

## Transitioning Remote and Island Communities to Renewable Energy

### In Conjunction with 41<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) in Indonesia

9:30 am - 14:00 pm | 20 June 2023 | Venue: Fairmont Hotel, Jakarta Indonesia (hybrid format)

#### Background

The farthest from access to affordable and modern energy are communities that are physically distanced from the supplying grid – living on inaccessible remote islands or mountain terrains, sparsely populated habitats, indigenous tribes with low power demand, or the populace displaced from their homeland due to strife and natural calamities. Their limited exposure to modern-day technologies is further augmented by poverty and where its affordable, the reliance is heavily on fossil fuels such as diesel. Inclusion of these communities in meeting their energy needs is paramount to achieving the goals drawn out for SDG 7. Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) based solutions have been proven and adopted since 2010, accelerating over the recent years to provide for unserved communities including those heavily reliant on diesel to power their domestic and productive needs. While the number of people connected to mini grids (using various technologies) has doubled since 2010, rising from 5 million to 11 million<sup>1</sup>, about 105 million people have been provided access through solar driven off grid appliances rising from 85 million in 2016<sup>2</sup>. Mountain countries such as Nepal and Mongolia are the top-ranking countries in their electricity access rate from adopting decentralized renewables (DRE) using off grid solar at 11% and 8%, followed suit by island countries such as Fiji at 5%. Such energy access projects led by private or public sectors, increasingly with larger involvement of communities, need to be scaled up; however, securing affordable financing schemes remains a major barrier.

#### Global Initiative

In 2021, the Government of Canada through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) launched the ***Global Initiative for Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy*** at COP26 with a view to improving knowledge and promoting widespread use of clean energy resources in remote and isolated off-grid communities to

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<sup>1</sup> IRENA, SDG7 tracking report 2021

<sup>2</sup> GOGLA, Off-grid marker trend 2022

foster the energy transition. The subsequent meetings of the initiatives have taken place at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh and during IRENA's 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly in January 2023.

The overall objective of the initiative is to improve inclusion, sustainability, energy security, employment generation, and economic and social well-being in these remote off-grid communities, with focus on community ownership of clean energy projects and create a collaborative space to exchange information and best practices on the unique challenges facing these remote off-grid communities. The platform will pool knowledge and share best practices for transitioning such communities to renewable energy. Guided by these principles, IRENA engages with the member states to develop country programmes for promoting an accelerated deployment of such decentralized renewable energy solutions in remote and isolated communities. Furthermore, based on the detailed country programme, the aspiration is to facilitate implementation through a dedicated financing facility with support from the donor countries and development partners.

#### **Side Event at the 41<sup>st</sup> SOME in Indonesia**

On the sidelines of the ASEAN's 41<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials Meetings on Energy (SOME), IRENA with the support from the ASEAN Chair Indonesia is organising an event to elicit dialogue on transitioning remote islands communities in the region, in particular in Indonesia, by adopting increased share of decentralised renewable energy as an alternative to fossil fuels, particularly diesel. Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago comprising of around 18,110 islands and islets of which about 6000 are inhabited. SDG7 tracker shows that around 8.3 million people in Indonesia lacks access to electricity with majority living in rural islands, the number is more alarming for clean cooking where 42.3 million are without access to clean cooking fuels and technologies<sup>3</sup>. This is beside 30 million people, mainly in the remote islands, which have unreliable access to electricity due to distribution challenges<sup>4</sup>. The share of renewables in Indonesia's total energy consumption is only 19%, with the renewable energy having only 12% of the total installed capacity in the country, mainly hydro power, geothermal and biomass. There is a huge solar PV and wind potential that still needs to be tapped to ensure clean and reliable energy to the island communities. The similar situation exists across different regional countries Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia, to name a few. Government of Indonesia through state electricity

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<sup>3</sup> SDG7 tracker 2022

<sup>4</sup> United Nations data, Indonesia, 2021

company PLN and with support from different development partners like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, GIZ, and UNDP are pursuing rural and islands electrification projects, mainly through renewables.

