INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE

EASING SOLAR DEPLOYMENT GLOBALLY

NEWSLETTER

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FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DESK

As 2024 progresses, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) remains steadfast in its mission to accelerate the global adoption of solar energy. Our unified efforts are essential in tackling the urgent challenges of climate change and fostering sustainable development across our 119 Member Countries.

In this year (2024), we convene our governance meetings to set the strategic direction for the year. These meetings, including the Seventh Session of the Assembly and the biannual Standing Committee meetings, will be pivotal in shaping our agenda and ensuring that our initiatives align with the diverse needs of our Member Countries. We will be discussing key issues such as the expansion of our solar energy projects, the allocation of resources, and the establishment of new partnerships.

Our governance structure, encompassing the Assembly, Standing Committee, Regional Committees, and the Secretariat, ensures a robust framework for decision-making and implementation. The Assembly, our apex decision-making body, will synthesise deliberations from the Regional Committees and the Standing Committee, focusing on programmatic support through key ISA initiatives.

Our recent achievements have underscored the impact of ISA's initiatives. The Djibouti: Global Investment Gateway Forum, for instance, highlighted the crucial role of renewable energy, particularly solar, in addressing Africa's energy challenges. ISA's active participation, led by our Africa Regional Head of Programmes, demonstrated our commitment to supporting Member Countries in harnessing solar energy sustainably and affordably for the people. Djibouti's ambitious plan to meet 100% of its power demands through renewable energy is a testament to the tangible results of our collaborative efforts. **Another significant milestone was the Solar Innovators Programme in Fiji, which marked the successful conclusion of the 2024 SolarX Startup Challenge: an event that showed ISA's engagement with local entrepreneurs in its mission to help the world transition towards solar energy.**

In Sri Lanka, we had the opportunity to showcase the SolarX Startup Challenge in a collaborative workshop with Invest India and the High Commission of India in Colombo. This initiative, designed to foster innovation in the Asia-Pacific region, holds immense potential to foster entrepreneurship in the solar sector. It aims to identify and support scalable and cost-effective solar solutions, and the APAC edition of the SolarX Startup Challenge, culminating in Fiji, highlighted the region's vast untapped potential and the critical role of local entrepreneurs in driving solar innovation.

Moreover, ISA's capacity-building efforts continue to make significant strides. **Our STAR-C initiative will help scale up solar expertise and technological advancements in Fiji, Kiribati, and Senegal.** Our regulatory support initiatives complement these efforts, which aim to create a conducive environment for solar investments and enhance energy access and security.

ISA's global engagement is also reflected in Spain, which is one of the European countries with the highest solar exposure, joining as our 99th member, further strengthening our Alliance. Additionally, the recent visit of diplomats from 38 countries to the ISA Secretariat highlighted our ongoing commitment to international cooperation and knowledge exchange.

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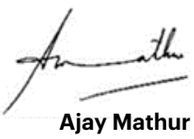
Our collaborative projects, such as establishing solar-powered healthcare facilities in Djibouti and Fiji, demonstrate the tangible benefits of solar energy in improving quality of life and enabling safe and healthy spaces, especially for populations living in remote areas who are often vulnerable to hardships such as electricity access. These projects ensure a reliable, sustainable energy supply, which is crucial for operating life-saving medical equipment and reducing dependency on polluting energy sources.

As we prepare for the 2024 governance meetings, I am confident that the deliberations and decisions will drive significant progress in our shared mission. The meetings will focus on enhancing our programmes, discussing strategic initiatives like the Global Solar Facility and 'Solar for She', and finalising our work programme and budget for the year.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our Member Countries, partners, and stakeholders for your unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we will continue to harness the power of the sun to drive sustainable development and create a cleaner, healthier future for all.



Ajay Mathur

Director General, International Solar Alliance

ROUNDUP

THE SOLARX STARTUP CHALLENGE 2024 – APAC EDITION ANNOUNCES THE CLOSE OF ENTRIES AT THE SOLAR INNOVATORS PROGRAMME IN FIJI

The 2024 SolarX Startup Challenge, designed by the International Solar Alliance (ISA), is a unique and prestigious opportunity for the global entrepreneurial community working in the solar sector. This collaborative initiative aims to cultivate a robust startup ecosystem across ISA regions to address energy accessibility with tailored solutions.

