

RECENT ENGAGEMENTS

RRA-Mali Validation Workshop

7-8 September 2017 – Bamako, Mali

IRENA and the *Agence Pour les Energies Renouvelables* of Mali conducted a Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) validation workshop in Bamako. During the workshop, national stakeholders and development partners identified bottlenecks and proposed recommendations related to the uptake of renewables under grid and off-grid power generation, transportation and thermal applications. The workshop was an important step to helping Mali identify short-to-medium-term actions to improve the conditions for renewables in the country and may help to attract international finance and support from the international community. Following IRENA's presentation of its resource assessment expertise, tools data and services, the National Agency for the Development of Biofuels expressed interest in getting the organisation's support to develop a national strategy for bioenergy that valorises domestic by-products such as the residues from cotton production, animal waste and riverside weeds.

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Trans-Regional Workshop on Solar Power Plants

10-13 September 2017 – Mexico City, Mexico

This workshop, hosted by the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and held back-to-back with Mexico's International Renewable Energy Conference (MEXIREC), focussed on the knowledge and tools needed by policy makers to promote renewable energy for the energy system transformation. IRENA presented key findings of its report *Planning for the Renewable Energy Future*, which served as an input for further discussions on the importance of long-term planning, policy tools and stakeholder engagement. The workshop gave IRENA an opportunity to present its work to high-level stakeholders from government ministries, energy agencies, utilities and plant operators from the participating countries¹, which led to a concrete dialogue on cooperation activities in the field.

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Global Geothermal Alliance Meeting

11 September 2017 – Florence, Italy

More than 200 high-level public, intergovernmental, non-governmental and senior private sector representatives—the world's largest ministerial gathering dedicated to geothermal energy—met in Florence to accelerate the global adoption of geothermal energy. Entitled *Working Together to Promote Geothermal Energy Towards a Sustainable Energy Future*, the event brought together the actors to overcome barriers that hinder the deployment of geothermal energy, despite its vast potential. The meeting saw significant progress on global cooperation around geothermal energy, as evinced through the signing of the [Florence Declaration](#), a landmark agreement by governments to unlock more than 200GW geothermal energy potential worldwide. The meeting also marked by the release of a new [report](#) from IRENA, coordinator of the GGA, in which access to capital for surface exploration and drilling was cited as the main barrier to geothermal development.

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¹ Algeria, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Germany, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Forum on Regional Cooperation: Developing Quality Infrastructure for Photovoltaic Energy Generation

13-15 September 2017 - Santiago, Chile

Partnering with the German Metrology Institute (PTB) and the Solar Energy Program of the Chilean Government (CORFO-PES), IRENA organised this forum with a view to support the establishment of a collaborative network of policy-makers, regulatory bodies, quality infrastructure institutions, the solar photovoltaic (PV) industry and academia in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to assist the deployment of PV technologies in the region. Participants discussed issues such as policy support for PV market development and mitigating risks for investments in PV through quality infrastructure development. They proposed a concrete [action plan](#) for the LAC region to strengthen quality infrastructure development for PV systems. IRENA also launched the report *Boosting Solar PV Markets: The Role of Quality Infrastructure* and presented the results of a [regional mapping](#) survey of the various quality infrastructure institutes and their main national priorities.

Contact: Francisco Boshell (FBoshell@irena.org)

Climate Change Mitigation Technologies Conference

21-22 September 2017 - Athens, Greece

Organised by the European Patent Office (EPO) and Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI), IRENA was invited to the conference to present the [International Standards and Patents in Renewable Energy](#) (INSPIRE) database to industries and small- and medium-sized enterprises, governments, research centres, universities, law firms and project developers. INSPIRE was positively received by the participants, who recognised the added value of the tool and recommended the integration of an option to download raw data. EPO and IRENA also presented their [joint policy brief](#) on current trends on climate change mitigation technologies (CCMTs) and emphasised the key role of renewables. Furthermore, the EPO expressed interest to expand collaboration with IRENA on future reports and INSPIRE. Other patent offices encouraged the agency to showcase the database at other conferences, and a number highlighted their current use of INSPIRE in their analyses. IRENA noted that there are plans to expand the INSPIRE database by including two new patent categories for climate change technologies. Participants suggested that the expansion of new patent categories on INSPIRE should be accompanied by the option to download raw data.

