

## IRENA Bulletin 1/2016

10 January 2016

### Dear IRENA Members and States in Accession,

This issue of the *IRENA Bulletin* covers activities and events of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in November and December 2015 and also looks ahead to the Agency's upcoming engagements and publications. A continuously-updated version of this overview is available on [REmember](#), the portal for the IRENA membership.

### Recent Activities and Events

#### International Forum on Energy Transitions

5-7 November 2015

Location: Suzhou, China

IRENA, the National Energy Administration of China and the provincial government of Jiangsu, co-hosted the first *International Forum on Energy Transitions*, a platform for energy leaders, experts, academics, as well as the energy industry and business community, to exchange knowledge and best practices. The Forum provided an opportunity for targeted dialogue on the acceleration of the global energy transition, particularly China's energy revolution. This Forum also assisted in building momentum for the transformation of China's energy system to one based on low-carbon and renewable energy sources. The Suzhou Declaration highlighted the areas for action that could accelerate the global energy transition. This included the proposal to form a global coalition of partner countries undergoing this process, and the proposal to establish an IRENA-China international research and co-operation centre for energy transition. The Forum also offered an opportunity to have a targeted discussion on renewable energy deployment and development in G20 countries under China's presidency in 2016. Building on the G20 work done under Turkey's Presidency in 2015, a G20 Toolkit for Renewable Energy was also discussed.

Contact: Dolf Gielen ([DGielen@irena.org](mailto:DGielen@irena.org))

#### Accelerating Residential Solar in the UAE: Innovative solutions, Cost and New Opportunities

8 November 2015

Location: Dubai, UAE

IRENA, together with Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) organised a workshop on accelerating the uptake of residential solar in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The diverse range of participants, from local policy-makers to financiers and business representatives, discussed perspectives for distributed solar PV in the region, potentials for cost reduction and cost best practices for residential PV, with a focus on how to integrate them into ongoing residential PV deployment initiatives in the region. The workshop covered topics such as how innovation can spur the residential PV market in the United Arab Emirates, an overview of grid-connected rooftop solar PV projects in Kuwait, policies adapted to the UAE context that can stimulate market development and bring down solar PV costs, an overview of DEWA's Shams Dubai rooftop initiative and lessons learnt in the early development of residential solar PV markets in the region.

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#### IRENA Project Navigator Workshop

9 November 2015

Location: Dubai, UAE

The event introduced IRENA's Project Navigator to government officials in countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, local utilities and project developers, providing an opportunity to discuss how the Navigator could be used to enable the further deployment of renewable energy projects in the UAE and other GCC countries. This workshop identified region-specific aspects of project

development, which have been incorporated into IRENA's Project Navigator to account for these regional needs. As a result of the workshop, DEWA expressed interest in using the IRENA Project Navigator; and the Regulation and Supervision Bureau of Abu Dhabi (RSB), the Federal Electricity and Water Authority (FEWA), and the Sharjah Electricity and Water Authority (SEWA), among others, expressed interest in additional individual trainings on how to use it. The IRENA Project Navigator was also identified as a way to support a rooftop solar programmes in the UAE.

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### REmap Germany Report Launch

10 November 2015

*Location: Berlin, Germany*

The launch event was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. The REmap Germany report gives a detailed overview of the German energy transition (*Energiewende*), outlines the REmap findings for Germany, and discusses the energy transition from both a European and an international perspective. Please see the 'Recent Publications' section below for more information.

*Contacts: Dolf Gielen; Deger Saygin; Nicholas Wagner ([REmap@irena.org](mailto:REmap@irena.org))*

### Consultative Workshop on Renewable Energy Developments in the Pacific

11-13 November 2015

*Location: Suva, Fiji*

This three-day consultative workshop, which was jointly organised by IRENA, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO), featured the launch of the Renewables Readiness Assessment for Fiji. Participants also discussed geothermal and other renewable energy developments in the tourism sector of Pacific Islands in the context of increasing the uptake of renewable energy. Participants came from the Pacific Island countries, development partners and key stakeholders in the geothermal and tourism sector.

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### Innovating Liquid Biofuels for the Transport Sector

13 November 2015

*Location: Quito, Ecuador*

IRENA and the National Institute of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (INER) of Ecuador hosted a workshop during the International Congress and Scientific Fair of Research, Development and Innovation for Sustainable Energy. The workshop was an opportunity to:

- Present the preliminary results of *IRENA Innovation Technology Outlook for Advanced Liquid Biofuels*;
- Identify areas in which IRENA can support its Members in the region to further deploy advanced biofuels for the transport sector;
- Support the establishment of a network of technology centres focused on research into advanced biofuels.



During the meeting, emphasis was placed on the urgent need to develop an affordable energy system that can substitute current fossil fuel and conventional biofuels in the transport sector. Amongst others, some of the topics discussed were the challenges that prevent the actual production of advanced

biofuels from reaching total capacity installed and the multiple opportunities for non-food energy crops and other innovative pathways to produce advanced biofuels. More than 270 regional experts attended the workshop.

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#### Joint Workshop – Consultation on Greening APG Initiative

16-17 November 2015

*Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

This workshop, jointly organised by IRENA, Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities and Authorities (HAPUA) Working Group 1, and the ASEAN Center for Energy (ACE), addressed the optimised use of indigenous renewable energy sources in the expansion of the power grid of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), known as the Greening the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) Initiative. It also included discussions of how IRENA's Clean Energy Corridor concept could be adapted to the context of this region to optimise the use of indigenous renewable energy sources.

*Contact: Yong Chen ([YChen@irena.org](mailto:YChen@irena.org))*

#### Renewable Energy Statistics Training for the United Arab Emirates

16-18 November 2015

*Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE*

This three-day technical training, organised in partnership with the UAE National Bureau of Statistics, was designed for statisticians from the Emirates' statistical agencies and other key stakeholders. The objective was to improve the availability and quality of UAE renewable energy statistics.

*Contact: Adrian Whiteman ([AWhiteman@irena.org](mailto:AWhiteman@irena.org))*

#### RRA Validation Workshop for Pakistan

19-20 November 2015

*Location: Islamabad, Pakistan*

This Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) workshop sought to validate the key findings from the desk study, and interviews that had been conducted through a multi-stakeholder consultative process in Pakistan. The honorable minister for Water & Power, Mr. Khawaja Asif attended the plenary session of the workshop and addressed the participants. He expressed satisfaction over the initiative of AEDB and IRENA in development of renewables in the country. Key issues were presented for discussion, and the consolidated discussion results will feed into the final RRA report. Governmental agencies, energy experts, development partners, international and regional organisations, renewable energy investors and developers participated in the workshop.

*Contact: Yong Chen ([YChen@irena.org](mailto:YChen@irena.org))*

#### Launch of REthinking Energy – Renewable Energy and Climate

22 November 2015

*Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE*

REthinking Energy – Renewable Energy and Climate is the second edition in the series outlining progress in the transition to a sustainable energy future. It was launched at IRENA Headquarters on the evening prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> Council. According to the report, scaling up renewable energy to the level required to meet global climate objectives would contribute to at least 12 of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by increasing energy access, improving quality of life and reducing poverty. The renewable energy sector employs 7.7 million people worldwide, creating more jobs per unit of electricity generated than coal or natural gas. If a 36 per cent share of renewables is achieved, employment levels could exceed 24 million jobs by 2030. For more information, please see the 'Recent Publications' section below.

*Contact: ([Press@irena.org](mailto:Press@irena.org))*



#### 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IRENA Council

23-24 November 2015; with committee meetings on 22 November 2015

*Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE*

The focus of the 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting was the consideration of the progress in the implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme, and the draft Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017. The Council meeting was preceded by the meetings of its two subsidiary organs, the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) and the Programme and Strategy Committee (PSC), which took place on 22 November 2015. On the sidelines of the Council meeting, a number of thematic events were held, providing a platform for participants to have focused discussions on particular aspects of IRENA's work. These included:

- **Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA)**  
The Geothermal Global Alliance (GGA) is an initiative of over 30 member countries and 20 partner institutions to promote geothermal energy deployment in geothermal resource-rich countries, notably developing countries. IRENA has facilitated the establishment of the Alliance. The GGA will offer a global platform that supports dialogue, cooperation and coordinated action among the key stakeholders, which is essential to overcome hurdles for accelerated geothermal development. The IRENA 10th Council offered an opportunity for gathering Members to review the concept of the alliance and plan for its official launch at COP21 in Paris.  
*Contact: Fatma Ben Fadhl ([FBenfadhli@irena.org](mailto:FBenfadhli@irena.org))*
- **IRENA/ADFD Project Facility's Opening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Funding Cycle**  
Two of seven project cycles have been successfully implemented with USD 98 million allocated and USD 146 million leveraged from other sources for 11 renewable energy projects. Projects selected in the third cycle are expected to be announced in January 2016. The fourth cycle opened to receive applications from 11 November 2015 to 15 February 2016. This event was an opportunity for delegations representing countries of potential project applicants to receive detailed information on the evaluation criteria and the selection process for the fourth cycle, and the link with the Sustainable Energy Marketplace (SEM). The event also provided participants with an overview of the progress and developments of the IRENA/ADFD project facility in the previous cycles.  
*Contact: Seleha Lockwood ([ADFD@irena.org](mailto:ADFD@irena.org))*
- **REmap - Transport and Bioenergy**  
This event had a dual focus: to address the role of renewables in the transport sector and inform countries about the most recent findings from IRENA's expanded bioenergy work. During the event, the latest draft of the REmap transport sector roadmap was presented, which included updated results of the transport sector analysis of 40 REmap countries. The roadmap also provides the most up-to-date analysis of emerging trends in technology, costs, and markets for transport sector technologies that have been collected through periodic webinars organised with the REmap transport sector expert network.  
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- **Measuring Renewable Energy Benefits**  
This year, IRENA has carried out a study estimating the impacts of renewable energy on broader macro-economic variables, including GDP, total employment, trade and welfare. In this context, IRENA has also conducted a second study analysing the activities required to create a domestic renewable energy sector that can unfold new opportunities in solar and wind. The discussion during this thematic event revolved around the findings of the forthcoming studies *Measuring the Economics of Renewable Energy Deployment* and *Unfolding New Opportunities for Domestic Value Creation*. The purpose of the event was to gather feedback from participants on the approach and preliminary findings of these two studies.  
*Contact: Rabia Ferroukhi ([RFerroukhi@irena.org](mailto:RFerroukhi@irena.org))*
- **Sustainable Energy Marketplace**  
This meeting presented IRENA's Sustainable Energy Marketplace platform and provided an opportunity to discuss ways for cooperation among Members and for IRENA to receive guidance on countries' priorities. The Sustainable Energy Marketplace brings together project owners and developers, financiers and investors, and service and technology providers in a virtual marketplace. The core of the marketplace is an actively operated and facilitated online tool, which makes projects and all relevant stakeholders visible, easily identifiable and approachable through efficient search functions, enhancing the transparency and liquidity of the market. IRENA aims to actively facilitate project initiation and development, and to bring bankable renewable energy projects to financial closure by facilitating access to financial and risk mitigation instruments, advisory services, and public finance from support programmes.  
*Contact: Aleksu Lumijarvi ([ALumijarvi@irena.org](mailto:ALumijarvi@irena.org))*



### National REmap Expert Workshop

25 November 2015

Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

The one-day workshop took place a day after IRENA's 10<sup>th</sup> Council and brought together participants from 28 countries. The workshop provided an overview of the themes and key insights from the latest draft REmap report. It was organised around sessions focused on providing updates on country, sector and global results, and thematic sessions focused on presenting the important co-analyses relating to CO<sub>2</sub> and externalities, the role of technology and innovation, and how to deepen country engagement and cooperation. During the workshop, IRENA shared the draft REmap roadmap report and background note, provided details of the methodology for analysing external costs and commodity pricing, and presented an overview of the work on updated policy targets.

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### Webinar - Sustainable Energy Marketplace in English and Spanish

25 November 2015

The webinar presented the Sustainable Energy Marketplace, a web-based tool developed by IRENA in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The Webinar presented how the Sustainable Energy Marketplace will help to develop and drive investments to new renewable energy projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this webinar, IRENA and IDB demonstrated how the Marketplace works, described the benefits for the registered project owners and developers, and announced a new call for proposals for grant funds being offered by the IDB.

Contact: Aleksi Lumijarvi ([ALumijarvi@irena.org](mailto:ALumijarvi@irena.org))

### Webinar: Are we deploying renewables fast enough to stay below 2°C of global warming?

26 November 2015

The objective of this webinar was to present renewable energy technologies and their climate change mitigation potential, to provide the general public with a better understanding of renewable energy's role, and to evaluate the options and levels of renewable energy deployment required to stay below the 2°C global warming levels.

