President of European Commission & President of the ISA Assembly interact with Industry on Solar Energy Development across the Globe

The President of the European Commission, H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, visited the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Secretariat on 24th April 2022. The President of the ISA Assembly, and Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, H.E. Raj Kumar Singh, also graced the occasion. The dignitaries addressed Industry representatives and participated in a panel discussion on solar energy development. DG, ISA H.E. Ajay Mathur hosted this visit at ISA Headquarters in Gurugram, India. Other dignitaries included Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, H.E. Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi; Ambassador of the EU to India and Bhutan, H.E. Ugo Astuto; and Ambassadors to India, five of the seven EU Member Countries of ISA: Ambassador of France, H.E. Emmanuel Lenain; Ambassador of Denmark, H.E. Freddy Svane; Ambassador of Sweden, H.E. Klas Molin; Ambassador of Germany, H.E. Walter Lindner; and Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Vincenzo de Luca were present during the meeting with representatives from the solar industry.
The European Commission and ISA have had a strong collaboration ever since the establishment of the International Solar Alliance. At COP24 in 2018, the EU and the International Solar Alliance signed a joint declaration to promote solar energy. European Commission Executive-Vice President, H.E. Frans Timmermans, announced a project funded by the EU, worth 1 million Euro during his participation in the ISA Assembly in October 2021, aiming at further strengthening the engagement of the EU, the EU Member States, and EU academic, business, and financial communities with the International Solar Alliance.

Currently, 7 EU Member States: France, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Italy, and Greece, are ISA Member Countries. India and France are the President and Co-President of ISA.

At the discussion, DG, ISA said, “The ISA resonates with the EC’s spirit of, ‘no person and no place left behind.’ Our collaboration with the EC and with the EU Member States is built on our synergistic multiplier effect, through making solar accessible, affordable, and available equitably.”

Secretary, Ministry of New Renewable and Energy, Government of India stated, “The global community is reposing increasing faith in International Solar Alliance as a critical instrument in the fight against climate change. The visit of the EC President to ISA headquarters is an affirmation of this faith. We are sure the visit will lead to a renewed commitment from countries across the world to strengthen ISA’s efforts.”

The President of the ISA Assembly noted, “India has taken the globally acknowledged initiative of energy transition. It is time now for all countries to come together and contribute to solve each other’s problems.” President of the European Commission, in her keynote address, said, “India and the European Union are closely aligned in the fight against climate change. Both India and the EU have embarked on their way to net zero emissions. And in both India and Europe, solar energy will play a key role to get there. The European Commission has been a strong supporter of the International Solar Alliance since its creation and I commend the work you do in developing new technologies. Now, we need to step up EU-India cooperation in developing solar energy. We can learn from each other how to finance, promote, and deploy solar energy and how to secure global supply chains and material needed for solar panels. Together, we can increase the economies of scale and scope in tapping the power of the sun. And we can do this through the International Solar Alliance.”

Industry leaders who were present included CEOs of the Clean Energy International Incubation Centre, EDF-India, Greenko, Reliance, Renew Power, Schneider Electric, Tata Power, and Vikram Solar. They shared their thoughts on key issues related to solar energy development. Dr. Ganesh Das, CEO, Clean Energy International Incubation Centre, highlighted the importance of global markets and global startups in the development of solar power. Mr. Mahesh Kolli, President & Joint MD, Greenko, spoke about Greenko’s plans in the hydrogen and electrolyzer space. Mr. Sumant Sinha, Chairman & CEO, Renew Power said that globally increasing demand and the presence of initial incentives to be competitive were critical considerations in their decision to manufacture solar panels. And, Mr. Anil Chaudhry, Country President & Managing Director at Schneider Electric brought out the centrality of developing country markets, and of developing country manufacturing in meeting global demand.

With the signing of a joint declaration for cooperation on 11 December 2018, the European Union is a partner organisation to the ISA. The EU supports ISA with concrete actions, such as the development of the ISAs collaborative and knowledge platform, the ISA Infopedia and solar academy that was launched at ISA’s General Assembly 2019.

The full transcript of H.E. EC President’s speech can be accessed at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_22_2602
With its partner organizations, NTPC Limited and International Water Management Institute (IWMI), ISA led a technical mission to Ethiopia, a founding member of ISA, during 13-17th March 2022. The objectives of the Mission were to identify the support and actions required for Ethiopia to develop a bankable project on Solar Water Pumping under ISA Programme No.1 – Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use. Discussions and deliberations also focussed on the demonstration project of a solar water pumping system for community drinking under the ISA Grant of USD 50,000 and the Country Framework nuances to support Ethiopia through ISA programmes and activities. The Mission also interacted with key ministry officials, utilities, and partner organizations to finalize the strategy for implementing solar projects and surveyed sites to assist in short-listing project locations and other key technical and commercial parameters for setting up projects on Independent Power Producer (IPP) Mode.