The SolarX Startup Challenge was launched by ISA, an intergovernmental organisation with 119 Member Countries, at UNFCCC's 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022. Its first edition focused on the African continent. The Challenge aims at crowdsourcing practical, cost-effective, scalable, and innovative solutions to some of the persistent challenges the solar energy sector faces.

The SolarX Startup Challenge offers a comprehensive support system to its winners. From the application pool, 20 winners are selected based on vision, social impact, and scalability of solutions. In addition to a cash prize of USD 15,000, winners are entitled to a comprehensive acceleration programme. This includes mentorship from industry experts, engagement with potential investors, and the tools and support needed to penetrate diverse markets and drive their solar solutions.

Following the resounding success of the Africa leg, ISA launched the second edition of the SolarX Startup Challenge for the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region at COP28 in November 2023. This underscores ISA's dedication to fostering entrepreneurship and advancing local solutions stems from the proven efficiency of solar technologies. Especially considering the challenges Small Island Developing States (SIDs) face due to climate change, including natural disasters, ISA's focus is on innovative solar energy solutions." Dr Ajay Mathur, DG, ISA, highlighted the region's importance, saying: "The

Joshua Wycliffe, COO-ISA and the Fijian Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau at the Solar Innovators Programme in Fiji

Asia-Pacific (APAC) region is rich with opportunities for solar energy expansion. The potential is immense, with increasing awareness and a growing demand for clean energy solutions. The 2024 edition of the SolarX Startup Challenge aims to harness this potential by inspiring local entrepreneurs to develop innovative and locally relevant business strategies."

The Challenge came to a close at the Solar Innovators Programme, hosted by ISA in partnership with Fiji on 15 May 2024 in Nadi. The Minister for Public Works, Transport and Meteorological Services, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, graced the programme and underlined the ISA-Fiji collaboration under whose aegis hospitals and schools were being solarised as demonstration projects in Fiji. In his speech, he thanked ISA for setting up a National Solar Unit (NSU), which will support the Department of Energy under his ministry in scaling new probabilities vis-i-vis solar energy and help accomplish the mission of providing electricity to all Fijians by 2026.

ISA proposed the establishment of NSUs in Member Countries to act as implementation arms, focusing on project design, training, and solar roadmaps. The NSUs aim to foster South-South cooperation, share best practices, and create a network that aligns with local needs.

Emphasising the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels on the occasion, ISA Chief of Operations Joshua Wycliffe shared, "Solar energy is playing a critical role in providing clean and reliable power, particularly in regions susceptible to energy shortages. ISA is committed to finding solar-powered solutions for all its Member Countries."

"The response to the African leg of the SolarX Startup Challenge was exceptional. We are glad we have replicated this success in the Asia-Pacific region, garnering over 250 applications." Pragya Gupta, Resource Mobilisation Specialist at ISA, stated on the close of the 2024-APAC edition.

The Solar Innovators Programme also featured segments on ISA's leading initiative, the Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C). Saba Kalam, ISA's STAR-C Programme Specialist, shared with members of the audience the nuances of capacity-building efforts that ISA has undertaken. Elaborating on the initiative's benefits, Saba shared that **STAR-C is a platform to redefine solar innovation, share knowledge, build capacity, and create jobs.** Currently, work is underway to set up centres in the countries of Fiji and Kiribati from the region.

The Programme agenda also spotlighted ISA's strides in regulatory support to Member Countries under its analytics and advocacy priority. **As part of this initiative, ISA aims to help create a pipeline of sustainable and scalable solar energy projects in Member Countries, streamlining a Member Country's legal and regulatory framework for sustainable and affordable solar energy;** it also aims to attract and stabilise private sector investments in solar energy generation and distribution. Underlining the crucial role of this ISA initiative, Sunayana Bhatnagar, ISA Legal Analyst, added – "Our intervention helps strengthen and promote clean energy generation in each Member Country's energy mix—facilitating the establishment of effective energy regulations that can propel our Member Countries in meeting their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets through increased investments, transition to clean energy, and improving energy access and security for millions of unelectrified population."