Contact: Ismail Fahmy ([IFahmy@irena.org](mailto:IFahmy@irena.org))

## The 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21)

30 November - 11 December 2015

Location: Paris, France

IRENA participated at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate change (COP21) in Paris. Notably, IRENA was called upon by France to lead climate action on renewable energy in the context of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA). IRENA led two major events on renewable energy. On Sunday 6 December, around 1000 participants joined live and via webcast for the *RE-Energising the Future* high-level event featuring

renewable energy solutions, innovations and actions, co-organised with the European Commission, REN21, SER, and the UAE. On Monday 7 December, The LPAA Energy Day took place on 7 December, a full-day programme featuring announcements on new initiatives, targets and alliances to further the worldwide transition to renewable energy. During the two-week period, IRENA' also hosted events on the Global Geothermal Alliance, the Sustainable Energy Marketplace, the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, the Africa Clean Energy Corridor and renewable energy in the MENA region. An overview of IRENA's COP 21 activities is available [at this link](#). Additional information is available on the [IRENA Newsroom](#).

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## Parliamentary Meetings on the Margins of COP21

6-7 December 2015

Location: Paris, France

On 6 December, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) invited IRENA to moderate a panel discussion entitled 'Green Energy Crosstalk: In Pursuit of a Healthier and More Liveable Earth' at the French Senate. The meeting gathered around 300 members of parliament from all over the world. On 7 December, the Climate Parliament invited IRENA to give a presentation on the global energy transition. IRENA used both meetings to reach out to members of parliament and to present relevant work.

Contact: Marina de Blonay ([Legislators@irena.org](mailto:Legislators@irena.org))

## Southern Africa Renewable Energy Statistics Training

1 - 4 December 2015

Location: Mbabane, Swaziland

This four-day technical training, organised in partnership with the Swaziland Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, was aimed at statisticians from across the southern Africa region. The objective was to improve the availability and quality of the region's renewable energy statistics.

Contact: Adrian Whiteman ([AWhiteman@irena.org](mailto:AWhiteman@irena.org))

## The IV Council of Energy Ministers of SICA

3 December 2015

Location: San Salvador, El Salvador

Energy Ministers from the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) met in El Salvador on December 3, 2015. El Salvador was in charge of the interim presidency of the fourth SICA-Energy Ministerial. The Central America Clean Energy Corridor (CECCA) Strategy was endorsed by the Ministers. This endorsement represents a major step to initiate the implementation of the CECCA initiative, through the activities identified in the Strategy for implementation in close cooperation with the regional actors and other development partners. The actions included in the CECCA-Strategy were identified through a consultative process with key regional stakeholders conducted since early 2014.

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### ECREEE-IRENA Energy Planning Capacity Building Workshop

7-11 December 2015

*Location: Dakar, Senegal*

This was the first workshop of the joint training programme for countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), organised by IRENA and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). The workshop focused on long-term strategic energy planning using IRENA's System Planning Test (SPLAT) tool for West Africa, and on an analysis of each country's electricity sector SPLAT model that has been set up by IRENA. The participants learned how to use the SPLAT model to develop and compare scenarios for renewable energy policies.

*Contact: Asami Miketa ([AMiketa@irena.org](mailto:AMiketa@irena.org))*

### Workshop for the Validation of Regionally Harmonised Standards for the Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems in West Africa

14-16 December 2015

*Location: Praia, Cabo Verde*

This regional workshop offered an opportunity to representatives from ECOWAS member states to discuss the regional certification scheme and validate a harmonised regional Job Task Analysis that captures the skills and knowledge competencies that a stand-alone PV installer should possess. The workshop was organized by IRENA, ECREEE and GIZ with the support of the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) of the EUEI Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), LuxDev, operational pillar of the Luxembourg bilateral cooperation, and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

*Contact: Fatma Ben Fadhl ([FBenfadhl@irena.org](mailto:FBenfadhl@irena.org))*

## Recent Publications

Please click on each title below for more information and a link to download the relevant publication.

- [Renewable Desalination: Technology Options for Islands](#)  
Many islands face shortages of fresh water. Desalination using renewable energy can meet their water needs at reduced costs, this report finds. Desalination methods such as reverse osmosis (RO) or multi-effect distillation (MED) can be combined with solar photovoltaic (PV) or concentrating solar power (CSP) technologies. RO also works with wind power. While cost comparisons vary from island to island, all of these promising technologies pairings can be competitive against fossil fuels for desalination systems producing 250 cubic meters of potable water per day, a viable scale for many island communities.
- [Report Series on Quality Control for Renewable Energy Technologies](#)  
**Quality Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Technologies: [Guidelines for Policy Makers](#)** explains the essential concepts, along with the benefits of developing and implementing a quality infrastructure (QI), which includes technical standards, testing and certification of RE equipment and services. The report provides guidance on how to incrementally develop QI in support of national renewable energy technology markets.  
  
