

## International Solar Alliance

### **Dr Ajay Mathur takes over as the New Director-general of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

**New Delhi, 15 March 2021:** Dr Ajay Mathur has assumed office, today, as Director-general of the International Solar Alliance. He succeeds to Mr Upendra Tripathy, who finished his term with the ISA on Sunday.

On the very first day Dr Mathur hit the road running having clearly prepared his priorities in the month following his election and preceding his formal taking over as head of the ISA Secretariat. It was a month ago on February 15, 2021 that the Special Assembly of ISA elected Dr Ajay Mathur as the Director General to succeed Mr Upendra Tripathy who served as Director General since 2017. The Director General has a four- year term which can be renewed for an additional term. India had proposed Dr Mathur's candidature which was endorsed at the Special Assembly setting the stage for Dr Mathur to take over the post at the first treaty-based international organization to be located in India.

Director-general Dr. Mathur brings a wealth of leadership and expertise across all key areas of energy transition, from policy, research, and technology commercialization to financing, international cooperation and institutional development. As Director-general of TERI, The Energy and Resources Institute, Dr Mathur has focused on development which is adaptation proof to climate change. He has been a key Indian climate-change negotiator and was also the spokesperson for India at the 2015 climate negotiations at Paris. He is a global leader on technological approaches to address climate change and has steered the global group of industrial, financial and think tank leaders as co-chair of the Energy Transition Commission. He was a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate change. His tenure at TERI was marked by the annual World Sustainable Development Summits, an international fora, which brought together world leaders, development experts to work collaboratively for the goal of sustainable development.

As Director-general of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in the Government of India for ten years between 2006 and 2016, he was responsible for bringing energy efficiency into Indian homes, offices and factories through initiatives like the star labelling programme for appliances, the Energy Conservation Building code and the Perform, Achieve and Trade Programme for energy – intensive industries.

In his acceptance speech at the Special Assembly, Dr Mathur clearly set out the path to strengthen and build on the success so far achieved, dovetailing solarization with the existing electricity generation goals and plans in each Member country through **consultative and collaborative development**. He acknowledged that the diversity of needs calls for multiple approaches to mainstream solar projects in different member countries and prepare implementation plans in consultation with member countries. Secondly Dr Mathur also outlined the imperative need to involve the to-be Member countries especially from the OECD so that their expertise and financial support would bring great additional value to the urgency in solarization of the world.



The new DG today set to work on his priorities from Day One setting the ball rolling with a series of meetings.

Resource mobilization for ISA is crucial and figures high on his list of priorities. Clearly, he sees deepening and broadening the fund-raising activities as implementation plans can never succeed without large scale affordable financial support. Given the devastating effect of the COVID19 pandemic on the economy of many countries globally this will be a challenge. The universalization of the membership of ISA could not have come at a more opportune moment because the expertise and experiences of to-be Member countries could be tapped to make solar power affordable, reliable and cost effective.

Positioning ISA as a thought leader on Solar: to be at the cutting edge of knowledge of solar action by enabling cross fertilization of ideas and partnerships is another priority. Dr Mathur would like to see ISA leading the way in bringing out annual status reports on advances in technology, investments and markets. Partnerships are key to ISA's success is the mantra he believes in. He says "in building partnerships with companies, with NGOs, with UN organizations and financial institutions, we need to create fora for interactions."

And as all good work begins at home : Dr Ajay Mathur called upon his colleagues in the Secretariat to pull in expertise from across the globe and exhorted the Secretariat to be responsive, agile and vibrant.

Dr. Mathur's leadership appointment to the ISA takes place in a year when addressing global climate change transition commitments will take center stage: 2021 started with the US's renewed climate focus through the Biden administration and will culminate with COP26, the UN's Climate Change Conference in the UK in November. As the world recovers from the Pandemic and businesses reboot, it is more imperative than ever before that ISA pushes the agenda to opt for clean green energy which is reliable, affordable and accessible to all. As the sole multilateral forum dedicated to solar energy transition and building upon existing milestones, including pooling resources across its members, and creating economies of scale to reduce the cost for clean energy, ISA is poised to renew its commitment towards global solar transition through the new leadership.

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*The International Solar Alliance is an international organisation with 73 member countries. We work with governments to improve energy access and security around the world and promote solar power as a sustainable way to transition to a carbon neutral future. Our mission is to unlock US\$ 1 trillion of investment in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing.*

*We promote the use of solar energy in the Agriculture, Health, Transport and Power Generation sectors. Our member countries drive changes by enacting policies and regulations, sharing best practices, agreeing common standards and mobilizing investments.*

*Through this work, we have identified and designed new solar projects; supported governments to make their energy legislation and policies solar friendly; pooled demand for solar technology from different countries and drove down costs; improved access to finance by reducing the risks and making the sector more attractive to private investment; increased access to solar training, data and insights for solar engineers and energy policymakers.*

*For more information, visit our website: <https://isolaralliance.org/>.*



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