Following Ethiopia, the ISA Technical Mission, together with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), travelled to Uganda. In discussion with Ugandan ministries and departments. A host of actions was collectively decided. Among these, ISA will assist Uganda in developing solar policies, regulations, and business models for solar projects and the Country Framework of ISA as and when requested by NFP, Uganda. Also discussed was a proposal for capacity building of various Ugandan stakeholders: technicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, and government officials for awareness and sustainability of the solar projects. Deliberations happened on setting up a Joint Technical Task Force constituting officials from ISA, IWMI, and Ugandan Ministries & Departments for developing a Solar Water Pumping Programme for Uganda. Uganda had submitted an expression of interest for 30,000 Solar Water Pumping Systems to ISA.

Benin was the last destination where the Technical Mission, with its partner organization, NTPC Limited, engaged in meaningful discussions around implementing a pilot project on the solarisation of a health centre under ISA Grant support of up to USD 50,000; development of solar parks/projects under Programme-06; and release of IBSA funding to support solar pumps. The Mission members also surveyed a fishing village Ganvie, with great potential to augment solar home systems (SHS).

The following ministerial addresses were delivered as part of the on-ground engagements hosted during the Technical Mission.
Ministerial Address: Ethiopia

The ISA Technical Mission travelled to Ethiopia and Uganda. Remarks on the occasion by the Hon’ble Ministers are recorded here.

H.E. Dr. Sultan Wali,
Hon’ble State Minister of the Energy Sector, Ministry of Water and Energy, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

As we all know, around 840 million people in the world are left behind in energy access. Ethiopia is no different, where out of 115 million people more than 60 million people have no electricity access, making us the fifth highest electricity access deficit in the world and third in Africa. This indicates that our country and other LDCs have a considerable challenge and task ahead to upscale and transform the energy sector.

To address these challenges, my country recently launched an ambitious National Electrification Program to achieve Universal electricity access by 2030. The Program also prioritizes advancing equity, inclusion, and shared prosperity, irrespective of where one lives. The National Electrification Program adopts an integrated approach to electrification with a combination of grid and off-grid solutions, tailoring the least-cost technology choices by geographic location while ensuring timely access provision and priority to disadvantaged groups and social institutions. The Program follows a sector-wide approach for the design, implementation, and syndication of financing requirements. This Program will also coordinate activities and investments leveraging public, private, and development partners’ support.

Our Ministry is interested in being part of the various ISA programs since they are in line with our renewable energy development roadmap. Ethiopia, as the member country of ISA, has submitted four Expression of Interest, including:

- ISA Program 01: Solar Water Pumping for Agriculture and drinking; 2250 Solar Water Pumps and 1400 for community water supply
- ISA Program 03 and 04: Solar Mini-grid and Solar Rooftop; which are 100 Megawatt and 1 Megawatt, respectively
- ISA Program 06: Solar Park and Solar Floating; 410 Megawatt

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to the ISA, NTPC, and IWMI for the special support pledged to Ethiopia in providing solar energy-based services, which can improve the living standards of its people.
H.E. Eng. Okasaai Opolot,
Hon’ble Minister of State for Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Republic of Uganda

Uganda is blessed with a variety of renewable energy resources, and these include plentiful biomass and hydro, solar and geothermal resources. Most of these resources remain underdeveloped and unexploited.

Uganda lies just next to the equator and experiences high levels of solar radiation averaging at 5.4KW/m2/day which is direct and uniformly distributed throughout the year. This resource is, therefore, adequate to support all solar energy applications.

Uganda’s focus now is to exploit and develop the abundant solar energy resources. To achieve this objective, the country has put in place appropriate policies and incentives as well as regulatory and institutional frameworks. These instruments include tax exemptions on solar generation equipment, standardized power purchase agreements and institutions to handle issues of financing and regulation. The country also continues to develop professional human capability to support investors in installation and management of some solar energy technologies.

This supportive and enabling environment has already yielded several benefits. Uganda so far has installed 50MW of grid-connected solar while over 24MW are planned for construction in the near future. In addition, over 700,000 solar home and institutional systems have been installed for off-grid applications. There is still huge potential for solar PV deployment as well as other solar technologies.

Solar energy for water pumping is a key government priority. This technology will provide water for farming purposes and mitigate the current challenges faced by Uganda’s farming communities who currently rely on rain-fed agriculture. Once adopted on a wide scale, solar water pumping will improve food security and farmers’ yields through modernization of agriculture. The water sources to support this drive are abundantly available from the many lakes, rivers, swamps and underground high yielding aquifers in the country.

