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WISIONS looks for new visions

3rd Call launched for Sustainable Energy Project Support (SEPS)

WISIONS – an initiative of the Wuppertal Institute is supporting innovative sustainable energy projects since two years. The aim is to spread knowledge on successful implemented good-practices (in PREP) as well as direct support to implement ambitious ideas and concepts (in SEPS) worldwide.

In 2005 more than 100 applications for SEPS from 36 countries had been submitted. The high-quality project ideas ranged from the use of solar energy for food conservation in Burkina Faso to efficient street lighting systems in India. What also became clear, however, is that especially in developing and emerging countries the realisation and implementation often fails due to missing expert advice, funds, or political support.

In the last two SEPS rounds so far 18 promising projects have been selected and their implementation is currently supported with WISIONS expertise, contacts, knowledge transfer and specifically by financial support.

SEPS has the key objective of identifying projects with the real potential to be of strategic importance in renewable and efficient use of energy. Projects supported must be innovative, sustainable and can be replicated in other parts of the world. They have to be in a state ready for implementation and a well-developed implementation strategy must exist.

To make a contribution to the implementation of even more innovative project ideas WISIONS now starts a third call for SEPS applications. A total grant amount of 500,000 EUR, provided by the Swiss-based foundation ProEvolution, is to be awarded. Project applications should be submitted until July 17, 2006 by using the application form.

PREP, the other part of WISIONS, primarily focuses on fostering good practice in energy and resource efficiency. We collect and promote good-practice examples on actual changing topics. So far five PREP-brochures have been published and can be downloaded from the Internet. The brochure on the seminal topic of “Microfinance and Renewable Energy” presents ambitious projects from Peru, South Africa, China and Nepal that have been successfully implemented. At present five projects with the focus on “Energy in Schools” have been selected and will soon be released.

Being published on the Internet and in brochures, the projects get the publicity they deserve and also provide certain ideas for more people in other countries to improve the efficient and sufficient use of resources. Finally, with the combination of supporting not yet realized project ideas and already implemented successful projects, WISIONS enhances chances of knowledge transfer from practical experience to action.

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