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Electricity storage side event at International Research, Development and Innovation Congress on Energy Sustainability

22 September 2017 – Quito, Ecuador

IRENA and the Ecuador National Institute of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy ran a half-day workshop during the International Congress and Scientific Fair to present findings of IRENA's electricity storage costs and outlook work, and seek different perspectives on the role of electricity storage for the global energy transition. During the workshop, which included regional and international experts from leading institutions in electricity storage technologies, government ministers, business representatives and academics, the business case for electricity storage was addressed. Participants recognised IRENA's ongoing efforts to increase knowledge about electricity storage and, more generally, about the growing role of storage in the region as costs for storage technologies continue to decline.

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16th Energy Investment and Regulation Conference

25-26 September 2017 – Astana, Kazakhstan

This event was hosted by the Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA) within the framework of the Astana EXPO 2017 and convened policy makers and experts from more than 30 countries. Following a presentation by IRENA on the mobilisation of public and private investment into the renewables sector, participants exchanged views and ideas on a range of policy tools and mechanisms to integrate a growing share of renewables in the energy mix. IRENA also contributed to another session entitled *Rethinking Energy: The role of Renewable Energy in meeting Climate Change Goals*.

Contact: Henning Wuester (HWuester@irena.org)

Biofuels in Transport Conference

28 September 2017 – Brussels, Belgium

Hosted by the German Renewable Energy Agency, the one-day conference explored whether biofuel producers should focus on blending with conventional fossil-based transportation fuels or whether they should target specific sectors, such as aviation. IRENA's keynote address, which focused on key opportunities for renewables in transport, highlighted the growing potential for renewables in transportation through electric vehicles, as well as the increase in renewable energy integration in power grids. The conference, which was attended by European policymakers and the public, provided IRENA with an opportunity to describe the role that liquid biofuels play in helping to achieve climate objectives, and the ways to produce feedstocks for these biofuels in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

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European Utility Week 2017 – IRENA session: Spreading innovation for the power sector transformation globally

3-5 October 2017 – Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Within the context of the European Utility Week, an annual conference convening experts and leaders from the entire European electricity value chain, IRENA hosted a session on emerging innovations in technology and business models for power utilities. Discussions focused on emerging infrastructure such as electric vehicles, digitalisation, storage and appliances, and opportunities to engage consumers in the new power sector regime. Following an exchange of best practice examples in Europe, participants also discussed the replicability of these innovations in other regions of the world towards a more decentralised and renewables-based system. The outcome of the session is being used as input for IRENA's upcoming report on the *Landscape Innovation for Power Sector Transformation*. In addition, the session served as an opportunity to present IRENA's work on innovation, and network with relevant stakeholders.

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IRIE Ministerial

10-11 October 2017 – Bandos, Maldives

The Renewable Island Energy (IRIE) Ministerial Meeting sought to catalyse new partnerships and action around renewable energy and energy efficiency in small island developing states (SIDS). Hosted by Maldives, as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Ministerial marked an important initiative to keep renewable energy in SIDS high on the international agenda through the outreach of the AOSIS members. AOSIS Members agreed that IRIE should begin with a mapping exercise to better understand what initiatives already exist that are doing good work. This would help identify potential synergies as well as gaps, better focus the work of IRIE and form the basis of an information clearinghouse. IRENA is expanding its work under the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative to include support to SIDS on the implementation of their NDCs and therefore coordination with AOSIS on the development and implementation of IRIE is critical.

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Lecture Series: Renewable Future

12 October 2017 - 25 January 2018 – Bonn, Germany

In cooperation with the University of Bonn, IRENA has begun to organise a lecture series that will analyse and discuss the political, technological, financial, socioeconomic, commercial and regional opportunities and challenges of a renewable energy powered future. By the end of October, two lectures had taken place. The first, entitled *Accelerating the Global Energy Transition*, explored the different pathways that countries can take to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. The second, *Planning for the Transformation of Power Systems*, looked at best practices on scaling-up variable renewable energy systems. For more information on the seven lectures, please click [here](#).