Uganda was one of the countries to ratify the framework agreement for the International Solar Alliance (ISA) last year and is now a full member country of the Alliance. This presents yet another opportunity as the country is set to benefit from the financial and technical incentives being offered under ISA. This also comes along with possibilities in reduction in the cost of finance and the cost of solar technology thus increasing the adoption and uptake of solar technologies.

Uganda remains committed to ISA as a vital platform for information sharing on all solar energy technologies including those that are still underutilized in the member states. The solar technologies include but are not limited to solar rooftops applications, solar water heating, concentrated solar Power Plants for thermal applications, electricity generation, passive building technology and solar drying.

The solar energy sub sector in Uganda is still a very promising area with anticipated positive returns on investment. Several opportunities for investment and business do exist for both on-grid and off-grid solutions. But Uganda’s strategic location in Eastern and Central Africa can also support manufacture and production of a variety of solar equipment and systems targeting a bigger regional market in addition to the domestic market.

Uganda is looking forward to investors who can develop the country’s enormous renewable energy potential and in particular, solar resources. The supportive frameworks and policies in place will guarantee a good investment and business environment for all in Uganda.
DG Mission to Europe for Resource Mobilisation

DG, ISA met with Ms. Kate Hughes, Director for International Climate Change, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in London to discuss about scaling solar efforts across countries & strengthening the partnership between ISA & BEIS.

Prominent themes discussed during the visit included:
- Blended Finance: using climate finance funds and ISAs’ investment for demo expansion and implementation.
- Modelling country economies to assess changes brought about by climate investments.
- Discussions around the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) priorities of energy access in Nigeria, Somalia, DRC, and Ethiopia. In addition, energy transition in South Africa, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam.
- The prospect of developing local businesses for sustainability via a specialised program for entrepreneurs in South Africa for solar.
- Developing a bankable pipeline for South Africa and jointly conducting convenings in ISA member countries on Advocacy & Project preparation; OSOWOG linkages - capacity building, advocacy, and pipeline. Strengthen the ISA brand and leverage the wide presence in Africa. Solarisation of airports. Develop a strategy for Solar Green Hydrogen and solar for hydrogen and methanol production. Explore bilateral green deals with the EU.
Investors series: First Roundtable of Institutional Investors

To accelerate investments, ISA is preparing a one trillion dollar solar investment roadmap to be launched at CoP27. This will be supplemented with an on-ground implementation through an Investment Series engaging leaders from the financial community, including institutional investors, and multilateral and commercial financial institutions, to inform mobilise capital for addressing energy access, energy transition, and energy security in member countries. The ISA Investment Series consists of three key elements:

- Analytics: Regional, sectoral, and country-level assessment of critical challenges for mobilising investments in off-grid and grid-connected solar markets; mapping vital institutional investors.
- Engagement: Organising targeted consultations with policymakers on investment vehicles, portfolios, or projects of interest for institutional investors.
- Advocacy: Virtual forums, talks, fireside chats with CEOs of financial institutions and key decision-makers in ISA member countries to facilitate investment in the supply chain gap.

The findings from the Series will provide critical inputs in the form of detailed insights into ISA’s Roadmap for mobilising USD 1,000 billion in solar investment by 2030. The first Roundtable of Institutional Investors was held on March 31, 2022, in Copenhagen, Denmark, to scale-up solar investments.
DG’s Important Meetings

Met with H.E. Dan Jorgensen, Minister of Climate, Energy and Utilities, Denmark & H.E. Pooja Kapur, Ambassador of India to Denmark, in Copenhagen to discuss the next steps in strengthening partnership to expedite Global Energy Transition.

Discussed strengthening and scaling-up of efforts for solar deployment in the LAC Region with H.E. Liván Nicolas Arronte Cruz, Minister of Energy & Mines, the Republic of Cuba, on the sidelines of the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue, 2022.

Interacted with H.E. Juan Angulo Monsalve, Ambassador of Chile in India, in New Delhi, India, on the roadmap for scaling-up solar in Chile.
To promote solar as the preferred choice of energy. DG, ISA met State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action, German Foreign Office: H.E. Jennifer Morgan.

ISA signs MoU with West African Power Pool (WAPP) to facilitate development of Utility-Scale Solar Parks/Projects in Western Africa Region.

