



Mr Pierre-Marc Blanchet (second right) poses with other energy experts at the seminar.

Renewable energy company sparks interest in power saving

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It is essential to change the habits of consumers, in a bid to save energy and possibly obviate the need to build more power plants in Laos.

This was the message delivered by the head of Sunlabob Renewable Energy (SLB)'s Energy Audit and Efficiency Department, Mr Pierre-Marc Blanchet, at a seminar held in Vientiane this week. The seminar was titled 'Energy efficiency for companies and institutions' and jointly organised by SLB and the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).

Mr Blanchet said "People must use energy wisely in order to cut electricity bills and other related expenses," adding that

doing so meant more than just saving money. "If people avoid inefficient usage of energy, more electricity can be sold abroad instead of being used in the domestic market."

Business executives, government decision-makers and representatives from the international community attended the day-long seminar to learn about efficient energy usage, which also allowed participants and experts from Laos and other countries to share their knowledge, experience and constructive ideas.

The seminar identified the issues involved and specifically referred to climate change consequences in Laos.

The event also identified potential solutions for excessive consumption and encouraged awareness of and

interest in energy efficiency.

Also speaking at the seminar, SLB CEO Mr Andy Schroeter focused on existing possibilities for developing energy efficiency in Laos.

Mr Ir Guntor Tobeng, from a Malaysian renewable energy services company, presented a Malaysian example of efficient usage and detailed the lessons learned from past actions. This was followed by a rigorous question and answer session with field professionals.

Climate change is usually seen as a global subject with only limited relevance to the Lao situation. Yet, even if Laos has only contributed to global greenhouse gas emissions in a small way, it has already been affected by climate change and will continue to be so, a press release noted.