



Newsletter

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DG's Message on International Women's Day



Dr. Ajay Mathur
Director General, ISA

The solar industry is making tremendous strides in terms of growth and effect on society already. It needs to concentrate more than ever on its internal policies and attractiveness to women. It's clear that a lot of work needs to be done in this field, based on the inputs/experiences of the women who despite all challenges hold leadership roles and are working tirelessly to enable the bidirectional participation of women at large.

It is encouraging to see that women by themselves are acting as enablers. As entrepreneurs in various parts of the world, they are developing solar solutions for communities. Women self-help groups (SHG) are innovatively driving the clean energy transition.

They have faced barriers in securing funding, building partnerships, and educating stakeholders about the benefits of clean energy technologies, but, their indomitable spirit and courage has proven that with persistent efforts, difference can be made where it is needed the most.

I would urge all the members and friends of [ISA](#) to contribute in developing an actionable roadmap in terms of exploring possibilities for women in the solar energy sector.

Coverage on Online Bankers Training Programme Exclusively for Women Bankers of [ISA](#) Member Countries

On the occasion of International Women's Day, DG, [ISA](#), Dr. Ajay Mathur with H.E. Margaret Lucy Kyogire, Deputy Head of Mission, at Uganda High Commission India inaugurated the Bankers Training Program exclusively for women bankers of ISA Member Countries on 8th March 2022 to encourage gender equity in solar energy ecosystem.



Address by

H.E. Ms. Margaret Lucy Kyogire

Deputy Head of Mission at
Uganda High Commission, India

It is my pleasure to address the inaugural session of 6th batch of Second Phase Online bankers training programme exclusively for women to celebrate International Women's Day. I am happy to know that the ISA Secretariat has received 115 nominations from Uganda, Brazil, Gambia, Guyana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Maldives, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tuvalu, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Comoros, and Venezuela. I would like to reiterate and commend ISA's strong commitment to supporting its member countries facing severe health and economic impacts due to the COVID crisis.

With a vision for mobilizing USD 1000 billion in Solar Sector till 2030, [ISA](#) Secretariat has successfully initiated capacity building of all possible stakeholders which will play a vital role in materializing this vision. One such stakeholder is financial institutions such as national & local banks that work as a catalyst in the solar value chain. ISA's unique initiative – Banking Solar Initiative – to train bankers to finance solar projects is gaining strength every day. Under this initiative ISA has already trained 959 Bankers from 51 Member Countries of [ISA](#), which tells about the hard work secretariat has put behind this effort

This initiative will bridge the knowledge gap and develop specific skills for enabling bankers and



finance professionals to assess techno-commercial feasibility and financial viability of setting up solar PV systems. This will also train banking professionals to analyze various financial instruments, government schemes and policies, tools, business models and risk mitigation mechanisms that are being adopted and deployed by the banks for solar energy-based projects. I am happy to see that women bankers through this training programme will get an opportunity to understand concepts, components and safety with a specific focus on technical standards of various solar system/ project, mini/ micro grid, SPV pumps and different business models followed in the solar market. I am sure this knowledge will develop more confidence in solar energy-based projects and will certainly help women bankers in their professional life.

I am sure that knowledge gained by the participants in training will be helpful and useful in bringing the gender focus in financing of Solar energy-based projects. Our collaborative efforts will strengthen ISA's efforts to support Member Countries of [ISA](#), to achieve the goal of universal energy access by 2030 and effectively address climate change. The ISA Secretariat is also working on modalities for conducting similar online trainings on its other flagship programs for various stakeholders of [ISA](#) Member Countries, and I wish Secretariat the very best.

FEATURE

ISA and India



H.E. Mr. Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi,

Secretary
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
Government of India

As a country, India stands committed to fighting climate change and, concomitantly, promoting Renewable Energy. We took the initiative, along with France, to establish International Solar Alliance (ISA). The objective was to put in place a mechanism which could expedite the global energy transition. We began from a position of conviction in the need for ISA. That faith sustains. It has also been supplemented by faith in the capabilities of [ISA](#) as the organization has expanded in reach, membership and its programs.

India has been extending strong support to [ISA](#)- by providing funds for creation of a corpus and for recurring expenditure, and also in a variety of other ways. This



support exemplifies our belief that ISA has a critical role to play in the energy transition. We stand committed to continue our support in future too.

The Framework Agreement of [ISA](#) lists the objective of mobilization of 1000 billion or 1 trillion USD worth of investment in solar energy by 2030. This is high ambition. However, the impressive strides that ISA has taken in the initial years inspires confidence that it will be able to achieve this goal. Here, I would like to commend the leadership of the present DG, Dr. Ajay Mathur and the first DG, Mr. Upendra Tripathi who have brought the organization to a position from where it should see rapid progress ahead.

India's partnership with [ISA](#) can be of great benefit to the world. In the last few years, India has made impressive progress in the area of Renewable Energy (RE). In this regard, the progress in installation of solar energy capacities is particularly impressive- the cumulative installed solar capacity has grown by as much as 19.4 times, from 2.6 GW in 2014 to 50.4 GW at present. Most of our RE projects have been installed by private sector companies. Along the way, we have built substantial capacities and found innovative ways of doing things. This covers diverse areas like contracts, payment security mechanisms, business models, and regulatory frameworks. All this can be useful for countries that are in initial stages of increasing their RE capacities. India's partnership with

ISA can thus catalyse installation of RE capacities, for example, in countries in Africa and the Small Island States (SIDS).

In my view, as [ISA](#) travels on the path of ensuring implementation of solar projects on the ground, it also needs to position itself as a Centre of Excellence in all aspects of solar energy. It is important to ensure that countries are confident enough of ISA's expertise to be able to turn to it for broad advice.

ISA's General Assembly has approved a strategic plan up to 2026. It is now the shared responsibility of all member-states to now see that ISA is provided the resources to implement the plan toward fulfilment of its charter. It is an encouraging sign that several countries and organizations in recent months have pledged funds for specifically identified activities. I am sure this momentum will grow in the coming time. A strong financial position would not only enable ISA to fund its programmes but would also strengthen the confidence with which the world view the organization. India will of course do its bit as it has been doing so far.

In the coming months, we hope to see substantial solar capacities set up on the ground as a result of ISA's efforts. It is also my hope and wish that in a couple of years from now, we will hear countries saying that ISA's advice and work have changed their energy landscape for the better.

Scaling Solar in ISA Member Countries

ISA Editorial:

Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic decline in costs of solar technologies and resultantly in solar tariffs. Today, solar is poised to catalyze the world's transition to a low-carbon economy. Trends indicate that PV technology have the potential to help lift no less than a billion people out of energy poverty, but only if trillions of dollars of investment is mobilized and the right policy frameworks are established.

The [ISA](#) has the mandate to catalyse growth of solar installed capacities by helping reduce the cost of financing and technologies. It has adopted a multipronged approach to fulfil this mandate. The ISA is ramping up efforts to establish solar as

a shared solution that simultaneously addresses climate, energy, and economic priorities across geographies. Country specific analytical reports on solar technology, solar investment and solar markets; advocacy strategy; demonstration projects in 27 member countries; and capacity building initiatives are some of the concrete steps it has taken towards scaling up solar deployment in member countries. The ISA is particularly focusing on economically vulnerable nations to establish an energy alternative that reduces trade dependency and drives job creation. Affordable, and last-mile electricity access across socio-economic strata is a crucial goal of these efforts by ISA



From regular interactions with member countries, it is established that [ISA](#) member countries priorities for solar investment include:

- Accelerating mobilization of distributed solar technologies to expand energy access.
- Equitable distribution of investment to ensure it reaches countries and communities where it is needed most;
- Expanding access to concessional finance;
- Reducing private sector investment risk by strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks;
- Identifying and promoting scalable business models;
- Scaling mini-grid and off-grid electrification in rural areas;
- Promoting experience sharing and capacity building among ISA countries;
- Expanding investment in floating solar in SE Asia, Pacific islands, and other regions; and
- Identifying investment pathways for specific solar applications, e.g., water purification, transportation/fishing fleets, solar cooling for medical supplies & fishing industry, solar desalination, generation of green hydrogen.

[ISA](#) recently commissioned a study "[Scaling up Solar in ISA Member Countries](#)" The study emphasises that solar power today represents the lowest cost and most economic solution in countries which are home to well over half the world's population and gross domestic product. According to data and projections by BNEF, the installed solar capacity stands at over 788GW today, and is expected to quadruple to

3.2TW by 2030. However, This rate of growth will not be fast enough to put the world on a path to net-zero emissions by 2050. If the 2050 goal is to be achieved, governments will have to dramatically strengthen policies, including by providing strong support to the use of hydrogen produced with zero-carbon sources of energy.

Global electricity demand is expected to double in the next three decades. In the 80 less developed nations in ISA's "Beneficiary" classification in the "[Scaling up Solar in ISA Member Countries](#)" report, demand is expected to nearly triple. Strong sun and poor access to fossil fuels make these markets particularly fertile for solar development and deployment. However, the study also underlines the critical importance of cooperation from local authorities, including regulators and state-owned utilities in building up solar capacities.

As per the BNEF classification, there is no denying that key policy interventions by "beneficiary" nations will be needed for solar to flourish and for enabling faster growth required to meet the climate challenge. [ISA](#) "Facilitator" nations are home to the largest providers of capital for solar assets, both within the country and beyond. These countries have deployed the bulk of their funds closer to home, with Beneficiary nations receiving substantially smaller shares. Efforts have to grow to deploy more capital from 'Facilitators' to 'Beneficiaries' in coming years. Development Finance Institutions largely based in Facilitator nations, have provided most of the bulk of funding for deployment of solar technologies in Beneficiary nations. The top providers have been, Agence Francaise de Developement EPIC, the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (formerly the Overseas Private investment Corporation) and the World Bank Group.

ISA is partnering with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organisations, civil society and other international institutions to mobilize \$1 trillion of investment in solar capacities by 2030. At COP26, ISA has partnered with [COINCITO, IFU and World Climate Foundation to mobilize \\$1 Trillion for investment in solar by 2030](#) and will be working with the World Resources Institute (WRI) as well as Bloomberg Philanthropies and BloombergNEF, who are developing a Solar Investment Roadmap to be finalised in 2022.

One of the focus areas of the ISA in near future will be engaging with investment and financing institutions to mobilize more private finance for solar energy in emerging markets and developing economies.

Facilitating Large Scale Solar Parks in Mali



Dr. Souleymane BERTHE,
Director General, AER, NFP MALI

Mali is one of the founding Members of [ISA](#). Mali ratified ISA framework agreement back in October 2017. Today, we are very proud to see that ISA has grown leaps and bounds and currently there are 103 countries part of this great initiative. I would like to salute the visionaries who are instrumental in creating this organization which is uniquely positioned in the global arena. We are really counting on ISA in helping Mali in its efforts for achieving sustainable energy growth addressing global warming concerns.

India has been leading the solar revolution happening globally in last 10 years. We are very happy that the learnings, knowledge and the experience of India is being made available to all the member countries through [ISA](#) and I am sure Mali will benefit in big way in our efforts for achieving sustainable Energy development.

Mali's electricity generation is dominated by hydropower and thermal power plants. While thermal power plants rely on imported fossil fuels, hydropower plants' electricity output capacity is affected by rainfall and hydrological variations. We are also importing from neighbouring countries.

Mali is committed for a sustainable energy growth with focus on Solar Power. Despite having good solar radiation, the country has only 70 MW of installed solar PV capacity. The government of Mali envisages

target of 25% renewable energy excluding medium and large hydro, in total energy mix by 2036 with a large share of solar PV. I would like to highlight some of the important interventions by [ISA](#) which is helping Mali in its journey to a green energy transition.

We have set an ambitious target for developing 500 MW solar parks at under [ISA Programme -06](#). The initial pre-feasibility report was prepared by ISA as early as in 2020. Subsequently we engaged NTPC who is the endorsed agency of ISA for giving Project Management services to ISA member countries. Since then, NTPC has been closely associated with Mali. The technical team of NTPC visited Mali in March 2021 and we have already identified 7 locations where the Projects could be developed. I am extremely thankful to ISA and NTPC to carry out the pre-feasibility studies and continuously engage with Mali even during the pandemic which has brought entire world to a standstill.

I am happy to share that the land at Kaulikaro and connecting sub- station for setting up of 100 MW is under finalization. I am sure that we will also take up other Projects soon.

With a financial support of USD 50,000 from ISA, we are in the process of implementation a demonstration project to solarize healthcare center. We will use these learnings to scale up the solarization efforts in health centers.

We are being supported by ISA through IBSA fund for developing solar water pumping system. Many of our engineers could get M.Tech Degree from IIT-Delhi through ISA I-Tech Programme.

We are extremely thankful to ISA and Government of India for supporting Mali in its efforts to scale up solar thereby achieving a sustainable Growth. As the ill effects of Covid pandemic slowly getting away, I am sure that Mali can accelerate its efforts to scale up solar applications with the help of ISA.



NEW DEVELOPMENTS

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Syrian Arab Republic Signs the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)



**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC SIGNS THE
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA)**

Syrian Arab Republic

Syrian Arab Republic becomes the 103rd Country to join the ISA by signing the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance to catalyse global energy transition through a solar-led approach. Currently, ISA has 103 Signatory Countries and 81 Member Countries.

ISA SIGNS MOU WITH AFRICA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



DG met with Mr. Vivek Mittal, CEO, AfiDA - ISA signs the letter of cooperation with Africa Infrastructure Development Association (AfiDA). AfiDA & ISA will work towards mobilizing climate finance for solar energy programmes in ISA Member countries of Africa Region.

COUNTRIES JOINING ISA PROGRAMMES

(Congo, Mauritius, Nicaragua and Ethiopia)



Democratic Republic of Congo joins [ISA Programme - 04](#) and [06](#) for development of Rooftop Solar Projects and Large-Scale Solar Projects.



Republic of Mauritius joins [ISA Programme- 06](#) for development of Large-scale Solar Projects



Republic of Nicaragua joins [ISA programmes- 01, 03, 04](#) and [06](#) ; Scaling up Solar for Agricultural use, Scaling Solar Minigrids, Scaling Solar Rooftop and Solar Parks.



Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia joins [ISA Programme- 01](#) for Scale-up Solar Water Pump Application for Agriculture Use and community drinking purpose.

Event Coverage:

Webinar on “Role of ISA in facilitating Energy Transition” as a part of Government of India’s event on New Frontiers: A Programme on Renewable Energy on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

17th February 2022



The ISA is committed to establishing solar as a shared solution to address climate exigencies, and also in formulating energy priorities across geographies in the long term. The ISA’s theory of change indicates at facilitating Energy Access at the local level, Energy Security at national levels Energy Transition at a global level. ISA and GOI have collaborated from time to time and discussed how best ideas can be exchanged between India and ISA Member countries to facilitate energy transition.

This time **International Solar Alliance collaborated with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India** and organised a virtual session on ‘[Role of ISA in facilitating Energy Transition](#)’ on **17 February 2022**. The session was conducted as a part of Government of India’s event on New Frontiers: A Programme on Renewable Energy, to commemorate 75 Years of India’s Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Digital Exhibition on '75 Years of Development Partnership by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Research and Information Systems(RIS)

21st February 2022



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi



ISA participated in digital exhibition on '75 Years of Development Partnership Organised by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Research and Information Systems(RIS) from 21-27Feb 2022 at India Habitat Centre as a part of Government of India's event 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' depicting #India's glorious saga of Development Partnership over the last 75 years through digital exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture of India, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi.

Fifth Batch of Online Bankers Training Program for LAC Region 14-18th February 2022

The Fifth batch of Online Bankers Training Program for Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region inaugurated by H.E Upendra Singh Rawat Ambassador of India to Panama, Nicaragua and Costa Rica along with Mr. Amit Kaushik, Chief of Unit (PPIC), ISA under ISA's Banking Solar Initiative. The training program was conducted from 14-18 Feb 2022. The program included an overview of concepts, components and safety with a specific focus on technical standards of rooftop Solar system/project, Solar Mini Grid, Solar Pumps and different business models followed in the solar market.



ISA and the Quest for Clean Energy: Panel Discussion with the National Press Club, Washington DC 4th February 2022

Global Strat View hosted a panel discussion on 'the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Quest for Clean Energy' on February 4, 2022, at the National Press Club, Washington, DC. Mr. Jagjeet Sareen, ADG, ISA shared his views on the role Solar Energy can play in aiming for zero emissions economy.

"If you add up all the net zero commitments made by countries in Glasgow, solar technology applications provide more than 50 percent of the solution. And if you add hydrogen to it, if you add storage, heating and cooling, the offering of solar as a solution goes about 65 percent. It's well established among the top leaders, thinkers, modellers, industry people who are doing forecasting that we need to harness solar technology in a much bigger way to solve the energy transition problem if we are really serious about this,"- Mr. Jagjeet Sareen, ADG, ISA



ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy 7-8th February 2022

The ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy, co-organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India, in collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) India, took place on 7-8 February. The High-Level Conference focused on the theme: "Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market", and consisted of an inaugural ministerial Session, five technical sessions and a closing session.



Director General, ISA, Dr. Ajay Mathur briefed the Ministers on the vision and plans of the ISA and potential benefits for ASEAN member countries joining the alliance.

Women in RE - Call for Action as a part of New Frontiers - A programme on Renewable Energy

17th February 2022

As a part of “New Frontiers: A Programme on Renewable Energy to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) organized an online session on “Women in Renewable Energy: Call for Action” on 17 Feb 2022 to acknowledge the role of women entrepreneurs and leaders in the Renewable Energy Space. Dr. Megha Pushpendra, Lead- Strategic Communication, ISA shared ISA’s call for action for expediting inclusive Energy Transition.



ISA is working on four concrete actionable points to enable gender lens in its work stream and orient its work in a way which ensures inclusive energy transition world over:

- To bring structural changes that accelerate gender equality in ISA’s work on energy transition.
- To build the capacity to facilitate inclusive solar deployment.
- To bringing Entrepreneures and Financial Institutions from Member countries together so that women led entrepreneurial activity/ startups for /by women can be encouraged.
- To adopt inclusive programmatic approach.

Meeting with 10 Member Countries on IBSA Fund

9th February 2022

ISA’s Project & Programme Implementation Cluster had a discussion with 10 ISA member countries on 9 Feb 2022 regarding implementation of pilot projects which will be funded by IBSA under ISA-UNDP multi-country model for deployment of Solar Water Pumps.



Social Media Moments

International Solar Alliance [@isolaralliance](#)

H.E. Dr. Ajay Mathur, DG, [@isolaralliance](#) met with H.E. Sarah Storey, [@AusDHCIndia](#) Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to [#India](#), in New Delhi today to discuss [#ISA- #Australia](#) Cooperation to accelerate [#EnergyTransition](#).



Sarah Storey

2:37 PM · Feb 24, 2022 · Twitter Web App

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International Solar Alliance [@isolaralliance](#)

[#InternationalWomensDay2022](#) 🌞

LtoR: Standing: Vandana (IT), Abhilasha(HR), Vardhani (M&E), Zerine(PPIC), DG [#ISA](#) , Pragma(RM), Sheetal(Admin),Nidhi (HR), Megha(C&O);
Sitting:Tanya(Gov), Sunaina(Legal),Yutan(Gov-Intern), Shobhita (C&O), Ashni (KMID);
Virtual: Joanna (RA-APAC)



4:27 PM · Mar 8, 2022 · Twitter Web App

6 Retweets 18 Likes

International Solar Alliance [@isolaralliance](#)

Read what ADG, [@isolaralliance](#), [@JagjeetSareen](#) had to say to [@Phred_Dvorak](#) of [@WSJ](#) about interconnection of regional interconnections [#GGIOSOWOG](#)
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Building a Power Grid to Span the World
Sending green energy through networks stretching thousands of miles? The dream faces steep political and technical hurdles but many energy experts argu...

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Energy generation diversification with decentralised [#RE](#) resources like [#solar](#) & demand side management (e.g., [#storage](#), & [#energyefficiency](#)) can reduce vulnerabilities to [#climatechange](#), especially in rural populations says [@IPCC_CH](#) latest report: report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC...



ipcc
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change 2022
Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability
Summary for Policymakers

Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

WGI
WMO UNFCCC



Photo Gallery



Dr. Ajay Mathur, DG, ISA with Mr. Vivek Mittal, CEO, Africa Infrastructure Development Association (AfIDA)

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) Private Sector High-Level Roundtable
4 - 8 April 2022

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