

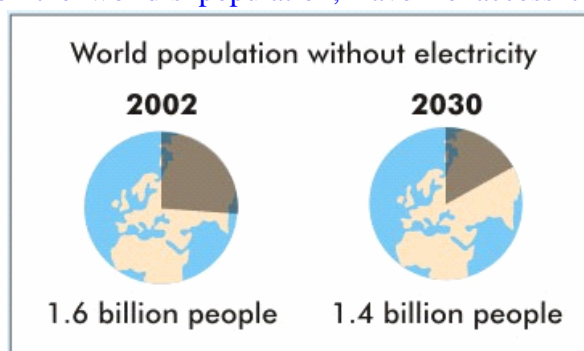


## **The Developing World and the Electricity Challenge** **Investment Needs, Barriers and Prospects**

January 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 2005, Paris, France

This workshop, which will be held at the International Energy Agency headquarters in Paris, will focus on electricity in developing countries with a special emphasis on Africa and South Asia.

Some 1.6 billion people, about one quarter of the world's population, have no access to electricity today. Eighty percent of these people live in rural areas of the developing world, mainly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa where rapid urban migration and population growth will occur over the next several decades. Without adequate supplies of affordable energy, it is virtually impossible to carry out productive economic activity or improve health and education. Poverty becomes inescapable. Lack of access to electricity remains the clearest indicator of fuel poverty – and, indeed, of poverty in general. Yet, even if the \$5 trillion of necessary investment were to be secured over the next 30 years, there is a very real likelihood that electricity access would still be denied to some 1.4 billion people, frustrating economic development, hindering critical quality of life and environmental improvements, and condemning billions of people to continued poverty.



The first objective of this workshop is to bring together the best minds in economic development, energy infrastructure and technology, finance and public policy from developed and developing countries to forge new, cost effective approaches to help create a sustainable energy future.

The second objective, perhaps equally if not more important, is to build a network of experts that host developing countries and international institutions can draw upon to help successfully implement the best approaches.

Participants will include experts in energy, electricity, environment, engineering, technology, finance, economics, and public policy from private companies, governments, international institutions, universities and national laboratories.