

Stakeholder dialogue on access to energy in India

Business, government, and other stakeholders discussed ways to provide affordable and reliable energy services for currently underserved population in India. Representatives from the private sector, government, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral financing institutions came together for a one-day stakeholder dialogue on access to energy in India, organized by the WBCSD and TERI-BCSD India, on **18 September 2008**.

The participants agreed that the key challenges for India are reaching to remote areas, developing financially viable models, and scaling-up the existing pilot initiatives scattered across the country. The discussion mainly focused on understanding the Government of India's ongoing efforts to reach remote rural areas, on exploring business models for sustainable-energy services and identifying the enabling factors and incentives to scale up the successful models. In this regard, panelists stressed the importance of creating strong entrepreneurial franchise models, carbon credits that enhances project viability and sharing experiences from various parts of the country and elsewhere in the world.

The key speakers at the dialogue included representatives from the Ministry of Power, Government of India, the Chattisgarh State Renewable Energy Development Agency, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), TERI, the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Asian Development Bank, private sector representatives from some of the leading energy and financial services companies in India, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations including GVEP International, the READ Foundation, REEEP and SNV Netherlands Development Organization.

WBCSD and TERI-BCSD India will build on the outcomes of this dialogue to help promote coordination and cooperation between the key stakeholders to develop sustainable business models for access to energy in India and beyond.