PCREEE Steering Committee

A warm welcome distinguished partners, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for inviting me to address welcome remarks to the PCREEE Steering Committee.

Unfortunately, due to a time difference and a business trip to Kenya, I am unable to attend today's meeting.

ADA has followed the achievements of PCREEE with great interest in its second operational phase. PCREEE has provided regional leadership in promoting the benefits of clean energy transition by providing comprehensive policy dialogue, capacity building, knowledge sharing and networking opportunities in the SPC Community Region. The people and communities in the region will certainly benefit greatly from the achievements of a more sustainable and more reliable energy sector.

We are all aware that the Coronavirus pandemic has fundamentally hampered the implementation of various activities. We can observe the impact all over the world.  However, we have adapted to this situation as the new normal.

As if this was not enough, a terrible volcanic eruption followed by a devastating tsunami hit Tonga earlier this year and caused serious damage. ADA was fortunate to announce that we could increase our support by Euro 200,000 - as an immediate response to these natural disasters.

The task now is to bring the issue of renewable energy and energy efficiency back to the forefront.

There is still a lot of work ahead, the business and work plan sound very challenging. Personally, I'd like to emphasize the importance of energy efficiency as the first undertaking to gain fuel. (1). Less energy consumption means less environmental impact and more money in our pockets, but of course, renewable energy generation (2) is also crucial. Not only generation, but also smart grid feed-in and storage technologies (3), including e-vehicles, need to be thoroughly considered.

ADA would like to support you in your efforts as much as possible.

ADA and the team from our headquarters in Vienna wish you a successful Steering Committee and we are eager to see the results and minutes after the meeting.

With kind regards

Manfred Buerstmayr

Advisor Sustainable Energy, Austrian Development Agency