

ISA Director General marks his first visit to the Togolese Republic

- *Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General of the International Solar Alliance, visits Togo to strengthen collaboration and solar energy-powered initiatives.*
- *Meets the President and inks two important MoUs with leading financial institutions: Africa50 and West African Development Bank (BOAD), to co-finance regional solar initiatives.*

July 2023 | New Delhi, India: 44 countries from the African continent are members of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), with 38 full members and six signatories. The Republic of Togo was an early supporter of the Alliance. Togo's association with the International Solar Alliance offers the country a platform for cooperation, knowledge sharing, and support in harnessing the potential of solar energy to drive sustainable development and address energy challenges.

On his first visit to the capital of the Togolese Republic, Lomé, Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General of the Alliance, called upon H.E. Faure Gnassingbé, President of the Republic of Togo and discussed actively working on making Togo's Dapaong Solar PV Park project viable and ready for implementation within a short timeframe. In addition, explore the potential of smaller-scale projects based on solar mini-grids. These projects can provide electricity to underserved areas, create job opportunities, and alleviate the pressure of urbanisation by promoting local employment. The goal is to collaborate with Togo to attract private sector investments to facilitate widespread access to solar-powered electricity for all the country's citizens.

The visit highlights included inking two important memorandums of understanding (MoU) with Africa50, the pan-African infrastructure investment platform, and the West African Development Bank (BOAD), the common development finance institution of the member countries of the West African Monetary Union (WAMU).

The first MoU was signed at Africa50's Infra for Africa Forum and General Shareholders Meeting, which featured addresses by H.E. Faure Gnassingbé, President of the Republic of Togo; Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group; and Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization and Tidjane Thiam, Executive Chairman, Freedom Acquisition 1 Corp; among other notable African investment leaders.

Participating in the proceedings of the Forum, Director General delivered a keynote address as part of the 'Harnessing Partnerships for Solar Power Generation in Africa' plenary. Sharing his thoughts on the occasion, DG-ISA remarked, "We look forward to working with Africa50 in the development and execution of solar projects across African nations and mobilisation of funds to co-finance solar initiatives within the region."

The collaboration with Africa50 is envisioned to support solar projects in Africa, leveraging each other's networks to mobilise funding and raise awareness of African solar projects in European and Indian markets.

The second MoU was inked with Mr Serge EKUE, President of the West African Development Bank (BOAD). This collaboration marks the commitment of the two organisations to continue and strengthen cooperation to identify, facilitate, and effectively implement solar energy projects for the economic integration of the West African region. Noting his delight in this synergy of energies. Dr Ajay Mathur, DG-ISA, stated, "Both sides stand to benefit from this

collaboration. Moreover, active engagement with key stakeholders in global and regional renewable energy events and forums will foster collaboration and exchange of ideas."

Among other dignitaries, DG-ISA met with the Hon'ble Minister of Economy and Finance, Togo, Mr Sani Yaya; Hon. Mawunyo Mila Ami AZIABLE, Minister Delegate to the President of the Republic in charge of Energy and Mines, in the presence of Indian Ambassador to Togo, H.E. Sanjiv Tandon; Dr Sidi Ould Tah, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA); Mr El Hadji Mamadou Diao, Director General, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC); and Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group.

By actively participating in ISA initiatives and programmes, Togo can contribute to shaping the global agenda for solar energy and influence regional and international efforts in advancing renewable energy solutions. The Government of the Togolese Republic has also chosen to install solar water pumps across its five administrative regions under the ISA's initiative of developing solar demonstration projects in Small Island Developing States/Least Developed Countries Member Countries. The solar pumping solution will help provide improved and reliable access to water for irrigation. The project stands completed.

About the International Solar Alliance: The International Solar Alliance is an international organisation with 116 Member and Signatory countries. It works with governments to ease solar deployment and promote solar power as a sustainable transition to a carbon-neutral future. ISA's mission is to unlock US\$ 1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing technology and its financing costs. It promotes the use of solar energy in the agriculture, health, transport, and power generation sectors. ISA Member Countries are driving change by enacting policies and regulations, sharing best practices, agreeing on common standards, and mobilising investments. Through this work, ISA has identified and designed and tested new business models for solar projects; supported governments to make their energy legislation and policies solar-friendly through Ease of Doing Solar analytics and advisory; pooled demand for solar technology from different countries; and drove down costs; improved access to finance by reducing the risks and making the sector more attractive to private investment; increased access to solar training, data and insights for solar engineers and energy policymakers. ISA is one of the first three international intergovernmental organisations headquartered in India. It is partnering with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organisations, civil society, and other international institutions to deploy cost-effective and transformational solutions through solar energy, especially in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). More information at <https://isolaralliance.org/>

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