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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

Regional capacity building workshop on the “Water - Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit: Technology Transfer”, on 30 – 31 October 2017, Amman, Jordan.

INFORMATION NOTE

(1) Introduction

Securing water and energy needs represents a critical issue, which has not yet received the required attention. Energy production consumes significant amounts of water; providing water, in turn, consumes energy. In the Arab region, confronting the issues of water scarcity and the increasing demand on energy to realize sustainable development plans represents a challenge that needs to be tackled through an integrated set of wise energy and water policy decisions.

In the light of the above and within the context of the work program 2016-2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), will organize a regional capacity building workshop on “Water - Energy Nexus Operational Toolkit: Technology Transfer”, on 30 – 31 October 2017, Amman, Jordan.”

(2) Background

Upon an Intergovernmental Consultative meeting on the Water-Energy Nexus, held in the ESCWA House in Beirut, June 2012, by the Committee on Water Resources and the Committee on Energy, the representatives of the Member Countries (MCs) of both Committees identified seven-priority areas, covering the following topics:

1. Knowledge and awareness raising
2. Increasing policy coherence
3. Examining the water-energy security nexus
4. Increasing efficiency
5. Informing technology choices
6. Promoting renewable energy
7. Addressing climate change and natural disasters

Accordingly, ESCWA is implementing a UN Development Account (DA) Project on “Developing the Capacities of ESCWA Member Countries to Address the Water and Energy Nexus for Achieving Sustainable Developing Goals”, during the period between December 2014 and 2017. The DA project targets to strengthen the capacity of ESCWA member countries to achieve an integrated and sustainable management of water and energy resources to contribute in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The indicated project is implemented through two parallel and complementary tracks. The first track, targets high-level officials in ministries responsible for water and energy who will be engaged in training on water and energy nexus considerations in their strategies, policies and plans at the national and regional levels through two regional workshops. The first training was performed through a regional policy toolkit¹, comprised of seven modules in relevance to the prioritized areas. The second track, focuses on water and energy service providers and three technical areas of interventions. These areas will be addressed through an operational Toolkit made up of three standalone modules on:

- Resource Efficiency²
- Renewable Energy (RE)³
- Technology Transfer

Based on the above, ESCWA organized three workshops: (1) on 30-31 Oct. 2016, in Amman on “Water-Energy Nexus Policies”, to build a complete conceptual framework for the water-energy nexus using regional policy available tools to contribute to sustainable development⁴, and (2) on 20-21 Feb. 2017 in Manama, on “Water-Energy Nexus: Resource Efficiency”⁵, to improve efficiency during the production and consumption of water and energy resources and services, by presenting an operational Resource Efficiency module⁴. And (3) on 11-12 July 2017 on “Water–Energy Nexus: Renewable Energy”, in Beirut, Lebanon⁶.

In the scope of accomplishing the activities under this DA project, ESCWA will be organizing a capacity building workshop on “Water–Energy Nexus: Technology Transfer”, on 30-31 October 2017 , in Amman, Jordan. .

It is worth mentioning, that ESCWA plans to hold a final workshop on Water-Energy Nexus Policies to illustrate the DA project end results in November 2017, before the official project closure date in December 2017.

¹ <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/water-energy-nexus-regional-policy-toolkit>

² www.unescwa.org/publications/water-energy-nexus-sustainable-development-goals

³ <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/water-energy-nexus-renewable-energy-module>

⁴ www.unescwa.org/events/water-energy-nexus-policy-workshop.

⁵ www.unescwa.org/events/water-energy-nexus-operational-toolkit

⁶ www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/water-energy-nexus-renewable-energy-module-english.pdf.

(3) Main Objectives

The primary objective of this workshop is to strengthen the capacity of ESCWA member countries in terms of enhancing their ability to achieve an integrated and sustainable management of water and energy resources thereby contributing to their sustainable development. The toolkit that will be disseminated during the workshop, focuses on improving the technical capacity of government officials who manage or oversee the provision of water or energy services in ESCWA Member Countries. It provides them with technological strategies that can be used to integrate water-energy nexus considerations into their operations, activities and projects.

(4) Themes

- The meeting will highlight:
 - The different mechanisms used for technology transfer from the technical, institutional and financial perspectives.
 - Energy efficiency technologies.
 - Technologies related to oil and gas.
 - Desalination and water pumping technologies.
 - Technologies for the production, treatment, efficient use and transport of fresh water and wastewater.
 - Potential of local manufacturing of different RE technologies in the Arab region and the related challenges.
 - Barriers related to water-energy nexus when transferring new technologies.
 - The related indicators to renewable energy technologies transfer in the region.
 - The efficient use of resources at the operational and maintenance levels of water and energy facilities.
 - The requirements for creating an appropriate environment for technology transfer.
 - Case studies in related fields.

(5) Participants

The workshop will bring together executives/practitioners from middle management in the government, public utilities working in the electricity, oil and gas industry, renewable energy, energy efficiency, hybrid system and the water sectors (including water desalination, water production, transmission, water treatment, waste water and water sewage). Experts/officials/Academia representatives from concerned Arab, regional international entities will also, be invited to contribute to foster interactive discussion and interventions.

(6) Organization of the Workshop

The workshop will be held on 30th and 31st of October 2017, whereas ESCWA staff will elaborate details about the DA project. Where power points will be delivered on the operational toolkit: Technology transfer . Then, number of invited Arab/regional/international experts by the ESCWA will make presentations and/or panel discussions, to discuss different subjects (including different cases in the region), related to concrete projects and experiences. There will also be an opportunity for interventions from the participants. The workshop will involve a breakdown of all participants into parallel working groups, each focusing on a theme subject of common interest to the members.

The outcomes of the working groups that are based on the interventions/discussions of the participants will be presented in a joint session at the end. Based on these discussions and interventions, it is expected to come up with the appropriate comments and recommendations. At the end, ESCWA project team will wrap up the workshop and summarize the key results of the workshop to serve for future activities on the water-energy nexus. An Arabic/English/French interpretation will be available during the workshop.

(7)Date, Time and Venue

The Regional Capacity Building Workshop on the “Water–Energy Nexus: Technology Transfer”, will be held in Kempinski hotel, Amman, Jordan on 30– 31 October 2017. The event will start from 9:00 am to 16:00 (registration will be at the first day from 8:30 – 9:00 am), participants are kindly requested to arrive to the building at 8:00 am on Monday 30 October 2017 to secure their identification cards and access the building. The relevant Agenda will be provided soon to participants in the workshop.

(8)Logistics

Sponsored participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance for up to three nights in Aman, as well as a roundtrip economic class airplane ticket to and from Aman issued on the least expensive route in accordance with UN rules and regulations. In addition, participants will receive a list of hotel prices with special deals for the ESCWA.

Each participant shall undertake the preparation related to her/his participation, in terms of: (i) securing hotel reservation in the venue location, (ii) visa, and any other requirements for travelling to Jordan. Participants can obtain their visas from the Jordanian embassy in their respective countries. In case of needing an assistance to obtain the entry visa, ESCWA can provide the participant with a supporting letter, upon his/her request.

(9) Correspondences

Correspondences and inquiries concerning the workshop should be addressed to:

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