

## Electricity Governance Initiative (EGI)

This grant supported the creation of a new dialogue between electricity sector actors and civil society around improving governance in the sector.

The Electricity Governance Initiative (EGI) is a collaborative project of the World Resources Institute and partnering policy organizations. The Initiative assembles policymakers, regulators, civil society, and other electricity sector actors to discuss the need for policies and regulations that can promote transparency, create space and mechanisms for citizens to be involved in the field of electricity reform. The TPW Energy Collaborative awarded EGI a grant to sustain the ongoing efforts to facilitate dialogue between electricity sector actors and civil society.

With this grant, EGI advocated fair and more environmentally sustainable outcomes in electricity privatization in Thailand, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brazil and South Africa. Bringing together sometimes adversarial constituents such as consumer groups, environmental groups, regulators and energy ministry officials is a delicate but necessary process in creating positive change. In March 2007, EGI published the research report *Empowering People: A Governance Analysis of Electricity in Four Asian Countries*. Based on findings of the EGI assessments in India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, this report makes the case for better attention to how electricity sector decisions are made and the need for greater public involvement. Specific country work included:



**Thailand:** The Thai EGI Team is carrying out additional analysis of electricity governance in Thailand, and will produce new research based on principles of good governance and the Electricity Governance Indicators toolkit that address Power Development Planning processes, governance in the context of the development of policies to support renewable energy, Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment reforms that are presently underway in Thailand, and regulation of natural gas. The Thai team has conducted several meetings and activities for outreach to officials and for new research and engagement activities.

**India:** The Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG) has completed initial research on the comprehensiveness of environmental clearance procedures and legal frameworks, with an emphasis on the clarity of roles and responsibilities, and public participation.

**Indonesia:** In response to the announcement by the Indonesian Government to add 25,000 MW of electricity generation capacity, the Indonesian Institute for Energy Economics (IIEE) convened a meeting for the EGI Indonesia team in September 2006 to discuss and flesh out a concrete plan of action. IIEE is now leading a program of research and engagement around the need for a coherent, transparent plan for how this new electricity capacity will be added.

**Philippines:** The current phase of work on EGI in the Philippines seeks to facilitate discussions about governance, building on the Philippines EGI assessment. These discussions will be linked to topical issues in the Philippines electricity sector including the ongoing review of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market by the Philippines Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), new developments with rural cooperatives, discussions around governance and public participation in the context of the addition of new generating capacity in the Philippines.