All events take place from 18:00 to 20:00 in Lecture Hall IX of the University of Bonn's Main Building. To attend, please register via email to mfischer@uni-bonn.de or through the [online](#) form.

Training for the Power System Operators and Planners of Panama on analysing the technical impacts of the integration of high shares of VRE

16-19 October 2017 – Panama City, Panama

The training is part of the implementation of the Clean Energy Corridor of Central America (CECCA) initiative in the pilot country of Panama, undertaken in collaboration with the Secretary of Energy of Panama. The workshop aimed at training planning engineers from the national power system operator (*Centro Nacional de Despacho, CND*) and the national transmission company (*Empresa de Transmision Electrica SA, ETESA*) in modelling the integration of variable renewable energy (VRE) in the energy system. The training helped advance an understanding of how to incorporate VRE and in the planning studies that being undertaken to expand the power system in Panama. Furthermore, the workshop will have an impact at the regional level, as the conclusions of the training will be proposed to the regional power system operator to be incorporated as an overarching rule for all CECCA countries.

Contact: Francisco Gafaro (fgafaro@irena.org)

Global Green Growth Week 2017: Unlocking Africa's Green Growth Potential

17-20 October 2017 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Hosted in partnership with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, GGGWeek2017 gathered Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) members, stakeholders from the public and private sectors, international organisations, and civil society to strengthen and catalyse green growth in Africa and globally in order to achieve Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement and make progress on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. IRENA played a prominent role in GGGWeek2017, hosting an expert roundtable discussion and, together with GGGI, co-hosting a session entitled *Financing Africa: Mobilizing local capital markets for renewable energy investment*. The session focused on how to mobilise local capital markets for renewable energy investment, and showcased the growing importance of Africa-based institutional investors in financing green projects in Africa. IRENA's involvement provided important exposure to the local investment environment in Africa. This is critical to IRENA's efforts to expand its renewable energy finance networks in Africa, and provided important insights that will contribute to IRENA's upcoming report, *Mobilizing Institutional Capital for Renewable Energy*.

Contact: Henning Wuester (HWuester@irena.org)

Training Programme to Support Renewable Energy Deployment in SIDS

23-27 October 2017 – Tokyo and Kobe, Japan

The Ministry of Environment of Japan and IRENA co-organised a training workshop to support representatives from Maldives, Mozambique, Fiji, Palau and Samoa in the development of project proposals to access financing. The participants, ranging from energy sector representatives to government officials and public banks, received exposure to various processes, procedures, and models through which to access funds from climate finance entities such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Participants came prepared with ideas for national projects, which were discussed and peer reviewed. Thereafter, the trainers provided guidance on how to integrate the project ideas into the GCF concept note format. A follow-up workshop is planned in December in Fiji, in which the participants will build on the knowledge of this workshop, and develop the ongoing concept notes further towards actual submission to climate finance institutions.

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Global Science, Technology and Innovation Conference

23-25 October 2017 – Brussels, Belgium



IRENA, together with the European independent research and technology organisation VITO, organised a session entitled, *The Increasing Role of Consumers in the Transformation of the Power Sector: innovations leading the way*, during G-STIC to demonstrate the latest innovations that support the power sector transformation, specifically emphasising the role of consumers. Innovations that were discussed included new business models for communities, virtual power plant business models, platform-based business models, the internet of things, and renewable energy and energy efficiency in buildings. Through the discussions, IRENA received first-hand information on leading innovations within the European Union, and discussed their replicability and relevance at a global scale. The findings and outcome of the event will be integrated into IRENA's work on the up-coming report *Landscape Innovation for Power Sector Transformation*, in which each of the innovations discussed will represent a case study.