Another significant outcome of this ISA mission was the establishment of two solar-powered healthcare facilities in Fiji. These facilities enhance Fiji's healthcare infrastructure by providing reliable, sustainable energy. Solar power ensures a continued supply of energy, enabling the operation of life-saving instruments and tools, significantly improving healthcare services in remote communities, and reducing dependency on expensive, polluting diesel generators.

SPOTLIGHT

CHARTING SOLAR SUCCESS: KEY AGENDAS FOR 2024 ISA GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

In an age where climate change has necessitated sustainable energy sources, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) has emerged as a global leader dedicated to promoting the adoption of solar energy for the clean energy transition. Established in 2015, the ISA has a clear objective: to accelerate the worldwide deployment of solar power by facilitating cooperation among its Member Countries, international organisations, and other stakeholders like the private sector. With its membership comprising 119 Signatory and Member Countries, the ISA brings together countries from different regions to foster international cooperation. The ISA advocates for supportive policies and financial mechanisms to make solar energy affordable, accessible, and adaptable to diverse socio-economic contexts.

The ISA governance structure comprises the Assembly, Standing Committee, Four Regional Committees and the ISA Secretariat. The Assembly is the apex decision-making body comprising all ISA Member Countries. The Assembly is convened annually at the seat of the ISA in New Delhi, India. The Standing Committee is constituted by the Assembly under its Rules of Procedure to facilitate consultation among the ISA Member Countries and provide advisement on matters to be recommended to the Assembly for a decision. The Standing Committee meets twice a year at the Ministerial level and is chaired and co-chaired by the President and Co-President of the ISA Assembly, respectively. The other members comprise eight regional Vice-Presidents of the ISA. To facilitate regional coordination among the Member Countries, the ISA has four Regional Committees for (1) Africa Region, (2) Asia and the Pacific Region, (3) Europe and the Others Region, and (4) Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

The Regional Committees meet annually and are chaired by two Vice-Presidents from each region, selected for a one-year duration each in order of the submission of the instrument of ratification of the ISA Framework Agreement. The governance meetings facilitate in-depth analysis and review of the ISA activities under its strategic priorities through deliberations among its Member Countries. The Standing Committee establishes the overarching agenda for the year, which is then deliberated upon in the Regional Committee Meetings with a regional context.

The ISA Assembly serves as a forum to collate and synthesise these deliberations, where the outcomes of the deliberations conducted throughout the year are placed for conclusive decisions. **The governance meetings of the ISA hold great significance as they play a crucial role in shaping the ISA's roadmap.**

The schedule for the 2024 Governance Meetings stands as follows:

Governance Meeting	Date and Venue
Seventh Session of the Assembly	3 - 5 November, New Delhi
Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee	10/15 July, New Delhi *(Proposed)*
Eleventh Meeting of the Standing Committee	24 September, New Delhi
Fifth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region	11 - 13 June, Brussels
Sixth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific Region	14 August *(Virtual-Proposed)*
Sixth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Region	10-11 September *(Proposed)*
Sixth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Africa Region	27 - 29 August, Abidjan

The 2024 governance meetings are poised to address a comprehensive agenda, primarily focusing on providing programmatic support to ISA Member Countries through ISA Programmes. These meetings will also spotlight various flagship initiatives of ISA, such as STAR-C, SolarX Startup Challenge, Global Solar Facility, and 'Solar for She,' underscoring efforts to drive innovation and inclusivity within the solar energy sector. Moreover, there will be discussions centered around enhancing private sector engagements, strengthening the Country Partnership Framework, and finalising the work programme and budget for the year 2024. Additionally, matters pertaining to the Secretariat will be deliberated upon, ensuring streamlined coordination and effective implementation of decisions made during these crucial governance meetings.

SPOTLIGHT

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: ISA'S SOLAR COLD STORAGE PROJECTS INAUGURATED IN DJIBOUTI'S VILLAGES

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has inaugurated two solar cold storage demonstration projects in the villages of Omar Jagaa and Dougoum in Djibouti. ISA's Demonstration Projects illustrate the on-ground impact of ISA's mission of global solarisation. These projects demonstrate locally relevant clean energy solutions that, if successfully scaled, could help countries meet their climate goals globally.

