Subject: Innovation Transfer & Experts Visit Scheme

Preamble

As per Article-II (i) under the “Guiding Principles”, Members take coordinated actions through Programmes and activities launched on a voluntary basis, aimed at better harmonizing and aggregating demand for, inter alia, solar finance, solar technologies, innovation, research and development, and capacity building. The Article-II (ii) stated that, “In this endeavor, Members cooperate closely and strive for establishing mutually beneficial relationships with relevant organizations, public and private stakeholders, and with non-member countries.”

The Secretariat of International Solar Alliance hereby constitutes an Innovation Transfer & Experts Visits’ Scheme with broad objective of knowledge sharing of Solar and hybrid projects including innovative projects, innovative technology, successful case studies and Business/Financial models. These activities will support the ISA Countries to strengthen their institutional capacity building and policy/regulatory framework to accelerate prevailing and upcoming programmes on solar energy. This will result in more structured solar programmes and bankable project proposals thus leading to speedy implementation and scaling up of ISA Programmes in the respective Countries through better fund mobilization and investments in Solar Sector.

Implementation Strategy

Under the Scheme, the Secretariat of ISA will constitute a group of experts from various countries, who would be visiting those ISA Member Countries for assistance on invitation. The group of experts will prepare the presentations to promote project implementation with respect to the five Programmes of ISA, namely:

- Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use
- Scaling Affordable Finance
- Scaling Solar Mini Grids
- Scaling Rooftop Solar
- Scaling E-Mobility and Storage
- Any other new programme proposed by the Member Countries and approved by Director General, ISA
Innovation Expert Group

Delegation of the Expert Group on Innovation Transfer will generally consist of 4-5 members from across member countries as identified by the ISA Secretariat, who have implemented innovative projects related to ISA Programmes. Duration of visit will be around seven (7) to ten (10) days. The number of experts or duration of visit may vary depending upon the nature of work or request from the ISA Member Countries or by ISA Secretariat to promote its activities and programs.

Sources of expenditure

ISA will bear the Economy Class Air Fare of the delegations of the Group of Experts along with per diem cost as per UN norms. Source of such expenses will be the budget of ISA approved by ISA Assembly and/or bilateral funding, bilateral development assistance, budgetary support from the ISA Member Country, funding support from Foundations, Knowledge Partners, and Technical Assistance from Multilateral Institutions and Banks. The ISA Country, who invites the Expert Group, are expected to bear the local hospitality including the cost of lodging, boarding and local transport. In special cases, Director General, ISA may decide to bear the costs.

Activities

The Expert Group will visit the ISA Country on invitation or on ISA Secretariat’s initiative. The Expert Group will make presentations in the presence of the Hon’ble Minister/Head of Department responsible for the promotion of renewable energy, in presence of all concerned officials from various departments and organizations of the Country including policy makers, regulators, as well as local experts and bankers. The presentations and discussions by the Expert Group will generally focus on –

- Prevailing statistical data mentioned in the Solar Road Maps of ISA, IRENA, IEA or any other regional/ national organisation.
- Status of installed Solar Projects in the ISA Countries
- Potential/Prospectsof OPEX / CAPEX/ Lease or any other Innovative Model forimplementing Solar Projects
- Potential/Prospects of Pilot Projects
- Coordination with financial partners of ISA for any financial assistance as required by the concerned ISA Country.
- Constitution of Solar Task Force for program implementation in the ISA Country, if required. The Task Force will be headed by National Focal Point and the members will be Country representatives, nominated by the Country for each of the respective ISA Programme, who would be having necessary qualification, experience and expertise in implementing similar programs. Project Preparation & Financing Facility for transparent bidding process or MoU/ negotiated routes of selection
• Establishment of ISA STAR Centre in the ISA Member Country.
• Credit Road Map, Fiscal & Financial support measures.
• Salient features of Tariffs, Regulations, RFPs and PPAs.
• Rolling out of PPA and/or CAPEX Projects.
• Any other task mutually agreed.

Follow up

The activities performed by the Expert Group during the visit to the Country will be followed up by ISA Secretariat.

(P S Ananda Rao)
Director (HRD & Coordination)