Deliberations on EU-ISA cooperation for scaling-up solar energy with H.E. Ugo Astuto, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of European Union in New Delhi, India.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal signs the Framework Agreement of the ISA.
New Developments:

Antigua and Barbuda submitted the Instrument of Ratification to the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI (Depository of the Framework Agreement of ISA), as per Article XIII of the Framework Agreement of the ISA.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has submitted the Instrument of Ratification to the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI (Depository of the Framework Agreement of ISA), as per Article XIII of the Framework Agreement of the ISA.

Greece has submitted the Instrument of Ratification to the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI (Depository of the Framework Agreement of ISA), as per Article XIII of the Framework Agreement of the ISA.

The Republic of Tunisia has submitted the Instrument of Ratification to the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI (Depository of the Framework Agreement of ISA), as per Article XIII of the Framework Agreement of the ISA.

Secretary-General West African Power Pool (WAPP), Mr. M. Apollinaire Siengui KI and Mr. Amit Kumar Kaushik, Head of Delegation on behalf of ISA, inked an MoU to collaborate and accelerate efforts for scaling solar in the West Africa region. A part of ECOWAS, WAPP plays a pivotal role in creating a regional network in the Western African region among 14 countries. Of these 14 countries, 13 countries are also members/signatory countries of ISA. WAPP intends to develop solar parks in West African countries in line with solar parks designed in India. Feasibility studies are in progress with the support of the World Bank. These are in advanced stages in Gambia, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. Togo, Benin, and Ghana will follow next.

The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis has submitted the Instrument of Ratification to the Ministry of External Affairs, GOI (Depository of the Framework Agreement of ISA), as per Article XIII of the Framework Agreement of the ISA.
Events

High Level Solar Industry Roundtable | 6th April, 2022:


Stakeholders’ Workshop-Ethiopia | 14th March, 2022:

A Stakeholders’ Workshop was organized to understand the key challenges, opportunities, and areas of collaboration in achieving universal access to electricity through solar in Ethiopia. The workshop proceedings focussed on the preliminary report prepared by ISA and NTPC based on initial coordinates provided by EEP for Hamusit and Guhala. And, presentations by ISA and NTPC on scaling up solar and project implementation modalities and stakeholders’ roles & responsibilities, respectively.
NEDO-ISA Webinar | 15th March, 2022:

ISA and New Energy and Industrial Technology Development (NEDO) co-hosted a webinar to disseminate knowledge bridging the policy and knowledge gaps in Solar Mini-Grid adoption. The webinar discussions focussed on a case study put forward by ISA, NEDO, and OMC Power jointly to encourage member countries to examine the applicability and replicability of solar mini-grids and proven business models to accelerate the clean energy transition.

This case study, Operational Use of 'Anchor Load Business Community Model' Solar Mini-Grids Uttar Pradesh, India presents the classic example of a conducive Policy and regulatory environment in terms of mini-grids. The Uttar Pradesh Mini-grid policy 2016 has been successful in encouraging private sector participation in the segment of mini-grids. The case study looks into a solar hybrid mini-grid project, by OMC Power, located in Bilgram, and highlights the social impact generated by the installation of a large number of solar mini-grid projects in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India.

Stakeholders’ Workshop-Uganda | 17th March, 2022:

The Stakeholders’ Workshop hosted by ISA in Uganda was chaired by the Hon’ble Minister Mr. Okasai Sidronius Opolot, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. Post the workshop, two stakeholder groups were formed to discuss the issues of solarisation of water pumping systems in the agriculture sector and drinking water purposes. On occasion, special remarks were delivered by Eng. Ms. Cecilia Menya, Acting Director, Directorate of Energy Resources Development, Ministry of Energy & Mineral Development, Uganda, and H.E Mr. A. Ajay Kumar, High Commissioner of India to Uganda.
Social Media Moments

After the successful completion of country mission to #Ethiopia, @solaralliance PIC team led by @KauAmit proceeds to #Uganda. Team would be holding stakeholder consultations from 16-20/03 to expedite bankable #SolarWaterPump & #SolarParks projects under Program 01&06 @IWMI_India

**Technical Country Mission to Uganda**
(Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use & Solar Park)
Duration: 16 - 20 March 2022

® Government of Uganda and 4 others
16:29 AM · Mar 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App
6 Retweets 11 Likes

"Membership to the ISA family has presented several opportunities to Uganda: financial & technical. We are also grateful for the capacity building opportunities through the technology transfer programs from India government." - Eng. Cecilia Menya, Acting Director, @MEMD_Uganda

® Government of Uganda and 4 others
16:29 AM · Mar 15, 2022 · Twitter Web App
6 Retweets 11 Likes

@solaralliance is on a Technical Country Mission to #Ethiopia from 13 – 18 March 2022 to facilitate development of bankable projects on Solar Water Pumping and solar parks under #ISA Progs No.1 and 6. Mission is supported by @IWMI_India & @ntpclimited.