This development marks a significant milestone for the residents of these villages, who have lived without reliable electricity. The absence of a stable power supply has posed considerable challenges, impacting their daily lives, agricultural productivity, and overall well-being. The introduction of solar cold storage systems is poised to address these issues, providing a sustainable solution tailored to their unique needs.

Harnessing solar energy in this innovative manner has brought about monumental change. **These solar cold storage units will help preserve agricultural produce, reduce post-harvest losses, and enable the safe storage of essential medicines and vaccines.** This advancement is crucial for enhancing these remote areas' food security and healthcare services.

"ISA, by bringing clean, renewable power to places where it is most needed, is not just illuminating homes, but also igniting possibilities of employment and well-being."

These projects are a testament to how sustainable energy solutions, when implemented effectively, can drive economic development, improve health outcomes, and uplift entire communities, inspiring hope for a more sustainable future.

Glimpses from the Inauguration of the Demonstration Projects in Djibouti's Villages

SPOTLIGHT

MEDIA DELEGATION FROM BANGLADESH INTERACTS WITH ISA LEADERSHIP

On May 10, 2024, a delegation from Bangladesh comprising representatives from print, electronic, and digital media visited the International Solar Alliance (ISA) headquarters. Mr Nar Bahadur Khatiwora, the ISA Regional Programmes Specialist for the APAC region, briefed the delegation on the ongoing initiatives of ISA, with a particular focus on its activities in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region and Bangladesh in particular.

During the interactive session, DG-ISA Dr Ajay Mathur engaged with the journalists, highlighting the pivotal role media plays in advancing the work of the Alliance. Dr Mathur shed light on the current energy landscape in Bangladesh, underscoring future opportunities such as floating solar technology. He also emphasised Bangladesh's significant contribution as a key ally of the ISA since its inception.

At the heart of the discussion was the media's crucial role in promoting the adoption of solar energy. Dr Mathur emphasised the importance of showcasing success stories, highlighting impact and benefits, and encouraging critical questioning to drive awareness and understanding. He acknowledged the media's power to shape public opinion and urged them to continue their efforts in this direction.

Addressing queries regarding ISA's interventions, Dr Mathur emphasised the Alliance's focus on research and development, mainly through initiatives like STAR-C aimed at local capacity building, technology adaptation and its widespread adoption. Responding to inquiries about financing, he underscored the crucial role of private sector investment in scaling solar technology for mass deployment and ISA's Global Solar Facility, a tool especially developed to help mitigate perceived risks associated with investment with the provision of payment guarantee funds.

The delegation also had the opportunity to visit and learn about the Solar Cold Storage facility established on the premises. This facility, a tangible example of ISA's work, showcases the potential of solar energy in addressing storage challenges and ensuring food security.

The engagement between the Bangladeshi media delegation and ISA facilitated a deeper understanding of ongoing solar initiatives in the region. It highlighted the media's vital role in championing sustainable energy solutions and fostering public discourse on renewable energy.




The Media Delegation from Bangladesh at the ISA Headquarters

HIGHLIGHTS

INCENTIVISING SOLAR INNOVATION: INVEST INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE WORKSHOP IN SRI LANKA

Invest India and the International Solar Alliance joined hands with the High Commission of India in Colombo on May 8 for a dynamic one-day workshop. This event brought together Sri Lanka's burgeoning solar startup ecosystem, aiming to propel innovation and collaboration in the renewable energy sector.

This workshop introduced the SolarX Startup Challenge, a key initiative of the International Solar Alliance, and focused on its manifold benefits. Through detailed sessions, participants gained valuable insights into the features and advantages of engaging with this transformative challenge, which is poised to drive significant innovation and collaboration in the renewable energy sector.

H.E. Dr Satyanjal Pandey, India's Deputy High Commissioner, took the stage to deliver a compelling keynote address. He underscored the immense growth potential of India's renewable energy sector and the abundant collaboration opportunities it presents. Dr Pandey also shed light on forthcoming initiatives geared towards bolstering Sri Lanka's startup ecosystem in the realm of renewable energy. Noteworthy attendees included representatives from Sri Lanka's top incubators and universities, enriching the discourse with diverse perspectives and expertise.

