ESCWA

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Annex A: Concept Paper for Study Tours

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Study Tour Title:	**Ensuring Access to Modern Energy Services in Rural Areas through the Use of Renewable Energy Technologies – Indian Experience**
Implementing Division:	Sustainable Development Policies Division
Focal Point (Name & Contact):	Roula Majdalani
Trainer(s) *including Staff, Experts, Resource Persons*:	World Institute of Sustainable Energy, Pune (WISE); UN staff
Partnering Divisions:	N/A
Proposed Place & Date:	Pune, India, 4th quarter 2015
Target country (ies):	Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, and Sudan
Beneficiaries:	Direct: Relevant public institutions specialized in energy policies Indirect: rural communities
Number of Participants:	28
Language:	English
Profile of study tour participants:	Policy makers in the energy sector

2. Background

Lack of access to modern energy services in off-grid rural regions ranks among the top factors holding back development of rural communities. Extending the grid to these regions requires allocation of large public funding; such funding, however, is subject to national development prioritization, and unfortunately competing national needs and low return on investment for such projects lessen their chances of early approval.

Appropriate renewable energy application technologies can be an alternative to the grid in ensuring modern energy access to off-grid rural communities. They require smaller investments, follow a distributed electricity generation model, are locally installed and sized

as per local needs, but most importantly they can be affordable to segments of rural communities.

Improving rural economies leads to job creation, increased income, and improved livelihood which translate into better social services. Improving productivity of local businesses follows this logic, and having access to energy might be a turning point to some farming and non-farming activities through acquisition of technology tools with high potential for improving productivity.

ESCWA is implementing the DA project "Building Capacities in Developing Appropriate Green Technologies for Improving the Livelihood of Rural Communities in the ESCWA Region" which aims to strengthen the capacity of ESCWA member countries to mainstream appropriate green technology initiatives into national development programmes and policies, in order to enhance livelihoods of rural communities.

The study tour follows a series of activities that started with the development of a methodology for assessing renewable energy needs in the rural productive sector which was validated during an expert group meeting that was organized for that purpose. Capacity building workshops for practitioners and policymakers were organized in Jordan, Morocco, Oman and Sudan to introduce the methodology.

3. Expected Accomplishment and Study Tour Objectives

The study tour will contribute to the following expected accomplishment:

EA2: Policymakers in selected ESCWA member countries are able to design policies for development and dissemination of appropriate green technologies in rural areas.

The study tour aims to enhance the knowledge of policymakers and decision makers on policy options and build their capacity for using policy tools to enable an environment conducive for investment in appropriate green technologies in rural areas in the region. It will:

- Acquaint participants with successful experiences in the area of developing, promoting and implementing green technology initiatives

- Expose participants to successful experiences in the implementation of policies leading to an environment favorable to investment in the development, promotion and dissemination of appropriate green technology initiatives

5. Outputs of the workshop

The participants will learn about the experience of India in developing appropriate RE technology policies focused on rural regions and paving the way for a regulatory framework for facilitating RET dissemination in rural areas; they will be exposed to the institutional structures laid out to facilitate rural electrification.