

## **ASTAE: Asia Alternative Energy Program**

The World Bank, along with key bilateral donors, established the Asia Alternative Energy Program (ASTAE) in January 1992, as a follow up to Project FINESSE (Financing Energy Services for Small-Scale Energy Users). ASTAE's mission is to mainstream alternative energy (renewable energy and energy efficiency) services in all Bank sectors, with priority emphasis on the Asia region. To support this goal, ASTAE works with both Bank staff and client country decision-makers to incorporate alternative energy options into the design of energy sector strategies and lending operations for all the Bank's client countries in Asia. Since its inception, ASTAE has generated substantial momentum, increasing the lending portfolio for alternative energy projects in Asia from about US\$2.0 million in FY92 to over US\$1.3 billion (FY93-04).

Since its inception, ASTAE has provided and continues to offer assistance in the identification and preparation of renewable energy and energy efficiency/demand-side management (DSM) projects for World Bank/Global Environment Facility (GEF)-supported operations in Asia. ASTAE's strategy also includes technical assistance to improve local technical expertise, system performance and institutional capability to design and implement alternative energy investment programs. Such activities have included:

- training modules in energy efficiency and renewable energy options;
- formulation of alternative energy policies;
- design and implementation of pilot innovative delivery mechanisms;
- technical support to improve the performance and availability of alternative energy systems; and
- strengthening of institutional capacities.

In addition, ASTAE collaborates with numerous donor agencies and has mobilized funding for critical technical assistance in support of its work program. ASTAE will work to ensure that its current project portfolio is successfully implemented and will seek to broaden penetration of alternative energy services into other sectors that contribute to meeting the Bank's environmental and poverty alleviation objectives.

For more information: <http://www.worldbank.org/astae>