

Secretariat
International Solar Alliance

Cochin, May 22, 2019: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) organized the 21st SunMeet in Bengaluru and its suburbs in the State of Karnataka in India on May 21, and in Cochin in the State of Kerala in India on May 22. Ambassadors and High Commissioners from 36 ISA Member countries participated in this study-tour.

On the first day of the visit, the dignitaries from ISA Member countries visited the 2000 MW utility scale Pavagada Solar power plant in Karnataka. The visit was facilitated by Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited. Dignitaries also visited the PGCIL facility built in the park to facilitate evacuation. To mark the visit, Ambassadors and High commissioners participated in tree plantation activity in the park organized by KREDL. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka HE Mr. H.D. Kumaraswamy later in the evening hosted a dinner meeting with the delegation. Minister for Tourism and Sericulture, and Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka were also present in the meeting. Hon'ble CM announced INR100 million to be contributed towards ISA as a corpus to institute Visvesvaraya Award, named after India's highest honour recipient- scholar, statesman and eminent engineer, M Visvesvaraya who belonged to Karnataka.

ISA has previously institutionalized Kalpana Chawla Solar Award with Government of Haryana, India.

On the second day, the delegates visited globally acclaimed Cochin International Airport. This visit was facilitated and coordinated by Cochin International Airport limited, Government of Kerala. Dignitaries visited then a floating solar project using the Hydrelío® solution developed by the French company, Ciel & Terre.

The study tour ended with the visit to the Solar Ferry Aditya developed by the French company Navalt and operated by Kerala State Water Transport Department at Vaikom, Kottayam. Director General ISA on this occasion announced that soon ISA will host a conclave for Managing Directors of various airports from ISA Member countries to encourage them to adopt solar by showcasing the example of Cochin airport.

The SunMeet is a monthly event wherein ISA brings in all stakeholders to discuss current issues and get feedback for future direction and guidance. This platform is utilized to deepen engagement with Member countries and partner organizations. Till now 20 Sun Meets have been successfully organized by the ISA.

The ISA was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris on 30 November, 2015 by H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and H.E. Mr. Francois Hollande, former Hon'ble President of France, in the presence of Mr. Ban Ki Moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations.

The ISA was officially established on 6 December 2017, on the entry into force of the Framework Agreement. The founding conference was subsequently held on 11 March 2018, co-chaired by His Excellency, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, and His Excellency, the Hon'ble President of France, Mr. Emmanuel Macron. The First Assembly of the ISA was held on 3 October 2018, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, H.E Mr. Narendra Modi and the UN Secretary General, H.E. Mr. António Guterres.