The SolarX Startup Challenge, a unique platform, is designed to harness implementable, cost-effective, scalable, and innovative solutions addressing persistent challenges in the solar energy sector among Member Countries. Having successfully launched its first edition focusing on the African region, the challenge now shifts its gaze to the APAC region. This strategic move aims to spur innovation, unearth local solutions, and facilitate capacity building. Notably, the challenge offers a substantial $15,000 prize alongside invaluable opportunities for mentorship and market access assistance, making it a highly attractive opportunity for solar startups.

For those intrigued by this opportunity, further details about the SolarX Startup Challenge can be found on Invest India's SolarX Startup Challenge page.

In essence, the workshop served as a nexus for collaboration and knowledge exchange among key stakeholders in the solar startup ecosystem. It also underscored the burgeoning opportunities for growth within the renewable energy sector, setting the stage for impactful innovation and sustainable development.

HIGHLIGHTS

DJIBOUTI HOSTS INAUGURAL GLOBAL INVESTMENT GATEWAY FORUM

The Djibouti Sovereign Wealth Fund successfully convened the first Djibouti: Global Investment Gateway Forum on 13-14 May 2024, a significant event that marked the beginning of a new era of strategic partnerships and investment prospects for the East African region. The prestigious event, inaugurated by H.E. Mr Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, alongside esteemed high-level officials, attracted over 300 participants from various sectors, including the private sector, international organisations, financing institutions, and other key stakeholders, all of whom contributed to the discussion.

One of the forum's central themes was Djibouti's ambitious plan to fulfil 100% of its power demands through renewable energy sources. This initiative stands as a cornerstone of the country's Vision 2035 development plan, a comprehensive strategy that outlines the country's long-term economic, social, and environmental goals, reflecting its commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

The participation of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was a significant highlight of the event. Represented by the Africa Regional Head of Programmes, Dr Barakat Ahmed, ISA shared its expertise in the 'Energy and Renewable Resources' session. Dr Ahmed underlined the importance of solar energy in addressing the energy challenge in Africa, particularly energy access and how to attract private investment to solar power.

He further added that ISA plays a pivotal role in supporting its Member Countries in harnessing their solar energy potential sustainably and affordably. **One of ISA's key focuses is addressing the challenges faced by the African private sector, offering initiatives such as the Global Solar Facility, regulatory support, and capacity-building programmes.**

WATCH

Barakat Ahmed, Regional Programs Head: Africa, ISA, Speaks to CNBC Africa

The Global Solar Facility, a key initiative, seeks to stimulate solar investments in underserved areas and regions across Africa, thereby unlocking commercial capital. The Facility prioritises investments in off-grid, rooftop, and productive use in solar projects, employing a country-specific intervention approach. With a USD 200 million fund encompassing payment guarantees, insurance, and investment funds, this intervention aims to mitigate project risks and provide technical assistance to address regulatory gaps, currency risks, and contractual uncertainties in the solar energy sector.

ISA has also implemented demonstration projects across Africa, aiding countries in scaling up their solar energy applications by identifying sustainable business models. As an active Member Country of ISA, Djibouti has benefited from various engagements, including the commissioning of two cold storage facilities, scaling solar mini-grids, establishing the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C), promoting solar applications for agricultural use, and receiving regulatory support, all contributing to the country's renewable energy and sustainable development objectives.

ISA's involvement underscored the forum's emphasis on renewable resources, particularly solar energy, in addressing Africa's energy challenges. Discussions revolved around enhancing energy access and attracting private investment into solar energy projects, showcasing renewable energy's pivotal role in Africa's sustainable development narrative.

The forum's agenda encapsulated various topics, including infrastructure development and investment opportunities in key sectors such as logistics, technology, and renewable energy. Sessions were designed to foster meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and actionable insights, ultimately paving the way for transformative investments that align with Djibouti's vision for economic prosperity and environmental stewardship.

As Djibouti continues to position itself as a global investment hub and a trailblazer in renewable energy initiatives, the success of the inaugural Global Investment Gateway Forum sets a promising precedent for future collaborations, partnerships, and sustainable development endeavors in the region and beyond.

