



**Invitation to the Side Event  
renewables 2004**

**Bundesrat Saal 315  
Tue June 1st  
18:30 – 20:00 h**

***How to Pave the Way to Renewable Energy in Afghanistan***

**Attended by:**

**Ministry of Water and Power (MWP, Kabul/Afghanistan),  
Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (AFD/FFEM),  
Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie (ADEME),  
Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarité (GERES),  
Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung  
(BMZ, Bonn/Germany),  
Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW, Frankfurt/Germany),  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH**

Only 6% of the population in Afghanistan has access to reliable and affordable electricity. Households spend sometimes more than 30 % of their monthly income for non-electric energy, in particular wood and other biomass for cooking, heating, washing. However, forest coverage is estimated at only 3 – 4 % of the country. All this hampers economic and social development as well as a peaceful reconciliation process within the country.

It is assumed that extending the grid to all villages in Afghanistan would not be feasible. In addition, rural electrification by grid extension might not be viable for all parts of rural Afghanistan. Concerning fuel wood supply, prices are soaring and wood imports from neighbouring countries are increasing.

The Afghan-French-German Energy Initiative aims to improve the energy access for the rural population in Afghanistan through trilateral coordinated action.

The main components are:

- strategy development for sustainable energy utilisation in rural Afghanistan
- energy efficiency in buildings and promotion of solar architectural design
- improvement of non-electric household energy supply (cooking, heating)
- mini and micro-hydro power promotion
- encouraging private sector participation

The AFG Energy Initiative will enhance income and employment generation in rural areas. The Initiative will emphasize synergies with the health and education sector, and contribute to the start-up of Rural Energy Services by training and capacity building.