International Solar Alliance

ISA, EU and France present two new projects on Capacity Building giving a push to solar energy adoption by Knowledge sharing, building business, academic and financing networks & structuring STAR C in ISA Member Countries

The European Union and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Government of France boosts ISA's Capacity Building Efforts to facilitate massive deployment of Solar Energy

Gurugram, India | June 27: Two flagship projects on capacity building were presented virtually today by the EU and the Government of France in the presence of **H.E. Mr Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India; H.E. Mr Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India; and Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance.** The European Union and Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Government of France, are supporting ISA by building the capacity of ISA and Member Countries through Solar Technology Application Resource Centres (STAR-C) and by deepening the cooperation between the ISA and ISA Member Countries and the European Union solar energy-related businesses, academic networks and financial institutions.

The projects, each of around 1 million, focus on strengthening quality infrastructure and standards for solar products and services while improving the local capacities of the ISA Member Countries with certified solar training, development of solar networks, and knowledge management. For the French project, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) will be the implementation partner for this project. The EU project is supporting ISA in strengthening the engagement of EU, EU Member States, and EU academic, business and financial communities with the ISA to enhance the transfer of knowledge, support research and innovation, and strengthen capacity-building initiatives. Both projects will work in synergy and facilitate sharing knowledge on solar energy technologies, models, policies and practices and financing.

H.E. Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance, said that "Initiatives with the European Union and Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Government of France will help create an enabling environment for accelerated uptake of solar energy in ISA Member Countries. These projects will lend an edge: Solar Technology Application Resource Centres (STAR-C) will help cultivate human capacity and skillsets leading to independent energy transition initiatives in these Member Countries while supporting avenues for economic growth and creating jobs, leading to a vibrant solar energy ecosystem."

H.E. Mr Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India, said that "International cooperation is indispensable to reach our global energy and climate targets. The ISA is a good example of what we can do together to foster the transition towards a green, digital and resilient future. Closer cooperation, better sharing of knowledge, increased capacity will be of the utmost importance to realise our common, ambitious objectives for a greener energy mix."

H.E. Mr Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India, said "I am very proud to launch the STAR-C project, a tangible capacity building initiative that will help remove obstacles to solar power uptake in developing countries and island states of the Indo-Pacific. As ISA co-president, France provided the initiative with a ₹8.5-crore grant and looks forward to working with ISA and UNIDO towards its full implementation. We call on all ISA Member States and partners to join in this initiative."

Expert panellists from ISA member countries (Ethiopia, Kiribati), DG Research and Innovation, European Commission, East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (EACREE), SolarPower Europe, National Institute for Solar Energy (INES), France, European Investment Bank (EIB) participated

virtually during this launch event shared their experience and knowledge on solar technologies, building synergies and financing possibilities. The panellists from ISA member countries and EACREE strongly emphasised the urgent need to make necessary human capacity and skills for countries to undertake energy transitions on their own, boosting economic growth and job creation. The European Commission and National Institute for Solar Energy (INES) highlighted the need for developing linkages with existing networks/platforms benefitting ISA member countries. The European Invenstment Bank strongly recommended to see the full spectrum from energy system planning to enabling policies and building capacity. SolarPower Europe supported the panellists' views and offered its support to better understand and influence the current priority issues in the member countries.

About ISA:

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.

The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilise efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions. It was conceptualised on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.

The ISA strives to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational energy solutions powered by the sun to help member countries develop low-carbon growth trajectories, with particular focus on delivering impact in countries categorized as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Being a global platform, ISA's partnerships with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organisations, civil society, and other international institutions is key to delivering the change it seeks to see in the world going ahead.