

Ms. Richenda Van Leeuwen

Senior Director of Energy and Climate, UN Foundation

Richenda Van Leeuwen joined the United Nations Foundation in June 2010 as Senior Director of Energy and Climate, heading their new energy access initiative. Immediately prior to this she focused on advisory work on the application of renewable energy technologies for the Base of the Pyramid market for private sector, multilateral and non-profit organizations including Konarka and Mercy Corps. In May she served as Co-Chair of the Energy Access Expert Group for the World Bank's Scaling Renewable Energy Program. She also spearheaded the coordination and delivery of solar lighting and mobile phone charging solutions for Haiti as part of the immediate post-earthquake humanitarian effort in that country, and continues to advise various groups focusing on continuing work in that area.

From 2006 until March 2010 Mrs. Van Leeuwen served as Senior Advisor to Good Energies, Inc. a leading private global renewable energy investment firm and as a founding trustee on the board of the Good Energies Foundation. Good Energies is a member of COFRA Holding, AG, headquartered in Zug, Switzerland, and a strategic investor to the ongoing energy transition process through its long-term investments and its support of development initiatives in the field of clean energy technologies. Mrs. Van Leeuwen's work at Good Energies focused on strategy development and commercial equity investments in renewable energy technologies and companies in emerging markets, as well as hybrid investments with an additional focus on strong positive social impact. She led the deal coordination team through a successful OPIC \$300 million renewable energy fund due diligence process, and worked on a range of seed capital and Series A investment transactions in run of the river hydro and biogas technologies in South Asia.

Through her board membership as a founding trustee of the Good Energies Foundation, she developed and maintained a broad portfolio of social investment and philanthropic activities in Africa and Asia, the Americas and Caribbean. These investments and grants focused on energy access to the poor and combating global warming in areas where strictly commercial approaches were not initially feasible. Examples include the development of solar home system solutions for rural Ethiopian communities, and solar installations for Partners in Health medical clinics in Haiti.

Immediately prior to joining Good Energies in 2006, Mrs. Van Leeuwen worked as Senior Advisor to the Argidius Foundation, a COFRA foundation. She was responsible for overseeing the strategic restructuring of the foundation and re-tooling its portfolio of social investment and philanthropic projects in international development. With an annual budget in the millions of Euros, these focused on catalyzing microfinance, investment in small and medium sized enterprises (SME), and sustainable employment creation in West Africa, Central America and Eastern Europe.

As Executive Director of the Trickle Up Program in New York from 2001-2005, Mrs. Van Leeuwen led the strategic development and restructuring of this highly regarded international microenterprise development organization. She developed and oversaw programs across multiple field offices in more than 30 countries in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the Americas and the U.S., working with such donors as USAID and the IFC.

Prior to joining Trickle Up, since 1987 Mrs. Van Leeuwen's career focused on varied international economic and social development, post-conflict reconstruction and SME development programs in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo, with several international organizations including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She also worked in economic and workforce development on both West and East Coasts of the United States. Mrs. Van Leeuwen has published a number of articles on poverty alleviation and gender development, and has undertaken a wide number of speaking and media engagements on renewable energy for the poor, microenterprise development and women's economic development.

She serves on the board of SELCO India, and until recently also served on the boards of Kalpan Hydro India Inc. and Emergence BioEnergy, as well as the Good Energies Foundation. She is also a trustee of the North American Foundation for the University of Durham (Dunelm.org) and holds both an MBA as well as a Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree in Geography from the University of Durham, UK.