#IDEASTHATHAVEWORKED

SOLAR IMPACT STORIES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

The EU Cooperation with ISA aims to deepen further the links between the ISA, its Member Countries, and international academic, financial, and business communities, including the relevant European Union (EU) communities. The project aims to support and strengthen ISA's role as a solar energy platform, including supporting concrete communication activities. Over 250 case studies of solar uptake and road mapping across the globe have been put together as part of this project. The ISA newsletter showcases innovative solar interventions that have carved positive outcomes on the ground every month.

Surya Nutan - An Indoor Solar Cooking Solution in India

As of 2017, India was importing nearly 50% of the country's Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) consumed. To reduce the dependence on imported fuel, Indian Oil Corporation Limited took up an initiative to develop a viable solar solution to fuel Indian kitchens. IOCL worked with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to develop a solar cooktop, 'Surya Nutan,' and launched the first working model in June 2022. The design has been patented by the R&D division of IOCL (Indian patent number 391 905).

According to the company, **Surya Nutan is a "stationary, rechargeable, and always kitchen-connected indoor solar cooking" solution.** The stove includes a customised thermal battery with optimised insulation. The stove is a hybrid model that works on both solar energy and auxiliary energy sources, making it an ideal alternative cooking solution for all weather conditions. Surya Nutan's in-built insulation system reduces radiative and conductive heat losses. The cooktop is available in three models, with prices ranging from INR 12,000 (€ 146) for the base model to INR 23,000 (€ 280) for the premium model. The premium model can cook three meals for a family of four on any given day, irrespective of solar resource availability. IOCL is looking at options to either independently manufacture the cooktop at a large scale or resort to licensing the design for contract manufacturing.

#IDEASTHATHAVEWORKED

AZURI PAYG – AN AFFORDABLE SOLAR SOLUTION IN AFRICA

According to Renewable Capacity Statistics in 2021, Africa has the potential of 40% of the world's solar power generation potential. However, most households in African countries cannot afford to install solar systems due to financial obligations. This case study is about Azuri Technologies, which is seeking to provide an innovative solution through an affordable pay-as-you-go system for solar.

In 2012, Azuri Technologies, a UK-based company, came up with an innovative pay-as-you-go (PAYG) solution to make solar energy accessible to people in 11 African countries - Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Rwanda, Togo, and Ghana. At the time, limited electricity supplies on the African continent had forced people to resort to kerosene lamps, candles and other means for illumination and other routine uses.

According to the African Progress Panel, as of 2017, nearly 620 million Africans – most of them in rural areas – did not have access to electricity or reliable supplies when connected: this amounted to nearly two-thirds of the population on the continent. **Further, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), about one in four clinics and hospitals across 11 African countries do not have access to power supplies, while a large proportion of the others received supplies from ill-maintained or inadequately-fueled generators. Such energy shortage has proven to be a significant barrier to the development of the continent and is believed to have adversely affected health and education-related outcomes.**

According to the World Bank, if African countries have access to continuous and reliable electricity supply, they will grow at least two percentage points [per year] faster than the observed rate of growth for the year 2017.

Most residents in rural Africa cannot afford a basic USD 70 (~ €67) solar system to illuminate their houses: average earnings per day is around USD 2.0 – 3.0 (~ €1.92-2.87). Residents spend about USD 4.0 - 7.0 (~€3.83-6.70) each week on kerosene and phone charging and thus have limited savings. Azuri's pay-as-you-go solution offers an alternative solution, where the user needs to pay a small one-time installation fee for the solar home system and follow this up with purchasing a scratch card or use an integrated mobile money service to top-up the unit in the spirit of pre-paid energy service. These top-up purchases cost approximately USD 1-2 (€0.96-1.92) per week, which is 50% lower than the weekly expense on kerosene and phone charging

These regular 'top-ups' pay off the cost of the solar system: after about 18 months, the customer owns the system and can use the energy at no further cost. The upfront costs and top-ups vary according to the country of installation and, of course, the size and configuration of the system acquired. For instance, in Kenya, it costs 4,999 Kenyan shillings (40.73 euros), and the top-ups are around 149 Kenyan shillings (1.21 euros). Upon paying the installation fee, along with the solar panel and batteries, customers receive LED lights, mobile phone chargers, and a radio/MP3 player. Azuri's solar home systems have in-built analytic and AI technology designed to profile consumption patterns of individual customers and manage power supplies to optimise system performance.

Azuri has also offered a 24-inch television with a satellite connection running on ten watts of power in some parts. In Kenya, the company has tied up with satellite TV provider Zuku, providing access to nearly 50 channels for customers. Azuri claims to have supported the supply of solar home systems to more than 150,000 households. According to an independent survey conducted in 2017, of the 85% of Azuri's customers who had been using kerosene before the installation of the solar home system, a mere 17% continued to use kerosene. The survey further shows that their customers had saved USD 70 (~67 euros) per annum on average. Azuri customers reportedly spent the savings on school fees, food and water, and launching or expanding their business.

The solar home systems have provided 28.5 million hours of clean light and 9.5 million hours of mobile phone charging, avoiding 3,504 tonnes of CO_2 emissions since the company's inception. Azuri continues to help villagers across different countries in Africa. In 2021, the company also ventured into solar irrigation projects in several villages. The company's website (https://www.azuri-group.com/) lists various success stories on educational, business and gender-related outcomes.

SNAPSHOTS

Meeting with the Philippines

H.E. Ambassador Josel F. Ignacio of the Philippines was welcomed by Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), on 09 May 2024 at the ISA Headquarters. Third Secretary Mark Anthony P. Dizon, Attaché Rogelio B. Silva, Jr., and Rina Isabel P. De Chavez were in attendance alongside Ambassador Ignacio. Dr Mathur gave the delegation a detailed briefing covering the ISA's objectives, membership, operational frameworks, and ongoing collaborative projects with Member Countries.

Global Engagement: Diplomats from 38 countries visit the ISA Secretariat

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi, India, convened its 71st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats, a forum that brought together 38 diplomats representing diverse nations. On May 2, 2024, the diplomats had the privilege of visiting the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Secretariat, where DG-ISA Dr Ajay Mathur, COO-ISA Mr Joshua Wycliffe, and Mr Ramesh Kumar, Head of PPIC, ISA received them. This interaction gave the delegation profound insights into the latest advancements in solar-related technology, markets, and finance. The ISA officials also shared details of the Alliance's crucial interventions to enhance access to these vital aspects to pursue sustainable development goals and promote international cooperation. DG - ISA emphasised collaboration for shaping sustainable futures and solar's crucial role in energy transition for economic development.

Spain joins ISA

Spain became the 99th member to join the International Solar Alliance with the handing over of the Instrument of Ratification, during the meeting of Ambassador **José María Ridao Domínguez** of Spain with Head of Depository, JS (ED & MER), Ministry for External Affairs, **Mr Abhishek Singh,** in New Delhi on 22 May 2024.




Paul Buttin, International Technical Expert at ISA, was in Senegal, and met with Ecole Polytechnique de Thiès representatives and the National Agency for Renewable Energies (ANER) to discuss the Solar Academy initiative. This meeting marks a significant step forward for the STAR-C initiative in Senegal. STAR Centres will be pivotal in scaling solar expertise, knowledge dissemination, and technological advancements. ISA's commitment extends beyond mere infrastructure development, aiming to build capable solar workforces, sensitise policymakers, and incubate enterprises to address the capacity-building needs of ISA Member Countries.

On May 23, 2024, ISA and NISE co-hosted a delegation of 40 Sri Lankan diplomats. Officials from both organisations briefed the delegates on their respective roles, achievements, and ongoing initiatives.

Nar Bahadur Khatiwora, Head of Programmes – APAC, participated in a panel discussion at the Future Energy Asia 2024, Bangkok, addressing the session titled, The End Goal for Decarbonising Energy: How and When Can Renewable Power Asia.

Sun Day Marathon

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, organised a 'Run for Sun' Marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on 3 May 2024. ISA participated in the marathon featuring 3 km and 5 km races aimed at raising awareness about the crucial role of solar power in combating climate change and promoting a cleaner, healthier future for all.

ISA IN NEWS

May 2024

May 16

Fiji Govt aims for 100% electricity access by 2026 and embraces Solar Power as a key solution

Fiji Sun

May 16

TV News

FBC News

May 16

Solar Pumps Part of 2050 Water Plan

Fiji Times

May 17

Electricity For All By 2026

Fiji Sun

May 18

ISA's footprint in Fiji & Pacific

Fiji Sun