Contact: Francisco Boshell (FBoshell@irena.org)

Project Navigator Workshop on the Development of Bankable Solar PV Projects in Iran

31 October – 2 November 2017 – Tehran, Iran



The Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA) invited IRENA to conduct a workshop on the IRENA Project Navigator during the Second Iran Renewable Energy Conference in Tehran. Attended by high-level government officials, private sector companies, and other key actors, the conference provides the country with insights into how to remove barriers and facilitate domestic investment in renewables. IRENA's session aimed at building the capacity of project developers and investors interested in developing solar PV projects in Iran, including with regards to improving conditions for financing such projects. IRENA's session was the largest workshop on renewable energy in Iran to-date, with 200-300 project developers using IRENA tools to develop renewable energy projects.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S ACTIVITIES

High-Level Conference of the Global Geothermal Alliance

11 September 2017 – Florence, Italy

The Director-General took part in the first high-level Conference of the Global Geothermal Alliance in Florence, Italy. During the conference, he highlighted the importance of realising the full potential of geothermal energy in the context of global efforts to accelerate the energy transition and meet climate objectives. He provided an overview of the main measures to scale-up geothermal deployment and pointed to the key role of international cooperation through initiatives like the Global Geothermal Alliance. Following his keynote, the Director-General moderated the ministerial roundtable, *“Geothermal in the Global Energy Transition: What Future?”* attended by government ministers from developed and developing countries. After the conference, the Director-General visited the Florence School of Regulation of the European University Institute (EUI), where he briefed faculty members and students on changes in the global energy landscape.

United Nations General Assembly

18-22 September 2017 – New York, USA

During the United Nations General Assembly High-level week in New York, the Director-General took part in a number of events and meetings. At the 'Leaders' Roundtable on Sustainable Ocean Economy convened by the Ministry of Climate Change of the UAE, the Director-General highlighted the cost declines in offshore wind, as well as the rapid pace of innovation in ocean energy technologies. The Director-General also opened the high-level dialogue on the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy (IRIE), where he described the momentum of the energy transformation behind SIDS as well as how initiatives such as IRIE can strengthen this momentum ahead of COP23, in synergy with the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative.

AMEM - Meeting of Energy Ministers

26-28 September 2017 – Manila, Philippines



The Director-General participated in the first Ministers of Energy Meeting / IRENA Dialogue, where he provided IRENA's perspective on how countries in South-East Asia can harness the wealth of the region's renewable energy potential to meet its growing energy demand and address climate change. He also drew attention to IRENA's *Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN*, which describes how ASEAN can meet its aspirational target of providing 23% of total final energy consumption with renewable energy by 2025. A joint statement was adopted at the meeting, which envisages a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations to further strengthen cooperation. At a press conference on the side-lines of the 35th AMEM, the Director-General and Philippines Secretary of Energy Mr. Alfonso G. Cusi launched the report *Accelerating Renewable Mini-grid Deployment: A Study on the Philippines*.

European Utility Week

3-5 October 2017 – Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The Director-General delivered the opening keynote speech at the European Utility Week, where he reflected on the changing role of utilities in an era driven by a rapid growth in renewables that is reshaping the way energy is produced, distributed and consumed. He emphasised that these changes create challenges for European utilities, but also many opportunities to provide new services to distributed and renewables-based energy markets.

Russian Energy Week

3-7 October 2017 – Moscow, Russia



The Director-General visited Moscow to take part in the first Russian Energy Week. He spoke at the opening of the *Presidential Plenary session – Energy for Global Growth* alongside President Vladimir Putin, Secretary-General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), Seyed Mohammed Hossein Adeli, and the Secretary-General of OPEC, Mohammed Barkindo. In his remarks, he pointed to the growing uptake of renewables in Russia, mentioning the recent 2 GW auction and enumerated the numerous benefits of renewables in terms of powering economic growth, income generation, job creation, and manufacturing.

The Director-General also took part in a roundtable on Developing Renewable Energy Sources in Russia, where he presented the key findings of the agency's REmap Russia report. At the International Mayors' Summit on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Growth in Cities, the Director-General stressed the role of cities in the global energy transition, mentioning IRENA's growing body of work on cities and its engagement with international initiatives, such as the one on sustainable cities and eco-towns, launched by Russia and S. Korea at the 8th Clean Energy Ministerial in Beijing. At the 6th Global Energy Summit, the Director-General stressed the importance of energy transformation to address global problems such as climate change, population growth, and air pollution.