**Technical Country Mission to Ethiopia**
(Scaling Solar Applications for Agriculture Use & Solar Park)
Duration: 13 – 18 March 2022

® @solaralliance
2:54 AM · Mar 14, 2022 · Twitter Web App
8 Retweets 29 Likes

Representatives from @MEMD_Uganda, @MMAIF_Uganda, @min_waterUg, @WorldBankAfrica, @UNDP_Uganda, @giz_uganda, @AfDB_Group deliberated on facilitating Uganda in developing National level Solar Water Pumping Program including irrigation as well as drinking water activities.

® @solaralliance
9:13 AM · Mar 17, 2022 · Twitter Web App
3 Retweets 14 Likes
International Solar Alliance (ISA) and WMI India officials met with Amb. Asfaw Dingamo, State Minister for Water and Energy, Federal Republic of Ethiopia to discuss the way forward for Scaling Solar Water Pump & Solar Park in Ethiopia.

“ISA will assist Ethiopia in different Solar technology applications. This will pave the way for successful implementation of National Electrification Program (NEP) of Ethiopia, which has an ambitious target of 100% access by 2030.” Dr. Frehiwot Woldehanna, NFP Ethiopia
@isolaralliance and @IIWMI_India officials met UNDP_Uganda representatives to discuss SolarPump deployment under @Fundibisa. UNDP is implementing partner for pilot projects in 10 #ISA member countries under Scaling Solar for Agricultural Use Program of #ISA #EnergySecurity

1:44 AM - Mar 16, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone
8 Retweets 20 Likes

#ISA is engaged with 30 Member Countries for programmatic support under solar park programme. Recently, Govt of #Zambia appointed @nfplimited as Project Management Consultant for 400 MW Solar PV Projects under #ISA Programme 06.

10:38 PM - Apr 1, 2022 - Twitter Web App
7 Retweets 32 Likes

National Energy Policy of #ElSalvador guides for affordable #energyaccess & decrease in #fossilfuel dependency. To facilitate fin of #cleanenergy projects, #ElSalvador has nominated 43 bankers who are undergoing training in an exclusive batch under ISA's #BankingSolarInitiative.

4:03 AM - Mar 22, 2022 - Twitter Web App
8 Retweets 18 Likes

DG #ISA welcomed and thanked – participants to the ISA roundtable on #solarmanufacturing during #CEM senior officials meeting. The discussion is being moderated by @rkyte365. DG laid emphasis on the imp of policy sustainable measures to increase global manufacturing capabilities.

11:34 AM - Apr 6, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone
1 Retweet 10 Likes
ISA PPIC team led by Mr. Amit Kaushik, Chief of Unit met with officials of Ministry of Water and Energy of Ethiopia and deliberated on bottlenecks and challenges of Solar Mini Grid in Ethiopia.

ISA and IWMI officials met with Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo, State Minister for Water and Energy, Federal Republic of Ethiopia to discuss the way forward for Scaling Solar Water Pump & Solar Park in Ethiopia.

ISA and IWMI officials met with UNDP Uganda representatives to discuss Solar Pump deployment under IBSA Fund.

ISA delegation met DG Togolese Agency for Rural Electrification & Renewable Energy to discuss the way forward on 35 MW Solar Park project at Dapong in Togo.

ISA & IWMI officials met with Uganda Solar Energy Association.


ISA & IWMI officials meeting stakeholders from Nexus Green Ltd, Tulima Solar Uganda, Total Energies Uganda, Shakti Pumps (I) Ltd., and Joint Energy & Env Project (JEEP) in Uganda.
Media Moments

European Commission chief calls for reducing dependency on Russian fuel amid Ukraine conflict

Von der Leyen also said that India and the European Union are closely aligned in the fight against climate change and have understood the importance of solar energy.

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President von der Leyen in India: Advancing a Strategic Partnership

The European Union and India will strengthen their partnership and deepen bilateral cooperation with a focus on upholding the rule-based order.

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Ursula Von Der Leyen arrives in India, praises Solar Alliance

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Glimpses of the interaction of H.E. Ursula von der Leyen and H.E. Raj Kumar Singh with Industry on Solar Energy Development

Upcoming Events

SOLAR E-MOBILITY: CHARGING FOR CHANGE 27th April, 2022

https://isolaralliance.org/ info@solaralliance.org https://www.facebook.com/InternationalSolarAlliance/
https://twitter.com/solaralliance https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCenjENDpDfCR0Ry-f6zsg