**Quality Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Technologies: [Solar Water Heaters](#)** analyses the challenges and offers recommendations for developing QI for solar water heaters (SWHs), as well as highlighting the experiences of several countries in developing and implementing QI for SWHs. The SWH guide concludes by applying guidelines for incrementally developing QI to the particular case of SWH markets.  
  
**Quality Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Technologies: [Small Wind Turbines](#)** analyses the challenges and offers recommendations for developing QI for small wind turbines (SWTs), as well as highlighting the experiences of several countries in developing and implementing QI for SWTs. The SWT guide concludes by applying guidelines for incrementally developing QI to the particular case of SWT markets.
- [REthinking Energy: Renewable Energy and Climate Change](#)  
The second edition of *REthinking Energy* looks at how the transition to renewables could help limit global warming. The report highlights that renewable energy is at the core of any strategy for countries to meet climate goals, while supporting economic growth, employment and domestic value creation. Doubling the share of renewables by 2030 could deliver around half of the emissions reductions needed and, in combination with energy efficiency, keep the rise in average global temperatures within 2 degrees Celsius, the widely recognised target to prevent catastrophic climate change. The share of renewables needs to grow not only in power generation but also in transport, heating and cooling. To avoid a lock-in with unsustainable energy systems, investments must grow immediately and must almost double to USD 500 billion annually between now and 2020, IRENA's analysis shows.
- [Renewables Readiness Assessment: Ghana](#)  
Ghana has one of Africa's highest rates of access to electricity. In 2014 this was estimated at 72%, with over 87% in urban areas and nearly 50% in rural areas. The country also exports power to its neighbours, Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso. The Ghanaian power industry is unbundled, comprising generation utilities, transmission and distribution companies, and independent power producers. Ghana's rich array of renewable energy resources can address energy insecurity and help to expand energy access. These resources include, biomass, solar and wind energy, along with hydropower potential. Taxes on energy consumption are being used by the government to finance power development, including renewables. However, RRA process found that institutional and policy issues have constrained market development for renewable energy, including large hydropower. The report makes recommendation on the priority action areas to fully benefit from the renewables potential.
- [Renewable Energy Prospects: Germany](#)  
Germany's *Energiewende* ("energy transition") has made the country a world leader in renewable energy development. "*Renewable Energy Prospects: Germany*" examines this remarkable transition in depth, detailing progress over recent decades, highlighting best-practice policy and technology experiences, and providing a perspective on the country's options going forward. The report forms part of REmap 2030, a global analysis of options for doubling the share of renewables in global energy use by 2030. Notably, the report identifies areas where the *Energiewende* can be further expanded to meet Germany's ambitious targets for renewables, energy efficiency and greenhouse-gas emission reduction.

The analysis shows that, by 2030, two-thirds of the country's power generation could come from renewables, with half of that from solar and wind energy. In the coming years, Germany will need new technologies to improve the integration of variable renewables, along with innovative business models to improve grid flexibility. But renewable energy uptake also needs to increase beyond the power sector, with deliberate linkages to renewable-based heating and transport as well as greater incorporation of electrification technologies for end uses.

## Some Forthcoming Publications

- *Renewable Energy Benefits: Measuring the Economics*
- *Renewable Energy Market Analysis: GCC Region*
- *Island Energy Transition: Key findings from the Renewable Energy Roadmap for the Republic of the Maldives*
- *Scaling up Renewable Energy Investments: the Role of Risk Mitigation and Structured Finance*
- *REmap 2030 (second edition), an updated edition of IRENA's roadmap for the global energy transition*
- *Renewable Energy Market Analysis: Latin America*
- *Improving Livelihoods and Sustainability: Solar Pumping for Agriculture (a follow-up paper to IRENA's January 2015 report, Renewable Energy in the Water, Energy & Food Nexus)*
- *Renewable Energy Benefits: Leveraging Local Industries*
- *Renewables Readiness Assessment: Mongolia*
- *Towards a Higher Share of Variable Renewable Power: The role of grid codes*
- *ID+D para las tecnologías de energías renovables: Cooperación en América Latina y el Caribe ([RD&D for Renewable Energy Technologies: Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), Spanish translation)*

## Some Highlights of the Director-General's Activities

In the past months, Director-General Adnan Z. Amin participated in major international meetings on the role of renewable energy in advancing the sustainable development and climate agendas.

### [International Forum on Energy Transitions, China \(5-7 November\)](#)

On 5-7 November, Mr. Amin attended the first *International Forum on Energy Transitions* in China co-hosted by the Chinese National Energy Administration, the People's Government of Jiangsu Province and IRENA. Mr Amin delivered a key note in which, among other things, he highlighted the vital role of renewables in sustainable development and climate change. He also stressed the importance of international cooperation that can amplify the efforts undertaken by countries. The Forum adopted the Suzhou Declaration, which promotes such cooperation for the global low-carbon energy transition.

### [Launch of REmap Germany Country report, Germany \(10 November\)](#)

The Director-General launched IRENA's *REmap Germany* country report in Berlin, Germany, on November 10. This event was followed by a Symposium held on 11 November by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Potsdam, Germany, where Mr Amin delivered a key note on the role of renewables in the climate effort and participated in a discussion on low carbon development.

### [Mission to Russia, Moscow \(19<sup>th</sup> November\)](#)

The Director-General made his first official visit to the Russian Federation on 19 November. Mr. Amin spoke at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy Efficiency and Energy Development (ENES) 2015, highlighting the global strides made in renewable energy deployment and specific opportunities for Russia to make greater use of renewable energies. Mr. Amin met with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Energy and other government officials to discuss collaboration and engagement with IRENA.

### [COP 21, France \(30-November-11 December\)](#)

The Director-General led the IRENA delegation to the COP21 2015 Paris Climate Conference in France. The two-week negotiations produced the Paris Agreement, which sets out global ambition on addressing climate change and its impacts, with a number of events on a variety of different topics. In the renewable energy "track" of themed events at COP21, Mr. Amin took part in sessions organised both by IRENA and in partnership with a number of IRENA Members including France, Germany, Peru and the UAE. The Director-General met with numerous high level officials and entities. Key events included a conference entitled 'Renewable Energy: Energising the Future', which witnessed active discussions with renewable energy leaders at the regional, national and sub-national levels, and the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) Focus on Energy Day, which was comprised of three interlinked segments on renewable energy, energy access and energy efficiency. Mr. Amin led and moderated the segment on renewables, which contained in-focus dialogues and sessions showcasing partnerships and action. On December 8, the Director General signed an MOU with Andrew Herscowitz, the Coordinator of Power Africa, which aims to link IRENA's Sustainable Energy Marketplace with Power Africa's Tracking Tool (PATT) within the overall objective to expand information-sharing to further renewable energy growth in sub-Saharan Africa.

### [Events at Headquarters \(UAE\)](#)

In Abu Dhabi, the Director-General attended several launch events and other meetings. On 21 October, he spoke during a webinar to launch IRENA's *Global Wind Atlas*, while on 22 November the second edition of IRENA's publication *REthinking Energy* was launched to set the scene for the COP21 in Paris. Both events were held at the IRENA Headquarters. While in Abu Dhabi, Mr. Amin also took part in the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Electricity and the Zayed Future Energy Prize Jury, both of which met in October.

## Forthcoming Activities to Highlight

### 6<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly

16-17 January 2016

Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

The 6<sup>th</sup> session of the IRENA Assembly will be the first major inter-governmental meeting taking place following COP21 in Paris. With renewable energy central to action on climate change, and the IRENA membership considering the future work of the Agency, this Assembly will begin operationalising the outcomes of Paris into a credible and sustainable international effort to scale up renewable energy deployment. Items for consideration at the sixth session of the Assembly, include, among others:

- [Annual Report of the Director-General on the implementation of the 2014-2015 Work Programme and Budget](#)
- [Work Programme and Budget for 2016-2017](#)
- [Review of the Medium-term Strategy 2013-2017](#)
- [A Discussion of 'Renewable Energy Deployment: Decreasing Costs - Increasing Benefits'](#)
- [A Discussion of 'Innovation: The Age of Renewable Energy'](#)

The Assembly session will also include a series of thematic side events – an overview of these events is available [at this link](#).