The subject event will give a platform to different stakeholders to present their findings and experiences on renewable electrification of the remote island communities and how it can be strengthened and scaled-up with involvement of more partners and through RE financing and innovative business and delivery models. Participants will also benefit from the presentations on the different programmes and initiatives on-going in the region on access to clean and reliable energy.

The session will also rely on the findings from the guidebook in development by NRCan and IRENA with case studies and best practices from across the world on successful approaches of transitioning remote and isolated communities to renewable energy - different renewable technologies in use, strategic partnerships and delivery mechanisms deployed, level of community involvement and ownership, resulting socio-economic impacts, proven models for replication and scaling up. The aim of this exercise is to consult different stakeholders' and gather their inputs that can support in mapping the country needs and subsequently developing the country programme to facilitate implementation.

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**Event Agenda (09:30 am – 13:30 pm, Jakarta time)**

<p>09:30 – 09:50</p>	<p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Gurbuz Gonul</b>, Director, Country Engagement and Partnerships, International Renewable Energy Agency</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Dadan Kusdiana</b>, Director-General, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia</li> </ul>
<p>09:50 – 10:00</p>	<p><b>Keynote Speeches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Ms. Victoria Singmin</b>, Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN)</li> </ul>
<p>10:00 – 10:15</p>	<p><b>Scene-setting presentation</b></p> <p><i>Transitioning Remote Communities to Renewable Energy : A Guidebook on Deploying Sustainable Decentralized Renewable Energy Projects</i></p> <p><b>Mr. Kamran Siddiqui</b>, Associate Programme Officer, IRENA &amp; <b>Ms. Chitra Narayanswamy</b>, Consultant for Energy Access, IRENA</p>
<p>10:15 – 11:15</p>	<p><b>Presentations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Organisation:</b> <i>Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), Philippines</i> <b>Mr. Romeo Montenegro</b>, Deputy Executive Director, Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), Philippines</li> <li>2. <b>Organisation:</b> <i>Sarawak Alternative Rural Electrification Scheme (SARES), Malaysia</i> <b>Mr. Christopher Wesley Ajan</b>, Manager, Rural Electrification Manager, Sarawak Energy Berhad, Malaysia</li> <li>3. <b>Organisation:</b> <i>Community Energy Toolkit/ Energy Action Partners</i> <b>Ms. Ayu Abdullah</b>, <b>Managing Director/Executive Director</b>,</li> <li>4. <b>Organisation:</b> <i>Ministry of Energy &amp; Mineral Resources, Indonesia</i> <b>Mr. Hendra Iswahyudi</b>, Director for Planning and Development of New, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Infrastructure.</li> </ol>

11:15 – 11:45	<b>Networking/Coffee Break</b>
11:45 – 13:15	<p><b>Moderated panel discussion</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Beni Suryadi</b>, Manager at ASEAN Centre for Energy</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Representative</b> from Ministry of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration of Indonesia (tbc)</li> <li>2. <b>Mr. Lucky Nurrahmat</b>, Country Lead Indonesia, Global Energy Alliance for People &amp; Planet (GEAPP)</li> <li>3. <b>Mr. Gulshan Vashistha</b>, Regional Investment Lead, Global Green Growth Initiative</li> <li>4. <b>Mr. Rizky Fauzianto</b>, Manager for Indonesia and SE Asia Southeast Asia Program, Rocky Mountain Institute</li> <li>5. <b>Ms. Erwina Damajanti</b>, Senior Advisor, Renewable Energy for Electrification Programme (REEP), GIZ</li> <li>6. <b>Mr. Vasco Tangkulung</b>, Technical Manager, NZMATES</li> <li>7. <b>Ms. Tri Mumpuni</b>, Member - Board of Governor, National Research and Innovation Indonesia (BRIN)/ Executive Director, IBEKA</li> </ol>
13:15 – 13:25	Q&A
13:25 – 13:30	Closing remarks
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch