



India – Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference

‘Furthering the FIPIC Agenda through Sustainability Initiatives’

May 25 – 26, 2017 | Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji

Thematic Track Concept Note: Solar Energy Interventions in PICs

Background

With 993 islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific, the population of the combined SIDS is 10,260,000. While on an average 60% of population in SIDs have access to electricity, there are islands like Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Solomon, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall and Fiji with lower access. Given the scattered topology of small islands, connecting these to centralized grid is neither technically nor financially feasible. Thus, electricity supply is done through local grids, based on diesel generators. Diesel being an imported source, on one hand PICs face enormous outgo of foreign exchange and on the other hand it has direct implication on their energy security. And then there is the whole climate change dimension, given that PICs are very vulnerable on account of climate change-induced sea level rise. Fortunately, PICs are endowed with good renewable energy resources, mainly solar and biomass. In this scenario, the International Solar Alliance (ISA) can help PICs utilize solar energy to meet their electrification goals in an environmentally-benign and cost-effective fashion.

ISA Thematic Track ‘Solar Energy Interventions in PICs’

Issues for discussions

- Need based solution: Solar mini grids (AC or DC) with appropriate storage/solar-diesel hybridization/appropriately sized, individual solar power packs with smart features – for metering, payments, and over-drawl etc.
- Sustainability of solar based initiatives: innovative business models.
- Driving down the prices: Aggregation model (or bulk procurement) such as India’s LED programme.
- Addressing capacity gaps along the complete value chain.