The Assembly will also feature two Ministerial-level roundtable discussions on the topics of [After COP 21: Concerted Action towards Renewable Energy Deployment](#), and [Mobilising Investment to Accelerate the Energy Transition after COP21](#). For the fourth consecutive year, the *Financial Times-IRENA Question Time Debate* provides a unique opportunity for lively discussion of the international renewable energy agenda, particularly in light of real-life experiences and challenges of working to deploy renewables around the world. The 2016 edition will focus on the topic: *Scaling Up Renewables: Taking Climate Action to the Next Level*.

The IRENA Assembly again coincides with the beginning of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), to be held in Abu Dhabi on 18-21 January 2016. ADSW includes a range of events related to sustainable development. It will also feature a number of thematic events hosted or co-hosted by IRENA. This includes a UN Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Sustainable Energy and Cities, as a part of the preparatory process for the conference in Quito later this year. An overview of IRENA's ADSW events is available [at this link](#).

Contact: IRENA Secretariat ([Secretariat@irena.org](mailto:Secretariat@irena.org))

### Workshop on cost-effective renewable generation in South East Europe

3 March 2016 – 4 March 2016

Location: Vienna, Austria

The consultative workshop will be held to assess the technical potential for cost-effective renewable power generation in South East Europe by 2020 and beyond. The representatives of governments, utilities, regulators, regional organizations and financial institutions are invited to discuss the initial findings of a review and provide input to the final conclusions. The event is organized in collaboration with the Energy Community Secretariat.

Contact: Marcin Scigan ([MScigan@irena.org](mailto:MScigan@irena.org))

## Other IRENA News

### 'In Focus' Briefs

The Secretariat has so far issued two 'in focus' briefs. These provide short summaries on the status of key IRENA projects and activities, and provide both context and more information about ways Members can become more involved.

- [The SIDS Lighthouses Initiative](#)
- [The Global Geothermal Alliance](#)

### Membership Update

Since the last Bulletin, **Comoros** and **Morocco** have become Members of the Agency.

As of the issuance of this bulletin, **IRENA has 145 Members and 30 States in Accession to the IRENA Statute** ([link](#) to membership information).

Contact: [Secretariat@irena.org](mailto:Secretariat@irena.org)

### Permanent Representation Update

**Currently 37 Members have accredited Permanent Representatives to IRENA.**

These are: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

Since the issuance of the last Bulletin:

- Algeria appointed H.E. Mr. Salah Attia as Permanent Representative to IRENA. H.E. Ambassador Attia presented his credentials to the Director-General on 15 November 2015.
- Poland appointed Mr. Sebastian Stepnicki as Permanent Representative to IRENA. Mr. Stepnicki presented his credentials to the Director-General on 15 November 2015.
- Tajikistan appointed Mr. Yusuf Bobokalonov as Permanent Representative to IRENA. Mr. Bobokalonov presented his credentials to the Director-General on 15 November 2015.
- Angola appointed H.E. Mr. José Andrade de Lemos as Permanent Representative to IRENA. H.E. Ambassador de Lemos presented his credentials to the Director-General on 16 November 2015.
- Egypt appointed H.E. Mr. Wael Gad as Permanent Representative to IRENA, replacing H.E. Mr. Ihab Emam Hamouda. H.E. Ambassador Gad presented his credentials to the Director-General on 16 November 2015.
- Latvia appointed Mr. Rudolfs Bremanis as Permanent Representative to IRENA. Mr. Bremanis presented his credentials to the Director-General on 16 November 2015.

A full list of accredited Permanent Representatives is available on the [REmember portal](#), along with coverage of the credentials ceremonies.

If you would like additional information on Permanent Representation to IRENA, please contact [Representation@irena.org](mailto:Representation@irena.org).

### **Appointment of Mr. Sakari Oksanen as Deputy Director-General**

As announced at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council, Sakari Oksanen joined IRENA as Deputy Director-General in December 2015. In this role, Mr. Oksanen supports the Director-General in managing IRENA's work programme and associated resources. He oversees IRENA's programmatic work, ensuring coherence in the planning and implementation of programmatic activities, as well as monitoring and evaluating their impact.

Prior to joining IRENA, Mr. Oksanen held a number of senior management positions in Finland, China, Singapore and Thailand. He has 25 years of experience in the field of technical advisory and engineering design for the energy, infrastructure and industry sectors. In addition, Mr. Oksanen has led and advised numerous national energy planning, investment analysis and renewable energy studies and investment projects, including in Africa and Asia. He has a Master's degree in energy economy and power systems from Helsinki University of Technology.