

ROLE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN PROMOTING ENERGY COOPERATION

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Focus Area – 3 Connecting domains

- ***Civil Society*** – Heterogeneous citizens interdependent domain;
- ***Energy*** – Public utility powering development, energy services, equity etc.;
- ***Cooperation*** - Collective action, sharing, with mutual respect and responsibility.

Rational

- Reduce disparities – within the region, among countries and internal disparities;
- Need for a new approach enabling citizens to deal with social, economic and environmental issues (poverty, isolation, marginalization, gender) with self-reliance and responsibility;
- Inadequate capacity of the state to meet multiple service needs;
- Lack of pathways for the people to engage in policy advocacy, dialogue, decision making, resource mobilization;

- Unmet needs and deepening disparities urge a mechanism for socialization of energy; not only as “**Power**”, but as a service providing instrument;
- Possibilities to work through social organizations, to avoid limitations, enhancing energy security ;
- To capture blessing opportunities of renewable energy, decentralization, eco-friendly, feasible options.

Role of Society's Cooperation

1. Broaden the energy paradigm;
2. Service efficiency and effectiveness;
3. Sustainable and responsible social capital;
4. Mediating linkages and facilitating interactions

Role of Social Capital

- ✦ Help to internalize the energy development in response to the local context (e.g. *Energy Consumer Societies and their Federation-in Sri Lanka*);
- ✦ Build sense of ownership, authority and collective spirit;
- ✦ Serve un-served areas/groups, organize voices;
- ✦ Develop focus oriented directions, smoothening different interest ;
- ✦ Establish local/regional leadership.

Broaden the Energy Paradigm

- Holistic approach (beyond electricity for lighting);
- Focus on existing situation- energy and development (poverty, stratification etc.);
- Change operational practices from ‘beneficiaries’ to ‘responsible partners’;
- Deal with new trends – climate change, enabling people to build resilience.

Energy Service Efficiency

- Responsiveness and responsibility as instruments for mobilizing local capital;
- Enhance accountability, monitoring change
- Upscaling and replication
- Local governance and operational institutional structure
- Demand driven development

Mediating Linkages

- Avoid obstacles hindering linkages;
- Inter regional, intra-country, and communities and actors;
- Better coordination, sharing, collective strength;
- Stakeholder platforms

Future

- Conceptual framework with a focus on the local context;
- Institutional framework/ mechanism, leadership ;
- Package for capacity building;
- Mobilization, research, awareness and capacity building;
- advocacy, lobbying and negotiation.

Thank You