

Opening Statement by Mr. Thomas Stelzer,
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Affairs (DESA)

Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific
13 March 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

Honourable Ministers,

by increasing demand for fossil fuel-based energy have combined to make this a complex issue.

Like never before, the curre

The cost of renewable energy will ultimately influence its desirability for many countries. Countries at different levels of development will have very different sets of incentives in this regard.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Enlarging renewable energy options for all countries to meet expanding energy demand is critical to promoting sustainable development.

STI systems that are better linked to sustainable development objectives could contribute in this regard. Making RETs more affordable is one way to ensure this.

STI and RET systems that are focused on addressing the needs of the poor would also provide greater incentives for renewable energy use worldwide.

Therefore, there is a need to review the current objectives and delivery mechanisms of available STI systems. Setting STI goals in each country to ensure that they address basic energy challenges and sustainable development objectives should be made a policy priority. This might also entail integrating indigenous knowledge and grassroots technological innovation into more formal research and development systems.

Today's reflection on these issues will benefit from sharing experiences and lessons learned across the region.

This consultation is an opportunity to discuss regional approaches for example to off-set costs associated with renewable energy systems to expanding renewable energy use. Regional burden sharing, for instance, could provide an effective incentive to invest in needed technologies for many countries.

I look forward to an interesting and stimulating discussion and wish you success in these deliberations.

Thank you.