AOSIS Ministerial Meeting on the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy

10 October 2017 – Male, Maldives

The Director-General took part in the AOSIS Ministerial Meeting on the Initiative for Renewable Island Energy in Bandos, Maldives, co-organised by Maldives as AOSIS Chair and IRENA. In his opening remarks he pointed to longstanding cooperation between IRENA and SIDS, particularly through the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative. The Director-General also emphasised the growing momentum of the energy transformation in SIDS, and the opportunity to further accelerate renewables deployment in islands through the implementation by SIDS of the Paris Agreement and nationally-determined contributions (NDCs). He highlighted the importance of COP23 for SIDS under Fiji's Presidency, in terms of providing opportunities to enhance engagement and improve coordination. The Director-General also held bilateral meetings with ministers from the Marshall Islands, Seychelles and Belize.

Assembly of the Arctic Circle

13 October 2017 – Reykjavik, Iceland

The Director-General participated in the Assembly of the Arctic Circle, the largest network of international dialogue and cooperation on the future of the Arctic. In his remarks, he stressed the importance of renewables in addressing climate change, pointing out that renewables and energy efficiency could achieve 90% of emissions reductions required to achieve climate objectives by 2050. He also pointed to the importance and growing role of cities and private companies for the success of global efforts to address climate change.

Singapore International Energy Week

23 October 2017 - Singapore

The Director-General took part in the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW), one of the key forums for energy discussions in Asia. In his keynote, he highlighted the rapid growth of renewable energy during the past ten years, pointing out that the global drive to address climate change is providing further impetus to the deployment of renewables worldwide. He noted the great potential of renewables in the South-East Asia region and how it can be harnessed to address the region's challenges in terms of meeting energy demand, enhancing energy access and energy security. He emphasised the importance of intensifying efforts to deploy renewables in end-use sectors such as transportation and buildings, and highlighted a number of promising initiatives that Singapore was implementing in these areas.

Training Workshop on VRE Grid Integration Studies & Power System Modelling

30 October - 3 November 2017 – Nadi, Fiji



IRENA, in cooperation with the Pacific Power Association, organised a workshop to train utility engineers in Pacific Islands in the use of the specialized software tool *DigSilent-PowerFactory*, which is used worldwide to support the planning of electricity grids. IRENA's session was based on the specific grid integration studies that the Agency is supporting in the region (in Palau, Samoa, Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji).

The knowledge acquired by the engineers will facilitate the establishment of consistent and sustainable power system transformation plans, considering the technical challenges associated with the operation of electricity grids hosting high shares of renewables. The application of the tools will enable the countries to plan for the integration of high shares of renewable energy resources, especially wind and solar, into electricity grids and facilitate their efforts towards achieving the targets of their national policies and nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

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Midterm Report Workshop for Asian Development Bank's Strategy for Northeast Asia Power System Interconnection (NAPSI) Technical Assistance

1-2 November 2017 – Gwangju, Korea

IRENA has been involved in the discussions on the Northeast Asia Supergrid project, which is one of the recommendations of the Mongolia Renewables Readiness Assessment, since its inception. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiated a technical assistance project last year to assess the project's feasibility, and IRENA, as a member of the steering committee, is supporting the process. The workshop, hosted by ADB and Mongolia Ministry of Energy, and supported by Korea Electric Power Corporation, discussed the midterm report of the project.

