

Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) 2010

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13.1 The Ministry hosted Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) 2010, the fourth in the series of global Ministerial-level Conference on Renewable Energy from 27th to 29th October, 2010 at New Delhi. The theme of DIREC 2010 was 'up-scaling and mainstreaming renewables for energy security, climate change and economic development'.

13.2 The conference followed from the initiative taken at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and also builds up on the initiatives taken in various IRECs held in Bonn (Renewables 2004), Beijing (BIREC 2005) and Washington (WIREC 2008) to highlight the significance of renewable energy.

13.3 The President of India, Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil, inaugurated DIREC 2010, which brought together over 13,000 participants from governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to the main conference, over 20,000 visitors visited the exhibition. Energy Ministers of more than 50 countries and official delegates of almost 70 countries participated in this three day conference and deliberated on the vital issues of renewables and energy security, climate change and economic development. About 250 speakers and 600 exhibitors from more than 71 countries made DIREC 2010 one of the biggest and landmark renewable energy events ever held in India. DIREC 2010 was an effort to provide an important forum for international discourse on renewable energy. Accordingly, the conference was carefully divided into four major themes:

- Technology & Infrastructure
- Policy,
- Finance and
- Renewable, Access & Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

13.4 The overwhelming response received from the international community reiterated the significance of 'Up scaling and Mainstreaming Renewables for Energy Security, Climate Change and Economic Development', which was also the theme of the conference. It also showcased that the strides made in this sector have surpassed predictions. DIREC 2010 also showcased and became a launching pad for concrete initiatives undertaken by the public and private sectors to promote widespread adoption of cost-effective renewable energy technologies, especially in the context of developing countries. In particular, the conference enabled the participants to acquire a deeper understanding of :



- Policy efforts to encourage and enable renewable renewable scale up
- Mobilising finance for renewable energy innovation and deployment
- Benefits of collaboration, synergies, and knowledge sharing at the international level to scale up renewable energy (RE)
- Link from Copenhagen to Cancun via DIREC

13.5 In DIREC 2010, 11 parallel workshops and 29 official side events spanned over three days, delegates and participants, deliberated and exchanged ideas on various issues and aspects related to renewable energy. The parallel workshops were hosted on issues including: solar power, solar water heating systems, wind energy, sustainable habitats, bio-methanation, rural empowerment, smart grid technology, biofuels and clean lighting options.

13.6 During DIREC 2010, strong pledges were announced by the Government of India (6), Germany (4), Norway (2), and Switzerland (1). Local Governments in Japan lead the way with pledges from the government of Tokyo (1) and Yokohama (1). Ten pledges were made by the private sector representing India (9), Bangladesh (1) and Nigeria (1). Seven pledges were submitted by NGO's representing India, Canada, Europe and West Africa. India submitted 6 pledges to promote renewable energy technology financing, development and deployment for grid and off grid power generation in rural areas. This includes the creation of a global competition to develop and deploy affordable, efficient and clean cookstove technologies as part of India's National Biomass Cookstoves Initiatives; the installation of 1180 water pumping windmills and 608Kw cumulative capacity of wind-solar hybrid systems by 2013; on-grid and off-grid biomass and biogas applications; target of 200 MW of off-grid solar installations by 2013 for hot water and lighting in rural areas; and decentralised bio-energy applications for rural areas.

13.7 A renewable energy trade expo showcased latest renewable technologies. Spread over an area of 20,000 sq. meters it was global in scope, represented by countries from around the world. The Exhibition featured renewable energy technology suppliers, systems integrators, financiers, professional services firms, end-users, utility companies, energy companies, educational institutions, non-profit agencies, foreign governments and economic missions, and other exhibitors. Fifteen foreign countries which are leaders in the renewable energy field had national pavilions, including USA, Germany, Japan, Norway, Spain, and Sweden. More than 20,000 visitors stepped into the exhibition to witness the latest products, technologies and inventions in the Renewable Energy Sector.

13.8 Several important documents and publications were released and shared at the DIREC

2010 platform, notable amongst which



were a compendium of Case Studies 'Access to Clean Energy – A Glimpse of Off-Grid Projects in India' and the strategy paper of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, viz. 'Renewable Energy in India – Progress, Vision & Strategy'.

13.9 Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, India, and other ministers present at DIREC 2010 underscored the restrictive costs of technology and role of women in renewable energy. Welcoming the delegates, Mr. Deepak Gupta, Secretary, MNRE stated that now the time has come when renewable energy is being recognized as an important part of the solutions to provide clean energy to the world threatened by fossil fuels and to provide access to those who do not have it. The government and major stakeholders need to make bolder commitments to enact policies and actions that will tackle energy security, environment and economic challenges through renewable energy. According to Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry, Chair, Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, the growth in renewables would continue to be driven by the urgency of climate change impacts and the need for energy security and energy access.

13.10 The Conference also saw panel discussions on financial aspects in which participants agreed that the energy projects being more about debt than equity, the investments need to be structured carefully and supported in order to be successful. Competition among financiers are already driving down loan cost, indicating that renewable energy finances are bound to improve in the long run. Another session titled 'Initiatives to Catalyze and Scale Up Investment in Renewable Energy' highlighted the important issues of investments, especially in developing nations, for upscaling renewable energy use. The major impediments to investment in developing countries as highlighted by the discussants were cost competitiveness and technical, financial and project development constraints. The participants focused on finding new ways to allocate and reduce risk, improve capital efficiency and encourage investment in energy infrastructure. The session under the title 'Renewables Access and MDGs' covered issues of poverty reduction through energy access. Participants reiterated that rural electrification enhances education, health and livelihood. They also added that energy provisions should be integrated by developing solutions by using electrical, battery and mechanical technologies simultaneously for optimal growth and achievement of the MDGs.

13.11 The remarks of Thomas Friedman of New York Times that the world has indeed become 'hot, flat and crowded', due to climate change, improved average living standards and overpopulation on the closing day of the DIREC 2010 explained the need for cheap,

clean and reliable energy source and pointed out the need to arrest unsustainable energy demands and energy poverty.

13.12 Dr. Farooq Abdullah, presented the DIREC



Declaration 2010 which aims at upscaling and mainstreaming renewables for energy security, climate change and economic development. The closing session also witnessed about 30 pledges coming in under the DIAP. The three-day Conference ended with the invitation from Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates to the next IREC Conference to be held in Abu Dhabi in 2012.

DIREC 2010 Declaration

The Honorable Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Dr Farooq Abdullah, presented the DIREC 2010 declaration, which aims at upscaling and mainstreaming renewables for energy security, climate change and economic development.

1. Ministers and Government Representatives from ~65 countries participated in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference 2010 (DIREC) with the aim of up-scaling and mainstreaming renewables for energy security, climate change and economic development. DIREC is the fourth meeting building upon successful outcomes in Washington in 2008 (WIREC), in Beijing in 2005 (BIREC), and in Bonn in 2004.
2. We acknowledge the multiple benefits provided by Renewable Energy. Together with energy efficiency, it provides energy access especially for the poor; creates economic and job opportunities; improves air quality and moderates climate change; and enhances energy security and sustainable development. In the last five years, the renewable energy sector has grown strongly and steadily. Even in 2009, up against strong headwinds caused by the global recession, lower oil and gas prices, and the lack of an international climate agreement, total investment has increased.
3. Besides finance, the growth in renewable energy has largely been policy driven. By early 2010, more than 100 countries had some type of target and/or promotion policy related to renewable energy. In addition, adoption of renewable energy is no longer confined to the industrialized world—more than half of the existing renewable power capacity is now in developing countries.
4. Despite the impressive growth in renewable energy adoption in the last five years, the challenge is that its share in the world's primary energy supply remains small, and its adoption uneven. The world has tapped only a small amount of the vast supply of renewable energy resources. For the upward trend of renewable energy growth to accelerate, technology development and policy efforts need to be taken to the next level, and large-scale private investment needs to be encouraged.
5. A large proportion of the world's population has remained without access to modern energy services for too long. Depending upon the energy source in question (electricity for lighting, modern cooking fuel, etc.) anywhere between 1.4 billion and 2.7 billion people lack modern energy services. The use of renewable energy sources will not only provide access, but also help in the eradication of poverty and in the achievement of the other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



6. The goal enunciated by the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate (AGECC) of universal access to modern energy services by 2030 is commendable and should be pursued by the international community and accorded a high development assistance priority.
7. We support the designation of a Year of Access and call upon the United Nations to designate 2012 as the International Year of Energy Access. We agree to work with governments, development banks, the private sector and NGOs to achieve this objective.
8. In many of our countries, investments in targeted research and development in the energy sector are much lower than in other comparable sectors of the economy and incommensurate with the scale of the task at hand. We reaffirm the importance of investments in research, development and deployment (RD & D) and of international cooperation in RD & D for more cost-effective and advanced energy technologies.
9. It is only by significant scaling up of renewable energy that we will enter the virtuous cycle of cost-reductions followed by more significant scaling up. We recognize that increasing the use of renewable energy faces several challenges but consistent and sustained government policies can and do have a favourable impact on technology deployment. Supportive frameworks, procurement policies, a level playing field, providing access to affordable long-term finance, all will help increase the uptake of renewable energy. The integration and mainstreaming of renewable energy into national sustainable development strategies for poverty reduction, agriculture, education, health and family welfare, will further provide more opportunities for scaling up.
10. We welcome and urge cooperative global action to strengthen human and institutional capacities in developing countries. Long-term strategies for capacity building are required for policy analysis and technology assessment, supporting development of technologies and related skills in sourcing, marketing, installing, operating, maintaining, and servicing renewable energy equipment and in the sharing of best practices.
11. While there is no shortage of capital in the world, the challenge has always been how to scale up private investment in clean energy in developing countries. Public funds are instrumental in leveraging and incentivizing large-scale private investment in developing countries through, for example, guarantees, risk sharing, buying down interest, etc. The provision of fast-start funding in the Copenhagen Accord, as well as existing multi-lateral and national funds, could catalyze much larger private flows for clean energy in developing countries. Some of these resources should also be provided for improving access to modern energy services in rural areas of the developing world.
12. We welcome the Delhi International Action Programme that encourages governments, international organizations, private companies, industry associations, and civil society organizations to take voluntary action for up scaling renewable energy within their jurisdictions or spheres of responsibility. We request the Government of India to present an update of these voluntary actions at the next International Renewable Energy Conference hosted by the Government of United Arab Emirates.
13. We express our sincere and deep appreciation and thanks to the people and the Government of India for successfully organizing this conference and for their hospitality and generosity.

