

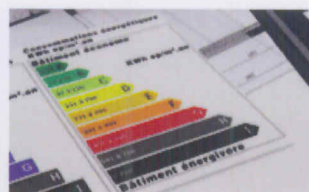


The Arab Forum on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

(Theme of the Forum: Building Financing Partnerships)

The headquarters of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States
Cairo: 23-24/4/2012

Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
RCREEE



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Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (Theme: Building Financing Partnerships)

Co-Organized By

MED-EMIP

Euro-Mediterranean
Energy Market Integration Project



Background:

For years, the world has been seeking different kinds of energy sources that can be relied on to meet the growing demand for energy in the future. The most promising alternative suitable to address the increase in energy demand is the renewable energies. Thus research, development and application are underway in that field. Diversification of energy resources is necessary for the Arab region due to the abundance of these resources, particularly Solar and Wind power. Most Arab countries are part of the solar belt and possess potential in the field of wind energy used for electricity generation and sea water desalination, as well as Hydropower in some countries. It is crucial nevertheless for the Arab States to secure and diversify their energy resources by utilizing the renewable energy sources and localizing its equipment through technology transfer from industrialized countries.

The Arab Ministerial Council of Electricity, which is one of the specialized ministerial councils operating under the umbrella of the Arab League, realized the importance of this subject. The "Arab Strategy for the Development of Renewable Energy Applications: 2010-2030" is one manifestation of such interests and efforts made to promote this vital sector. However, it still needs a lot of support and efforts to be implemented in order to achieve the set targets and the many benefits expected from its implementation.

The current situation calls on the Arab States to integrate energy efficiency programs as part of their national strategies and national development programs. Energy efficiency programs should be given serious attention by the Arab States to achieve energy security and to improve economic and social conditions. In that respect the Executive Bureau of The Arab Ministerial Council of Electricity has adopted the "Arab Guideline to improve Electricity Efficiency and its Rationalization at the End User," which can be considered as the first Arab Action of its kind in the field of energy efficiency.

Accordingly, the concept of organizing this event about financing renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programs emerged and the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministerial Council of Electricity called for organizing a forum on financing mechanisms and incentives for renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programs with the participation of the Arab finance institutions and funds in addition to relevant private sector.

Objective of the forum:

The forum aims primarily at creating a platform for open dialogue between all partners (whether governmental agencies or financial institutions or the private sector) in order to present the views of the participants; and contribute to the development of the future course to achieve the following goals:

- Identifying the funding mechanisms needed to develop the uses of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Building a close partnership between the funding institutions to provide the necessary funding for renewable energy projects.
- Exploring ways of stimulating investment in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries with the participation of the private sector.
- Encouraging local manufacturing of energy efficient /environmental friendly equipment.
- Capitalizing on European funding initiatives for renewable energy.

Patronage:

It is expected that the Forum will be held under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Electricity and Energy - Arab Republic of Egypt, Head of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Ministerial Council of Electricity, and H.E. the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, or the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs.

Organizers:

Secretariat of the League of Arab States in cooperation with the European Commission Delegation to Cairo through Euro-Mediterranean Energy Market Integration Project (MEDEMIP) and Energy Efficiency in the Construction in the Mediterranean (MEDENEC) and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) in addition to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA).

Forum Sponsors:

The forum is sponsored by the European Union and RECREEE, and the door remains open for additional interested sponsors.

Participants:

Participation is upon formal invitations and as follows:

- Official Delegations of the Member States of the Arab League.
- National Institutions and bodies working in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Arab and European Development bank
- Arab and European Financial Institutions and Funds.
- Industrial sectors, project developers and technology providers.
- Arab Regional and National Commercial Banks.
- International and Regional Organizations.
- Businessmen and investors in the renewable energy projects.
- Companies operating in the energy efficiency and services providers.

Forum Languages :

Arabic is the main language of the Forum. Simultaneous Arabic/English interpretation is available.

Main topics:

(The following topics will be addressed during panel discussions and brain storming dialogue among all participants)

- How to deal with the incremental gap in prices between renewable energy and conventional energy.
- Specification of bankable projects.
- Problems and constraints facing the implementation of renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programs and proposals to overcome them.
- Risk identification and mitigation in developing solar and wind energy projects. As well as funding mechanisms for national energy efficiency programs.
- Specialized lending instruments to provide funding for higher risk projects.
- National energy efficiency action plans in the Arab countries.
- Opportunities for investment and financing mechanisms required to implement energy efficiency programs and reduce associated risks.
- Public-private partnership and co-financing.
- Export of green electricity as an option to improve the medium-term financial attractiveness to investors and how to improve the preconditions for export.
- Identify the terms and conditions of finance institutions to finance renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programs.