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Community Power

Day: September 11th 2017

Time: 13:00 – 14.30

Room: OTOMI

Description:

The side event will highlight the need for a citizens and community centered approach when developing a long-term strategy for renewable energy deployment. The reasons for this are primarily in maximising the social and economic benefits for citizens and communities, in particular in a developing country context.

Unfortunately, a number of renewable energy projects have boasted a substantial negative record, including land grabs, displacement of vulnerable communities, indigenous and human rights violations, and the destruction of ecosystems and sites of cultural and spiritual significance.

Such negative impacts can be minimized and benefits can be maximised if citizens and communities own the generation systems. Community and other forms of local ownership increases substantially social acceptance, and, even more, social support. Considering the huge amount of human and financial resources which will be required for the switch to renewables, such support appears indispensable.

The side event will present specific cases from various continents and also general conclusions with regard to the importance of community power and policies favourable for community based investment.

This session will also explore an emerging collaborative platform to strengthen socio-environmental standards and accountability in the renewable energy economy in order to foster constructive and collaborative solutions through an on-line database, publications, a shared research agenda, and focused campaigns to foster regulatory change.

Objective:

Community power should become a central pillar of every country's energy strategy in order to maximize social, economic and environmental benefits and to minimize in particular negative social impacts. For this purpose, success stories and negative experiences will be presented. Based on this, the side event will identify some of the key elements and policies which are necessary for an accelerated renewable energy deployment, both in developing but also in industrialised countries.

Speakers:

- Stefan Gsänger, WWEA
- Tetsunari Iida, ISEP
- Ezequiel Toledo, UNAM
- Jazmín Sánchez Arceo, Articulación Social de Energía Renovable de Yucatán
- Sergio Oceransky, Yansa

Detailed Programme:

- Community Power in the World An introduction (Stefan Gsänger, WWEA)
- Renewable Energy Citizens driving the Energy Transition in Japan (Tetsunari Iida, ISEP)
- Wind Power in Mexico: An Analysis of Social Impacts (Ezequiel Toledo, UNAM)
- Wind Power in Mexico: An Analysis of Environmental Impacts (Jazmín Sánchez Arceo, Articulación Social de Energía Renovable de Yucatán)
- Enhancing Latin American Community Power (Sergio Oceransky, Yansa)

Organisers:

