

DIREC: ENABLING POLICY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS FOR MAINSTREAM RENEWABLE ENERGY

The world has tapped only a small percentage of its vast renewable energy resources. Policy efforts need to be strengthened in order to encourage a massive scale-up of renewable technologies so as to build a long term, stable, low-carbon economy. Currently, some 100 countries have some type of renewable energy policy targets or promotion policies. However, there is wide variation in the level of proactive and sound national energy policies that give priority to spending on sustainable energy as part of national investment and development priorities. DIREC proposes to come up with strategies to support countries in developing stronger institutional frameworks to undertake reforms in their energy sector, to strengthen their institutions and build their capacity to increase the share of renewable energy in the overall energy mix.

The main ministerial conference at DIREC will have separate parallel Ministerial, Multi-stakeholders and CEO round table discussions that will delve deeper into the policy trends and issues relating to the growth of renewable energy, followed by a joint session summarizing the fundamental questions raised and responses offered to the need for coherent, consistent and enabling policy, legal & regulatory frameworks needed to mainstream renewable energy.

A DIREC track session will focus on renewable energy policy (on grid) to acknowledge the fact that the past efforts in many countries, especially in policy environment, have yielded significant results in creating a large and diverse renewable energy program. However, the fact remains that even today the renewable energy technologies are far from the energy mainstream. In order to promote renewable energy, many countries have adopted Feed in laws mechanism as an effective way to stimulate the expansion of RE based power. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has also been tried out by several nations. The session on RE policy would focus on understanding the effectiveness of these policies, and how they could be improved in the medium and long term to bring more renewable power to the grid. Though effective policies for renewable energy depend on the status and maturity of the technology in the respective country, international cooperation and the sharing of best practices on regulatory and policy approaches can accelerate the scale up of RE technologies. In this context, this session would also try to draw learning from past policies to promote RE power, understand the risks and barriers facing large scale deployment of RE power, the role of Regulators and feed-in tariffs / Renewable Portfolio Standards and the Innovative policy and regulatory instruments needed to achieve the desired targets.

A sizeable market for renewable energy is for off-grid, and decentralized applications both in urban and rural settings. DIREC will provide a platform for strategising on the development of policies to support off-grid renewables to address the high cost of renewable technologies, lack of awareness, need for strong Operation & Maintenance (O&M) infrastructure and market based delivery models. The role of renewable energy based Decentralized

Distributed Generation (DDG) systems in addressing the issue of energy security will also be discussed to promote development of policies that encourage its possible convergence with the grid expansion programme in developing countries.

Local governments can play multiple roles for mainstreaming renewable energy, as (i) decision makers, (ii) planners, (iii) management of municipal infrastructure and role model for citizens and businesses. DIREC will also provide an opportunity to state and local governments from around the world to interact on policies that can promote renewable energy by promoting sharing of experiences on best-practices on policies at state & local level along with building capacity to develop local skills to produce, market, install, operate and maintain sustainable energy technologies.

If you are interested on policy-related aspects for mainstreaming renewable energy, then your suggested itinerary could be:

DAY 1: 27th October 2010 (Wednesday)

S No	Topic	Organisers	Date and Time	Room
Official Side Events				
1	Renewable Energy Policy, R&D, Technologies, Applications and Projects	Swiss Federal Office of Energy, Swiss Government	27-10-2010 (12.30 to 14.00)	Narmada
2	Matching EU Policy and Practical Experience with India's Potential	Embassy of Belgium and The Delegation of the European Union	27-10-2010 (17.00 to 18.30)	Mahanadi

DAY 2: 28th October 2010 (Thursday)

S No	Topic	Organisers	Date and Time	Room
Main Ministerial Session				
TRACK 2 – POLICY				
1	RE Scenarios		28-10-2010 (09h00-10h30)	Narmada
2	Supporting Policies I (on-grid)		28-10-2010 (11h00-12h30)	Narmada
3	Supporting Policies II (off-grid)		28-10-2010 (14h00-15h30)	Narmada
4	State and Local Governments		28-10-2010 (16h00-17h30)	Narmada
Official Side Events				
3	Renewable Energy scenarios as guidance for policy makers	European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)	28-10-2010 (12.30 to 14.00)	Narmada
4	Considerations, policies and measures to promote sustainable bio-energy	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	28-10-2010 (12.30 to 14.00)	Kosi

	development			
5	Afghanistan Rural Renewable Energy Development	Ministry of Energy and Water, Afghanistan	28-10-2010 (12.30 to 14.00)	Krishna
6	Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)	28-10-2010 (17.30 to 19.00)	Sutlej
7	Towards RE Law: locally adaptable globally competitive	Enviro Legal Defence Firm & Heinrich Boell Foundation	28-10-2010 (17.30 to 19.00)	Narmada

DAY 3: 29th October 2010 (Friday)

S No	Topic	Organisers	Date and Time	Room
Official Side Events				
8	National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency	Bureau of energy efficiency (BEE)	29-10-2010 (12.30 to 14.00)	Narmada