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G20/CEM Workshop on System Integration of Variable Renewables – Focus on Supply Side Flexibility

1-3 November 2017 – Berlin, Germany

As part of G20 energy cooperation as well as the 2017/2018 Clean Energy Ministerial Campaign on Advanced Power Plant Flexibility, IRENA participated in a workshop and study tour on *System Integration of Variable Renewables - Focus on Supply Side Flexibility* in Berlin. The workshop was part of the CEM's Advanced Power Plant Flexibility work program and gave the opportunity to various experts from the private sector, NGOs the public sector to present latest developments in the field of power system flexibility. During the workshop, IRENA shared its knowledge and expertise on how to optimally unlock power plant flexibility to facilitate the integration of variable renewable energy sources like solar and wind. IRENA also introduced participants to the various tools and services that it uses using to study the role of power plant flexibility on integration solar and wind power. Information from the workshop will be used to update IRENA's databases on technical capabilities and cost of retrofits for flexibility upgrades of specific generating technologies. This will enable IRENA to update its power system analysis models used in bilateral country engagement, thereby better advising countries on how to efficiently integrate renewables.

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Fourth session of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE)

2-3 November 2017 – Geneva, Switzerland

The fourth annual meeting of GERE aimed to facilitate regulatory and policy dialogue and share best practices on RE deployment to significantly increase the uptake of renewable energy in the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE) region. IRENA has been a member of GERE's Bureau since 2014. Discussions centred on ways to strengthen enabling frameworks, advance renewable energy-related skills, and increase the availability of investor-backed renewable energy projects in South East Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. In this context, participants recognised the importance of IRENA's regional initiatives in South East Europe and Central Asia, and encouraged further efforts to increase the utilization of IRENA's renewable energy project facilitation tools, including Project Navigator and the Sustainable Energy Marketplace.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

UN Climate Change Conference - COP23

6-17 November 2017 – Bonn, Germany

IRENA is convening a global conversation at United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) in Bonn on the centrality of renewables in efforts to combat climate change. At COP23, IRENA is holding a number of high-level side events, hosting a full day dedicated to renewable energy, and providing a hub for more than 40 renewable-energy related events at the IRENA pavilion. IRENA is also ensuring that messaging on the centrality of renewables in climate change reaches all delegates through innovative display messaging (such as branding one of the U-Bahn trains) throughout Bonn. IRENA activities include:

- **Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action - Energy Day (10 November):** IRENA is taking part in Energy Day, which will tell the story of the ongoing energy transformation, showcase success stories, take stock of commitments made, and offer recommendations on the way forward.
- **Renewable Energy Day - Accelerating the Global Energy Transition (12 November):** IRENA, in partnership with the Governments of Fiji, Germany and the United Arab Emirates, and Deutsche Post DHL, is hosting a high-level event to explore cutting-edge ideas and innovations at the forefront of renewable energy.
- **SIDS Day - Strengthening Resilience through Energy Transformation (13 November):** To draw attention to the unique context of small island developing states (SIDS) with regards to the global energy transformation, IRENA is dedicating a full day of SIDS-focused programming at the IRENA Pavilion, and a high-level ministerial discussion and reception at the Bonn Kunstmuseum.

- **Implementing Renewable Energy Targets in African NDCs (15 November):** The high-level side event will explore the role of climate policies in facilitating financial flows to renewable energy projects, on leveraging sustainable private finance, and risk mitigation.
- **#Renewables4Climate (Ongoing):** The IRENA Coalition for Action has developed a joint campaign for COP23 that calls on members of the public to join the global conversation by tagging any renewable energy-related content before, during and after COP23 with the #renewables4climate hashtags, and highlighting actions to deploy renewables as a solution to climate change.

Isolated Power Systems Connect 2017 – International technology Forum for System Operators and Owners

13-17 November 2017 – Rottneest Island, Australia

This event, co-organised with the Pacific Power Association, is composed of several segments: a two-day training for utility engineers from the Pacific Islands on planning and implementation of renewable energy and energy storage projects for small isolated systems, a networking day, and a two-day international conference where experts will discuss the latest developments of power systems in small isolated areas. The event intends to showcase a pragmatic approach to planning renewable projects and power system transformations, in line with the objectives of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative. Participants will have a unique opportunity to share their experience and interact with persons that have successfully planned and implemented the transformation of small power systems in Rottneest Island, other isolated areas of Australia and North America.

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DigSILENT SEMINAR – Power System Stability

20 November 2017 – Gomaringen, Germany

This seminar is part of a grid integration study and capacity building effort being developed by IRENA for the Dominican Republic, supporting the government in its task of finding and implementing the most appropriate strategies to achieve a future efficient and reliable supply of electricity. The training introduces tools and techniques for assessing the ability of grids to host variable renewable energy (VRE) and incorporating techniques used for grid integration studies. Participants from the national system operator, transmission company and power sector of the Dominican Republic are attending the session in Germany in order to strengthen their capacities and facilitate integration of further renewable energy shares in the country.

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Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility in South African Development Community – Training Workshop and Advisory Board Meeting

20-24 November 2017 – Port Louis, Mauritius

Under the programme of the SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility, IRENA and the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) are organising a workshop to kick-start the implementation of the facility's work programme in supporting SADC renewable energy entrepreneurs in scaling-up their businesses. The workshop will bring together entrepreneurs, financial institutions, business incubators and development partners from within and outside the region in order to share experiences and best practices in supporting entrepreneurship development, SME finance and facilitating RE project implementation. The last day of the workshop will bring together the programme's advisory board members to discuss the findings from the workshop, prospective future financial support for the programme, as well as present and agree on the activities, budget, reporting structure and expected outcomes for 2018.

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Mobilizing Institutional Capital for Renewable Energy Roundtable in Asia

23 November 2017 – Singapore

Following the recommendations made in IRENA's report, *Unlocking Renewable Energy Investment – the role of risk mitigation and structured finance*, the agency is running a series of workshops to obtain input from investors in a number of regions with regards to how to scale-up investment volume by mobilising institutional capital in both developed and developing countries. This is the second roundtable focusing on the Asian market and will contribute to the *Financing Renewables* component of the work plan.

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Fourteenth IRENA Council and Related Meetings

27-29 November 2017 - Abu Dhabi, UAE

As one of IRENA's two governing bodies, the Council provides an opportunity for policy makers and experts to engage in discussions on key findings stemming from IRENA's recent work, and to consider programmatic, strategic and institutional matters ahead of the Assembly, the agency's supreme decision-making body. In preparation of the upcoming eighth session of the Assembly on 13-14 January 2018 in Abu Dhabi, this Council meeting will primarily focus on reviewing the progress completed to date under the current work programme, and on planning the agency's future work as part of the *Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019* and the *Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022*. A number of other programmatic meetings are also planned. The sessional documents have been circulated to Members and are available on REmember.

Contact: IRENA Secretariat (Secretariat@irena.org)

IRENA Conference on Integrated Resource Planning

27 November–01 December 2017 – Livingstone, Zambia

IRENA, as part of the Africa Clean Energy Corridor, is supporting regulatory frameworks to enhance investment frameworks for renewables in partnership with the Regional Electricity Regulators Association of Southern Africa (RERA). Within this context, IRENA has conducted research and interviews to develop several products on planning processes and oversight, notably a best practice guideline on planning processes and regulatory oversight. IRENA has been invited to present the findings its work during the RERA Annual Conference to national and regional regulators, ministries and utilities.

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Increasing shares of Variable Renewable Energy: Long-term planning and flexibility of the electricity system

28-29 November 2017 – Amman, Jordan

Organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), this workshop focuses on long-term energy system planning methods and software, as well as on renewable energy integration and possibilities for flexible national regional electricity grids. The workshop is aimed at grid operators and utilities in the MENA-region, under the aegis of the Arab Union of Electricity (AUE). IRENA's participation was requested following an earlier successful engagement (the GIZ/BMUB side event at MEXIREC on long-term planning). The Agency will provide insights from its recently-published report *Planning for the Renewable Future*.

Contact: Asami Miketa (amiketa@irena.org)

Global Bioenergy Partnership

28 November-01 December 2017 – Rome, Italy

The Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) is a leading international forum dedicated to the development of sustainable bioenergy potential. As such, it is a key partner in IRENA's bioenergy efforts. At the event, in which GBEP will review all of its activities and seek input from partners, IRENA has been invited to share its resource assessments for South East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa as well as encourage guidelines for applying GBEP sustainability indicators. The event will also allow IRENA to pursue discussions with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on how to better assess bioenergy potential.

