



SMART VILLAGES
New thinking for off-grid communities worldwide

PRESS RELEASE

April 3, 2017

Smart Villages brings real voices from villages to SEforALL Forum

First global study of rural off-grid communities stresses importance of bottom-up approach to achieving sustainable energy access dividends

New York: Delegates to the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Forum April 3-5 will have the opportunity to hear initial results from the Smart Villages Initiative's three-year investigation into the feasibility of achieving energy access for the so-called last mile remote rural off-grid communities around the world. From Tanzania to Peru, from Indonesia to Haiti, Smart Villages has held over 30 workshops and performed follow-up studies to find both common and unique facets to each local situation.

The findings have been shaped into policy briefs for national governments, intergovernmental bodies, funding agencies, and other stakeholders. The final report of Smart Villages' findings will be officially released at the end of June. One key finding is that a bottom-up approach listening to the priorities of villagers themselves is essential to achieving sustainable access and reaping the full resultant dividends in education, healthcare, economic activity, and social cohesion. Moreover, a comparative approach across geographies makes the Smart Villages Initiative unique. The Voices from the Village Partner Working Session at the SEforALL Forum will give delegates the opportunity to experience this cross-cultural and cross-geographical approach for themselves.

Voices from the Village will take place on Day 3 from 15.00-16.00 and feature four outstanding community leaders:

Martin Kariongi – Terrat Village, Tanzania

Alfonso Guevra Chota – Napo, Peru (accompanied by Jessica Olivares, Acciona Microenergy)

Grégoire Etienne – Pilate, Haiti, accompanied by Dr Marc Antoine Archer, Observatoire Haïtien de l'Energie-ObservEH

Tri Mumpuni – IBEKA, Indonesia

Moderated by Molly Hurley-Dépret of Smart Villages, the session will provide invaluable insights into the realities on the ground and outline ways forward.

In addition to Voices from the Village, Smart Villages will also be represented on two panels.

Dr John Holmes, Co-leader of Smart Villages, will take part in “Deep Dive – The New Market”, Day 3, 12.15-13.15. In this session, he will share his wide knowledge of various commercial/industrial interactions and engagements to date with bottom of the pyramid sector worldwide

Martin Kariongi will be on the panel for “Marshalling the Evidence”, Day 3 9,30-10.30 outlining the many ways in which his village of Terrat is harvesting the benefits of energy access.

Finally, Smart Villages will have a booth in the Marketplace on Day 3 where copies of various regional and specific technical and issue reports will be available.

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Contact Information

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To access the Smart Villages image library please follow this link <http://bit.ly/1GxCukE>

Notes for Editors

Smart Villages

The Smart Villages Initiative is a three-year project evaluating ways of providing off-grid energy as a catalyst for development for rural villages and encouraging the transfer of knowledge and experience between different developing regions. Through a series of international workshops and follow-up activities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, its aim is to provide policymakers, donors, entrepreneurs, researchers, media and other stakeholders with new insights into the challenges of supplying village-level energy and how they might be overcome.

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