



# Village Power '98

Scaling up Electricity Access for  
Sustainable Rural Development



Closing Remarks  
by  
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*So, what is Village Power?*



# Village Power '98

Scaling up Electricity Access for Sustainable Rural Development



*Village Power is about:*

## Transitions

- from not-for-profit, to sustainable for-profit
- from a technology focus, to a needs-based focus
- from a central station, to a distributed paradigm
- from government control, to local empowerment
- from technology demos to institutional experiments to sustainable businesses
- from identifying a need to creating a market



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*Village Power is about:*

### Gender Issues

- ensuring women's access to credit and training
- involving women in the design, implementation, finance and maintenance of rural projects
- focusing on the needs of rural households (cooking)
- recognizing the importance of gender issues in project planning and evaluation



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## Finance

- making bankers believe (at multilateral and local scales)
- encouraging financial transparency
- minimizing subsidies
- striving for economies of scale in project implementation

Most important cost reductions are now in the transaction costs of implementation, not in technology



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## Economics

- seeking out productive uses
- seeking and engaging complementary investments
- driving toward “critical mass” projects (1000 customers per technician, 5 technicians per micro enterprise)



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## Competition

- among technologies (renewable and conventional)
- among implementation approaches (business experiments)
- for investment resources (both program and individual)
- among social priorities



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### Cooperation

- throughout the development community
- among the donors
- among the practitioners
- among the diversity of interests within a country
- need to share problems, as well as solutions
- need to build partnerships
- need to build joint ventures
- exploring options (technical, institutional, financing, development, implementation ...)



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### Technology

- continued technical innovation
- making renewables better than diesels
- focusing on applications, not technology
- focusing on reliability of supply, quality of service
- focusing on energy, not just electricity
- building on the computer and telecom revolutions

We are no longer technology-limited,  
we are institutional-limited





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## Balance

- between business creation and social obligations
- between donor interests (GHG) and country needs (development)
- between options (no silver bullet)



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Creating new terms

- flemenstrations (failed demonstrations)
- “manufactured electricity”
- “inclusive development”
- “smart subsidies”



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## Patience

- enormous dedication over extended periods
- not getting depressed



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*Village Power is about:*

- Creating Opportunities
- Empowering People
- Running faster ... so we don't lose the race