available. In the following two years, GIZ and MoEN will support the communities further with technical advice and especially with designing suitable community-based business models that necessary to trigger investments in projects on the ground.

The “Thai-German Renewable Energy Community Conference and Solution Workshop” follows up on a first event which took place in October 2013 and marks the start of an annual series of conferences to support renewable energy project development in Thai communities. The conference has been organized in the framework of the Project Development Programme which is implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi).

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is owned by the German government with operations around the globe. GIZ provides services in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ also works on behalf of other public and private sector clients both in Germany and overseas. These include the governments of other countries, the European Commission, the United Nations and other donor organizations. GIZ operates in more than 130 countries and employs approximately 16,500 staff worldwide.

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