

PROMOTING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPLOYMENT IN THE PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

– A CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE OF IRENA –

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to renewable energy. In accordance with its Statute, IRENA's objective is to "promote the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy". This concerns all forms of energy produced from renewable sources in a sustainable manner and includes bioenergy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy.

As of 19 December 2012, the membership of IRENA comprises 160 States and the European Union (EU), out of which 103 States and the EU have ratified the Statute.

The Initiative:

The initiative is designed to support Pacific Islands Members or Signatories of the Agency to create an enabling environment for renewable energy deployment and to meet national renewable energy targets. Through this initiative, IRENA emphasises cooperation with local partners, drawing on continual dialogue with the countries to ensure a demand-driven approach targeting local capacities' development.

Partners:

IRENA is leading and implementing the initiative. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community is the lead partner while other partners include the Pacific Power Association, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the South-East Asia and Pacific Regional Secretariat of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, the Sustainable Energy Industry Association of the Pacific Islands and the University of the South Pacific.

Why was this Initiative Developed for the Pacific Small Island Developing States?

The Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are increasingly adopting renewable energy targets and policies due to benefits for energy security, access to energy, socio-economic development, and the environment. The region is one of the most dependent on imported petroleum products in the world and renewable energy can therefore help to mitigate vulnerability to oil price volatility.

Successful examples of renewable energy deployment in the Pacific SIDS exist; however, many barriers persist and prevent the exploitation of the region's renewable energy sources. In fact, despite the region's political commitment to renewable energy, deployment is a challenge, including underpinning regulatory, financial, technical, institutional and market conditions required to support the renewable energy sector. The Energy Donors' Working

Group of the Pacific is coordinating various energy and renewable energy sector activities including capacity building to respond to these gaps. This initiative is designed in light of existing activities to assist developing an environment conducive to renewable energy deployment.

What are the Objectives of the Initiative?

The initiative has two components:

- Capacity building for policy makers, utilities, regulators and financial institutions: This component aims mainly to build and strengthen local capacities directly related to the development of necessary regulatory, financial, technical, institutional and market conditions required to encourage private power production from renewable energy sources, particularly grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV).
- Linking renewable energy skills required by the market to the higher education institutions' offerings: This component aims to apply a demand and supply side analysis of the current and projected skills needed by the renewable energy market and link them to offerings of higher education institutions.

Which are the Target Countries?

The initiative targets 11 Island States which are Members or Signatories of IRENA, namely: the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Independent State of Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and the Republic of Vanuatu.

How is the Initiative Financed?

The initiative is implemented with generous support from the governments of Germany and the United Arab Emirates. IRENA also contributes financially to the initiative.

How can my Organisation Partner with the Initiative?

Engagement with local and regional organisations is crucial to ensure a successful demand-driven initiative. IRENA is looking forward to addressing the needs of the region and to aligning its work with similar initiatives to identify overlapping objectives and maximise impact.

Organisations active in the region are welcome to partner and contribute to this initiative through, for example, supply of expertise, sharing of experiences or case studies, development of materials for training, etc.

Further Information:

For more information on IRENA and its activities in the Pacific SIDS and other regions, please visit: www.irena.org.