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Regional Energy Integration Forum and OLADE XLVII Meeting of Ministers

4-7 December 2017 - Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Regional Energy Integration Forum and the OLADE Ministerial are taking place as part of Argentina's Renewable Energy Year during the Energy Week. The event is aimed at officials from Ministries and Secretariats of Energy, regulatory agencies, planning institutes and private sector representatives from the region. The event seeks to facilitate an exchange of experiences and knowledge to contribute to greater integration of energy systems at the sub-regional and regional level. IRENA will organise a side event and a ministerial event, and plans to participate at the Meeting of Ministers of OLADE.

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International Conference for Energy Systems Integration: Infrastructure for an integrated energy system

5 December–6 December 2017 – Colorado, USA

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the US Department of Energy is hosting a two-day internal conference on energy system integration and infrastructure, organized by the International Institute for Energy System Integration (iiESI hosted by NREL). iiESI has invited IRENA to present a session on *Sector coupling solutions to renewables integration* to participants from the US, China, India, EU and developing countries. Given that the focus of REmap is energy systems analysis, and sector coupling is included as a key element towards energy system decarbonisation, there is great potential for IRENA to introduce its work and knowledge on the topic to relevant stakeholders.

Contact: Nicholas Wagner (nwagner@irena.org)

South East Europe Renewable Energy Statistics Training Workshop

5-7 December 2017 – Tirana, Albania

In recognition of the need for detailed, accurate and timely renewable energy statistics for the development, monitoring and evaluation of renewables-related activities, IRENA is working to improve the availability of reliable information about renewable energy by providing training in renewable energy statistics. The workshop, conducted in cooperation with the Albanian Ministry of Energy and Industry, targets national statisticians and government officials responsible for the collection of renewable energy data in South East Europe. It aims to help countries collect, validate and analyse renewable energy statistics, following international best practices and internationally-agreed definitions and methodologies used for energy statistics. Key topics that will be covered include the classification and structure of renewable energy statistics, the construction of energy balances, the framework for data collection, strategies and methods for renewable energy data collection and data validation and estimation.

Contact: Adrian Whiteman (AWhiteman@irena.org)

Eighth session of the IRENA Assembly and Related Meetings

12-17 January 2018 - Abu Dhabi, UAE

The Assembly is IRENA's supreme decision-making body and brings together Heads of State, Ministers, government officials, and representatives from the private sector, civil society and other international organisations to reaffirm the global renewable energy agenda and make concrete steps to accelerate the global energy transition. This Assembly will deliberate on IRENA's progress on the current Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017, and decide upon the new strategic and programmatic direction in the context of the Work Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 and Medium-term Strategy 2018-2022. In addition, numerous programmatic discussions will be held on current trends in renewable energy policy and technology, including in the form of two Ministerial Roundtables to discuss these matters at the highest level. Furthermore, a number of IRENA events are planned during the World Future Energy Summit taking place during Abu Dhabi Sustainability week. **Please note that registration for Assembly will be open on 12 November.**

Contact: IRENA Secretariat (Secretariat@irena.org)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Lebanon became a Member of IRENA on 4 November 2017. As of the issuance of this bulletin, IRENA has 153 Members and 27 additional States are in the process of acceding to the IRENA Statute.

Updated Member information is available on the [new IRENA website](#) .

Contact: secretariat@irena.org

PERMANENT REPRESENTATION UPDATE

The following Members have recently appointed a Permanent Representatives:

- Spain appointed H.E. Mr. Antonio Álvarez Barthe, who presented his Credential Letter to the Director-General on 25 September 2017.
- France appointed H.E. Mr. Ludovic Pouille, who presented his Credential Letter to the Director-General on 1 November 2017.

The number of Permanent Representatives to IRENA has grown to 46. A full list of accredited Permanent Representatives is available on the REmember portal. If you would like to receive additional information on permanent representation to IRENA, please do not hesitate to contact representation@irena.org.

DAILY MEDIA BRIEF

To subscribe to a daily media brief on global renewable energy news and IRENA coverage, please send an email to communications@irena.org