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SRI LANKA
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY

Board Meeting 2017/01

Minutes of the 1st Board Meeting of 2017 to discuss the Implementation of the "Appropriate Mitigation Actions in the Energy Generation & End-Use Sectors in Sri Lanka (NAMA)" project

Tuesday 04 April 2017 at the Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy, Conference Room, 1st Floor, Ministry of Power & Renewable Energy, 72, Ananda Coomarswamy Mw, Colombo 07.

Chair:

Dr. B.M.S. Batagoda, Secretary, Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy

Present:

Dr. Visaka Hidellage, Assistant Country Director, United Nations Development Programme
Mr. Harsha Wickramasinghe, National Project Director, Deputy Director General (Strategy), Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA)
Dr. R.D.S. Jayathunga, Director, Climate Change Secretariat
Ms. Sureka Perera, Programme Analyst, United Nations Development Programme
Mr. M.M.R. Pathmasiri, Technical Advisor, United Nations Development Programme
Mr. Gayan Subasinghe, Project Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme
Mr. Chamila Delpitiya, Sector Specialist, NAMA Project
Ms. Hasula Wickremasinghe, Programme Assistant, Climate Change Secretariat
Ms. Chamika Iddagoda, Project Associate, NAMA Project
Ms. Apsara Katugaha, Engineer, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority
Ms. Ravini Karunaratne, Engineer, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority
Mr. G.B. Wimalaratne, National Technical Advisor, NAMA Project
Mr. Namiz Musafar, National Consultant- Biogas Technology, NAMA Project
Ms. Lakmini Premarathne, Project Assistant, United Nations Development Programme

Excused:
Ms. Lovita Ramguttee, Deputy Country Director, United Nations Development Programme

I. Opening Remarks

Dr. B. M. S. Batagoda, Secretary, Ministry of Power & Renewable Energy and Dr. Visaka Hidellage, Assistant Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) greeted the board meeting participants and invited the project team to present the project progress. Dr. Hidellage congratulated Mr. M.M.R. Pathmasiri, the former Director General of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority for taking up the role of the technical advisor after retirement; for Biomass and NAMA projects and also for the Trilateral South South Project which is in the pipeline. His wealth of experience and technical ability will be a great advantage for these projects moving forward.

II. Presentation of Project Progress in 2017 Quarter 1

Mr. Gayan Subasinghe, Project Coordinator of the Appropriate Mitigation Actions in the Energy Generation & End-Use Sectors in Sri Lanka (NAMA) project presented the progress so far under each component.

Number of ICT related activities have been initiated under Component 1 of the project in this year. The existing energy database (EnerGIS) at SLSEA has been reviewed and further ICT development requirements have been identified. NAMA GHG inventory concept has also been finalized. Baseline data and the current reporting mechanism at provincial and sectoral level have been studied and how to integrate these databases have been recognized.

Preliminary MAC analysis for 17 mitigation options is completed and MAC analysis for the long list of mitigation options for the energy sector is started. However, there are limitations in the MAC analysis as it does not reflect the social and environmental aspects. Therefore, a multi criteria analysis and a barrier analysis for the mitigation options in the energy sector is needed in order to capture the hurdles to be affronted when adopting these options.

Presenting the project progress for biogas sector, Mr. Gayan Subasinghe stated that 61 biogas units have been completed and 37 units are under construction. Most of these units are constructed in North Western and Southern provincial councils. NAMA project is bridging the local government, potential applicants and biogas constructors. Project received 70 applications in response to the paper advertisement, and have registered 17 biogas service providers so far. Biogas from these units is used mostly for thermal applications at household level such as cooking and water heating. Dr. Batagoda remarked that new technology should be utilized to ensure continuity and sustainability, as maintaining biogas units could get messy and unattractive to users. Mr. G.B. Wimalaratne said that a quality assurance system has been introduced to safeguard proper maintenance.

Observing NAMA institutional arrangement presented under Component 4; Dr. Hidellage stated that it should clearly indicate where to submit and whom to get approval from if a person/organization is

interested in doing a NAMA project. Dr. Jayathunga acknowledged that the experts have noted that the structure is somewhat complicated and might discourage a project developer. Indicating the number of days/time needed for each stage was recommended. National Project Director proposed that an electronic document review system, where approving authorities and experts can work independently in series than in large committees as the solution.

Analyzing the project budget for the year 2017; Mr. Gayan Subasinghe explained that a significant allocation has been set aside for ICT. Budget utilization so far has been satisfactory and the project will strive to utilize 40% by the end of the second quarter.

III. Challenges Encountered in Project Implementation

HEM has not yielded a significant reduction in energy use during the pilot phase. Mr. G.B. Wimalaratne, National Technical Advisor, NAMA Project explained that slightly higher speed of HEMs compared to standard efficiency motor, results in sending more air to the trough which offsets the benefits. Mr. Chamila Delpitiya, Sector Specialist, NAMA Project stated that there is no significant time saving due to increase of speed. The time difference has been only 15 minutes approximately. Mr. Gayan Subasinghe and Dr. Visaka Hidellage observed that the replacement might not be worth the investment.

Dr. Batagoda inquired whether this means that the high efficient motor is not energy efficient and suggested that a wider sample should be used for the trial. Mr. G.B. Wimalaratne described that the project attempted to replace IE 1 category with IE 3 which have around 6% higher efficiency. However, this few percentage of efficiency gain can be offset by the additional power requirement due to speed increase as such replacement of existing motors with HEMs will not bring significant energy saving in this application. A better way forward is to introduce VFDs instead of replacing standard motors with high efficiency motors. If a high efficiency motor is used for a chiller or a pump then there will be a significant saving. Further discussions regarding high efficiency motors will be held with the tea industry and motor suppliers. It was agreed that the project will switch from HEM to VFDs since the ultimate objective is to reduce GHG emissions.

IV. Summary of Decisions and Action Points

- The project should come up with an alternative for high efficiency motors. A detailed analysis of the trial results should be done and presented to the stakeholders including tea sector representatives and motor suppliers. A decision about the revisions should be reached and finalized at the project midterm review.

- The project midterm review is scheduled for late July/ early August 2017. The process of hiring a local and an international consultant will be initiated in May 2017.

- As the NAMA Pro-Doc has been signed on 10th June 2015, the project end will be in June 2019 instead of 2018. This was discussed and clarified during the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub visit to Sri Lanka in February 2017.

V. Concluding Remarks

Dr. Batagoda urged the project to adopt latest technology in order to ensure user friendliness which would contribute towards the sustainability of project outputs and encouraged the team to carry on with the good work to achieve significant results in the year 2017.

Approved:  Date: 18.07.2017

Dr. B.M.S. Batagoda
Secretary, Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy