



Capacity Building for Renewable Energy and Development

Realising national and regional energy and development objectives

In the light of rising global energy prices, growing environmental concerns, energy supply security considerations and poverty issues, many developing countries strive to shift away from fossil fuels by promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency (RE & EE). Both national and regional governments are designing and implementing strategies to bring about this shift. However, sufficient human and institutional capacity necessary to be able to accelerate the uptake of RE & EE technologies is often lacking, especially at regional level.

“The people in the region know best what their energy priorities are and therefore should be responsible for the formulation of the regional RE action plan“

*Mr Oetomo Tri Winarno,
Institute Technology, Bandung*

In CASINDO, ECN has implemented a programme for building and strengthening human capacity for formulating and implementing energy policy. Anchoring this programme in strong, existing institutional structures ensures the sustainability of enhanced knowledge levels.

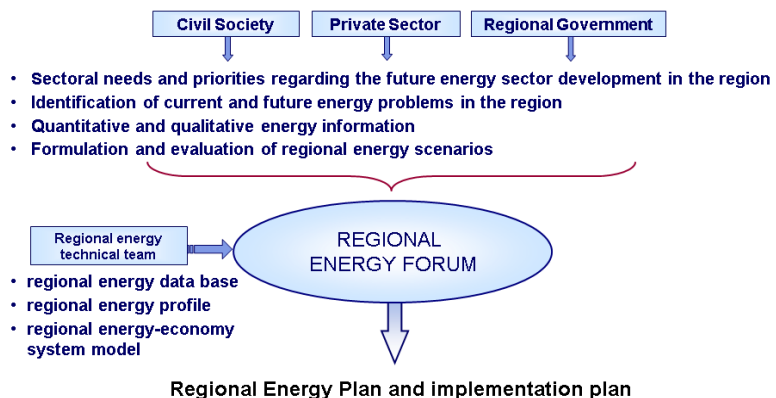
CASINDO

The CASINDO project implemented a programme of regional capacity building in Indonesia. From 2009 to 2012, it established self-sustaining and self-developing structures at both the national and regional level to build and strengthen human capacity in the provinces of North Sumatra, Yogyakarta, Central Java, West Nusa Tenggara and Papua. This enables them to formulate sound policies for RE & EE and to develop and implement sustainable energy projects.

CASINDO’s activities enabled the regional energy teams to complete regional energy plans, to develop and introduce new education programmes on sustainable energy at the five partner universities, to develop and introduce new RE&EE training modules at 11 vocational schools and to conduct integrated energy planning and modelling training courses for regional government officials. Knowledge sharing among the regions and interaction with the national level enhanced the learning process and strengthened capacity on all sides.

Linking policy and technical expertise

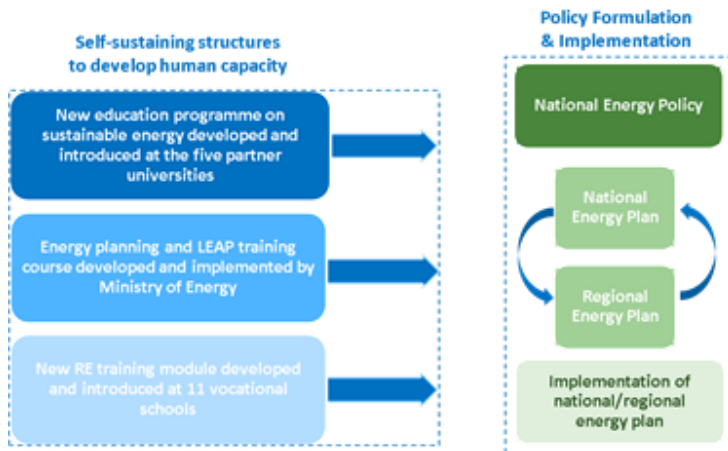
The CASINDO approach places the regional energy forum at the heart of its activities. Chaired by the regional energy office and comprising representatives from the private sector, social groups and other stakeholders, the regional energy forum formulates energy policies. These are submitted to the regional government for approval.



The members of the regional energy forum are assisted by the regional technical teams, established at local universities. These provide quantitative and qualitative energy information and develops energy scenarios to analyse the social, economic, financial and consequences of different energy supply options for meeting future energy demand.

Regular interaction between the energy forum and the experts of the technical team allows both sides to gain skills for establishing a sound quantitative database, assessing the potential of RE & EE, identifying the energy needs of poor communities and developing concrete projects.

Linking the regional and national



The CASINDO programme links the national and regional level. Regions develop their own energy plan in line with the national plan. This enables them to emphasize their own policy priorities according to local conditions, while fitting within the overall national structure.

At the same time, energy data from the regional level is fed back to the national level, providing the central government with comprehensive and sound information. This interaction not only creates both better policy, but also improves delivery of the objectives on the ground.

Capacity building: making it last

To enhance the sustainability of the CASINDO results, the programme anchors the capacity building process between policy makers, energy researchers and technical experts in strong institutional structures. To this end, both the regional energy forums and the technical teams become part of the annual planning and budget cycle of the regional government. The newly established education/training programmes are integrated in the existing curriculum of the universities and vocational schools and of the training agency of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

“CASINDO built a very strong regional energy partnership among government, vocational schools, universities and communities”

*Mrs Endang Hartiningsih,
University of Cenderawasih, Jayapura*

This approach has proven successful in the five selected provinces, and can be replicated in Indonesia's other 28 provinces and in other countries

Why the CASINDO approach has worked

The comprehensive and integrated approach was essential to making the CASINDO programme a success. Policy efforts were combined with educational and research activities and technical demonstrations, and capacity development involved various stakeholders: national and regional policy makers, researchers, lecturers and vocational school teachers. The project therefore applied a systemic approach to conditions in the Indonesian provinces and national policy.

Moreover, CASINDO built on years of collaboration and strong mutual trust between the stakeholders and implementers of the project. This fostered high-level support for the programme, and the relations between the participants were a firm basis for cooperation.

