

Johannesburg Summit 2002

United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development

Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August – 4 September

ABB's "Access to Electricity" project

Purpose

ABB will coordinate its global common efforts activities – initiatives to improve the environment and social conditions of the societies it serves – to focus on the widening poverty gap, which is one of the main topics discussed at the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. ABB believes that it can best contribute to this challenge by applying its technological expertise to help provide "Access to Electricity" to the many of the world's 2 billion people who have no electricity supply and no access to the benefits, such as clean water and basic sanitation, that electricity can help provide.



2 billion people in the world have no access to electricity

Equipment solutions

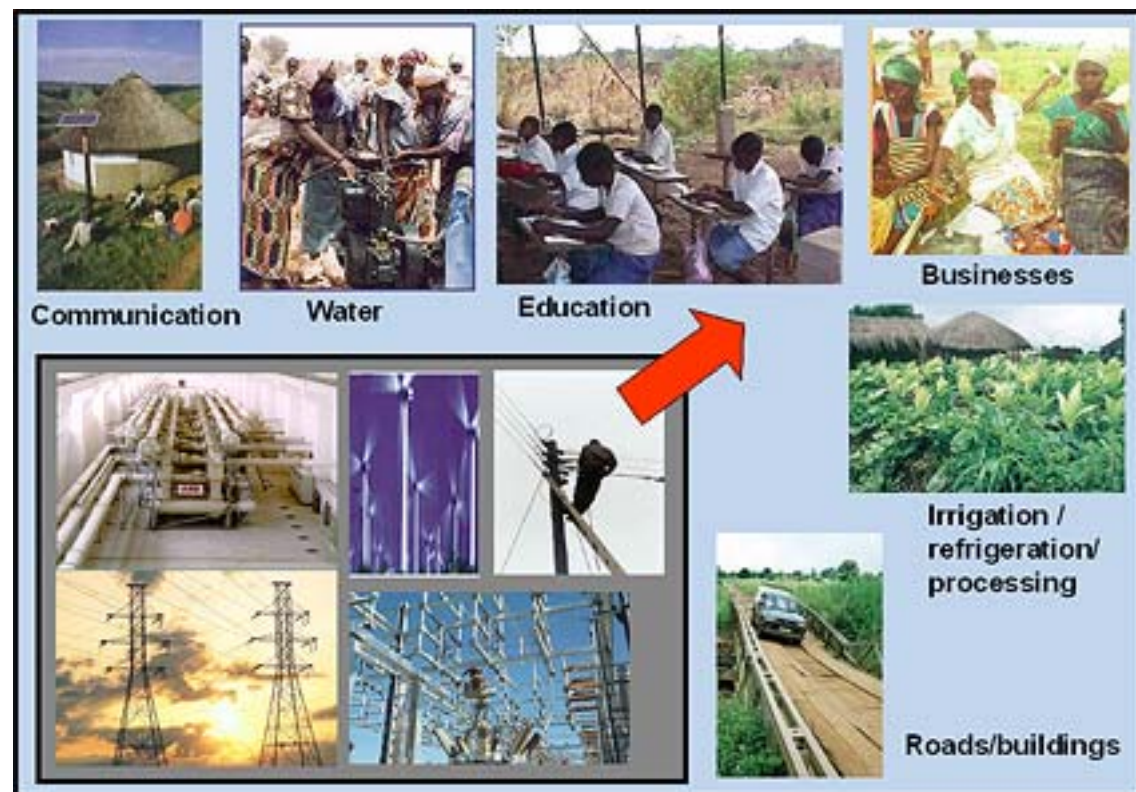
The overriding principle is to supply sustainable supplies of electricity.

A key area which offers much potential is to investigate the up-grading, rehabilitation and modernisation of those existing, but very inefficient power generation, transmission and distribution installations in poor countries, some of which have ceased to function due to lack of attention and expertise.

To serve new off-grid consumers, a first priority will be to investigate the feasibility of connecting them to the nearest existing power network supply point. But many solutions will require stand-alone power supplies configured in local isolated networks. These may involve 'alternative energy solutions', such as electricity supplies utilizing latest technologies encompassing microturbines, wind power, photovoltaic power, fuel cells, small hydro, etc.

However, in a second step to ensure network stability and security of supply, these isolated networks will need to be connected to regional or national grids, using state-of-the-art transmission and distribution technologies for which ABB is the world's leading supplier.

Whatever the solution, ABB would concentrate on providing equipment from within its proven product range and technological expertise.



