

Developing certified energy managers/auditors


With rising energy costs, concerns about global warming, and increasing energy use as development progresses, it is clear that commercial energy must be managed efficiently. This requires a cadre of energy managers and auditors. India's Energy Conservation Act and Bureau of Energy Efficiency have institutionalized energy efficiency services. A national scheme in India has developed some 7,500 certified energy managers auditors and managers since 2004.

In the belief that India's success in those training efforts should be publicized, the APO organized a workshop on Energy Management Capacity Building: Formulation of National Frameworks for the Development of Certified Energy Managers and Auditors in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 24–28 May. Two experts from India, K.K. Chakravarti and A.K. Asthana, were deputed to the workshop. They covered the basics of energy efficiency concepts in specific areas such as lighting, refrigeration, and air-conditioning; explained India's national certification examination for energy managers and auditors; and then oversaw the drafting of national planning frameworks by the 22 participants from seven member countries.

It was acknowledged that it would be difficult to replicate the Indian system soon. Joint Secretary Ahmed Ulla, Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Government of Bangladesh, commented that his immediate task would be “trying to convince higher-ups in the ministry of the need for implementing a course.” Deputy Head, Planning and Tariff Office, Tek Socheath, of Electricité du Cambodge, said that, “We have no energy auditors,

so we gained knowledge but can apply it only to a limited level.”

The relative newness of certification systems for energy managers and auditors also led several participants to request that the APO organize national training programs in their countries. Some APO member countries already have energy guidelines in place and plans for producing certified managers and auditors. For example, Indonesia identified eight priority sectors for energy management and calculated that 25% reductions could be achieved in cement, petrochemicals, and commercial buildings. The country requires 800 energy managers and 1,600 energy auditors to achieve those goals.

In their workshop evaluations, both resource speakers noted that follow-up activities would be necessary for the draft planning frameworks to result in workable certification systems. Noted Asthana, “Due to the increased threat of global warming, most countries have initiated the process of enacting an Energy Conservation Law.” Such laws would lead to greater recognition of the need for energy managers/auditors, he predicted. 



Session of Energy Management Capacity Building workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia Photo courtesy of NPCC