

ACCELERATING RESIDENTIAL SOLAR 2015

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, COST AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN THE U.A.E.

A joint DEWA/IRENA workshop hosted by DEWA

Day: November 8th 2015

Time: 09.30am to 5.00pm

Site: Raffels Hotel, Dubai, U.A.E

Background

The event was a joint workshop between the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) on unlocking the potential of residential and distributed solar PV in the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. It took place on the 8th of November. The workshop featured a training on the IRENA Project Navigator. Furthermore, the participants discussed the perspectives for residential and distributed solar PV, potentials for cost reduction, global best practices in residential solar, and how to implement the existing knowledge stock in initiatives and new projects in the U.A.E and GCC.

The workshop goal was to bring knowledge and better understanding of residential solar to participants and support future initiatives in the U.A.E and GCC in the realm of distributed and residential solar PV.

The workshop featured a session dedicated to PV costs delivered by a local PV installer, a conversation on policies and subsidies schemes and their capacity to accelerate solar PV deployment.

The workshop ended with a discussion on possible actions and recommendations to participants that could speed up the development of solar PV markets in the U.A.E.

The goals of this workshop, jointly organized by DEWA and IRENA were to:

- Help speed up the development of distributed solar PV in the U.A.E and GCC
- Support new initiatives related to distributed solar PV
- Discuss the cost reduction potentials of solar PV and how to create a competitive market of local PV installers
- Explore the potential for distributed solar PV in U.A.E and GCC countries and get a better perspective on potential market development

- Share lessons learnt from DEWA's Shams Dubai initiative.

DETAILED PROGRAMME

9:30-10:00

Registration

Introduction and welcome

Introduction and welcome address. DEWA and IRENA explained why this workshop was relevant and what it wanted to achieve.

10:00-10:05

Mr. Saeed AlTayer, MD&CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)

10:05-10:15

Mr. Mohamed El-Farnawany, Director, Strategic Management & Executive Direction and Chief of Staff – International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

SESSION ONE

Solar PV: Global Trends and Rooftops

This session covered the global trends and best practices in residential solar PV and how innovation can accelerate the uptake of solar PV in U.A.E in light of prime minister of U.A.E having declared 2015 the year of innovation.

This session looked at a range of related questions:

- What are new solutions that can be implemented in the solar PV sector?
- What are the challenges of rooftop solar PV and how to overcome these challenges?
- How can innovation accelerate solar PV uptake in the U.A.E?

10:20-10:55

Distributed Solar Power Generation:

Opportunities and Challenges in the UAE and the wider Middle East

Panelists:

- Imtiaz Mahtab, President - **MESIA** (Moderator)
- Vahid Fotuhi, **Access Power**
- Armando Dominini, Regulation Senior Manager - **DEWA**
- Erik Voldner, **Enviromena**
- Marc Norman, **Chadbourne**
- Jeremy Crane - **Adenium Capital**

10:55-11:30

Innovative Solutions to Accelerate solar in The U.A.E:

Panelists:

- Gorkem Soymer, Solar Specialist **Enerware** (Moderator)
- Dr. Steve Griffiths, VP Research, **Masdar Institute of Science and Technology**
- Dr. Pedro Banda, R&D Director, **DEWA**
- Laurent Longuet, General Manger, **Akuo Energy**
- Abdalla AlZarooni, Programme Officer, **IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre**

11:30 – 11:50

Coffee Break

SESSION TWO

Policy Options

Policy design and implementation is a key factor in the evolution of strong renewable energy markets. This session featured a discussion on different policy options, including net-metering, feed-in-tariffs, auctions, rebates, etc, within different countries. Panelists discussed about trends, merits and demerits of certain policies.

This session looked at a range of related questions:

- Comparing global polices and trend with U.A.E current policies
- What are the most widely used policies to support residential solar PV and how U.A.E can choose the best policy option for its specific context?

11:50 - 12:25

Panel discussion: Global policy approaches for the residential solar PV sector

Panelists:

- Mr. Hannes Alexander Reinisch, **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (Moderator)
- David Jacobs - **International Energy Transition GmbH**
- Elie Matar – **Dubai Regulatory & supervisory bureau**
- Ashwin Gambhir- **Prayas, Energy Group**
- Shannon Graham, Director Middle East - **Navigant**

12:30 – 13:40

Lunch

SESSION THREE

Opportunities and Cost Challenges for Solar PV

U.A.E adopted several new initiatives related to solar PV that open new markets in the region for rooftop solar PV. This in turn creates new opportunities for solar PV installers to bring down costs and gain market share in this developing market. Besides a discussion on the aforementioned topic, the session featured an introduction to IRENA's new RE project development platform, Project Navigator.

This session looked at a range of related questions:

- What is DEWA's new initiative Shams Dubai?
- How can solar PV costs be brought down in U.A.E?
- What is the potential for residential solar PV in U.A.E?
- What is IRENA's project development platform, Project Navigator?

PRESENTATIONS

13:40-14:10

Shams Dubai: New Rooftop Initiative from DEWA

Nora AlNaqbi, Regulation Manager, **DEWA**

14:10-14:35

Bringing Down Solar PV Costs: Lessons from the past 10 years

Michael Taylor, Senior Analyst, **IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre**

14:35-15:05

IRENA Project Navigator Solar systems

- Dr. Roland Roesch, Senior Programme Officer, **IRENA/IITC**
- Mustafa Bahatem, Program Officer, **IRENA IITC**

15:05 – 15:20

Coffee Break

15:20-15:45

Overview of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar PV Projects in Kuwait

Dr. Saad AlJandal, Energy and Building Research Center, **Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research**

15:45-16:10

Local Rooftop Cost and Challenges

Khaldoun Shammout, GM, **Tanweer Solar**

16:10-16:35

The Role of Contractors in Creating Public Solar PV Awareness in UAE

Vahid Niaziyan, Managing Director, **Solar Solutions**

16:35-16:50

Renewable Energy Deployment in the Gulf Cooperation Council: A Revival

Arslan Khalid, Programme Officer, **IRENA**

16:50 – 17:00

Closing Session

Feedback from participants