

The Global Environment Facility

Financing technology transfer for climate change

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The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has been providing finances to support projects aimed at implementing environmentally sound energy technologies throughout the world. GEF programmes aim at promoting various approaches to greenhouse gas mitigation, such as energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy and sustainable transport. This article focuses on GEF initiatives in the area of climate change.

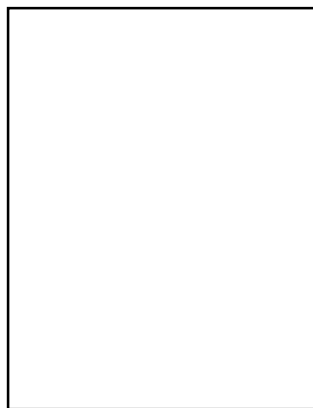
Introduction

At the dawn of a new millennium, new technologies are pushing the horizons of economic development to unprecedented levels. Never before has the development process been so much influenced and driven by technology. Never before has the socio-economic development of nations been so dependent on access to technological advancement. Equally, never before has the need for reversing current production and consumption patterns been so pressing to ensure protection of the environment and achievement of sustainable development.

Access to sound technologies is essential for sustainable development. This has been recognized by the international community throughout the Rio process. Indeed, in December 1989, in deciding to convene a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the UN General Assembly

agreed that one of the objectives of the Earth Summit should be "to examine, with a view to making recommendations on effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies in particular to developing countries, ... to explore the concept of assured access for developing countries to environmentally sound technologies, in its relation to property rights, with a view to developing effective responses to the needs of developing countries in this area". Accordingly, Chapter 34 of Agenda 21 is devoted to the transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity building.

In addition, the three environmental conventions associated with the Rio process have also identified the transfer of environmentally sound technologies as a key element for achieving their respective objectives. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,



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