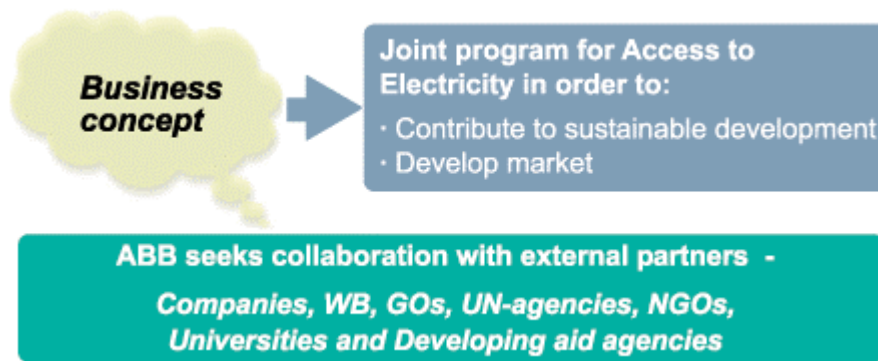
Access to electricity is essential for development – facilitating the supply of clean water, sanitation, irrigation, communications, roads, and enabling education and businesses to flourish

Regions

ABB is currently focusing on selected poor regions where it already has a strong local presence and which are already receiving the attention of development aid organizations – notably central, eastern and southern Africa and northern Asia. However, depending on the specialities of future partners, other areas may be selected.

Partners

ABB's current and previous common effort projects have always drawn on the support and collaboration of strategic partners. The "Access to Electricity" will build on this experience, bringing in new partners who can both contribute and benefit from the project, for example peer companies from other infrastructural industries (telecommunications, water and sanitation, roads, transportation, etc), development aid organizations, multilateral and financial institutions, national and regional government authorities, NGOs, etc.



New challenges require new solutions and non-traditional partners

ABB's role

ABB does not regard it a necessity to assume project management of such multi-discipline enterprises, but rather sees itself as a specialist partner responsible for an allocated section of the project – supplying consultancy, engineering, equipment, and solutions.

ABB is preparing the groundwork to produce a viable business model, which can be applied to suitable projects. In addition, ABB is identifying and marshalling resources from within its global group, such as specialist technical and financial departments, local ABB organizations within the targeted countries and export-responsible organizations from potential solution-supplier countries.

Status/next steps

Internal feasibility studies and investigations have been carried out by multi-functional teams to test and confirm the viability of ABB's aims, contribution, expertise and possible roles in such a project.

Meetings have been held with interested peer companies and with external stakeholders comprising NGOs, multilateral organizations and development aid organizations to explore outside interest and gather advice on effective ways to proceed.

Potential target regions have been identified and concrete projects are now being investigated.

Interested parties and resources within ABB are being identified and brought into the project.

External partnerships will then be built on a case-by case basis.

ABB has brought its “Access to Electricity” initiative to the Johannesburg World Summit for discussions with other parties who have expressed interest and similar intentions.

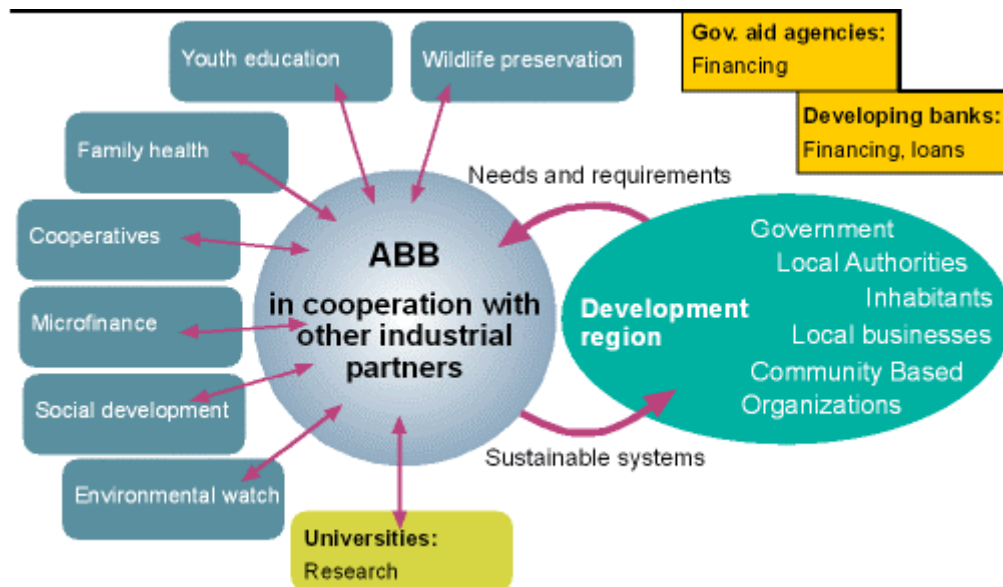


ABB seeks collaboration with peers and partners – to apply their expertise to roll-back poverty by providing access to electricity

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