

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Arab Regional Solar Energy Conference

5-7 November 2006, Sheraton Hotel, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Background

The Arab Regional Solar Energy Conference (ARSEC - 2006) has been organized by the college of science in collaboration with the Arab section of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), Germany. Nearly 100 scientists- representing 30 countries - had participated with 120 abstracts. It had been made clear that the renewable energy activities are increasing at a rate of more than 30% per year globally to meet the future energy demand with least damage to the environment. Furthermore, it was stated clearly- during this three days conference- that Research & Development in renewable energy are advancing at an exponential rate. However, deployment of renewable energy technologies in the Arab countries is regrettably lagging behind.

In order to catch up with other industrialized countries, conserve the region's fossil fuel resources for a longer time, reduce the CO₂ emission and subsequently minimize global warming , utilizes the competitive advantage created by the abundance of solar power and create lasting investment in the region , it is recommended that:

1. Arab countries must adopt policies that will increase the deployment of renewable energy. It could be based on successful existing successful policies followed in other countries as described in the ISES white paper entitled "Transitioning to a Renewable Energy Future".
2. Research & Development on renewable energy technologies has to be increased in Arab universities and institutes covering energy conservation, efficiency and economy.
3. Universities and institutions are encouraged to provide more opportunities to their researchers and students to interact with their counterparts in other parts of the world. This may be done by sponsoring academics and researchers to participate in regional and international conferences as well as through seminars that focus on solar and renewable energy.

4. Speed up the implementation of renewable energy courses in all sectors of universities in the Arab world, that graduate and undergraduate student will have the opportunity to study and remain competitive with their counterparts in the rest of the world. Schools should also be enhanced with subjects on renewable energy and its positive impacts on environment and sustainable developments.
5. Have a biannual major event in renewable energy in Bahrain or in the Arab region and, at least, one workshop or seminar each year. The organization of Specialized exhibitions in solar energy , renewable energy and related topics is an activity that must be considered.
6. The design of commercial, industrial and residential buildings is encouraged to be based on energy conservation, efficiency and sustainability. Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) and Building Integrated Wind Turbines (BIWT) should be encouraged by both community and government, and should also receive incentives, special considerations and/or privileges.
7. The Arab section of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES) should receive financial and technical support from Arab countries and NGO's to enable it further organize solar energy and renewable energy meetings and to be able to fulfill its own mission in promoting renewable energy activities, application and education.
8. Comprehensive legislation, policies and institutional frameworks should be established to support the implementation of renewable energy in the Arab world. Also, various incentives such as: tax cuts, customs exemption, carbon credit for renewable energy applications must be considered.
9. Energy consumption in transportation must receive special attention. Renewable energy resources can contribute positively in this respect.
10. ISESCO (Morocco), UNESCO (Cairo and Qatar Office), and ALECSO (Tunis) are urged to provide special financial and technical assistance to achieve these recommendations.