

Kyrgyzstan energy storage solutions

“Kyrgyzstan, like many countries in Central Asia and around the world, is striving to overcome the enduring challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera. “As efforts to secure a comprehensive socio-economic recovery continue, there is a need to focus on far-reaching measures that can help build a more resilient and diversified economy, improve the energy sector’s viability, attract investments in clean energy projects and propel the country towards its climate goals.”

“This renewables readiness assessment represents an important step toward establishing a secure, modern, diversified and clean energy system,” said H.E. Mr. Sultanbekov Sabymbek, Vice-Minister of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic. “New renewables technologies are able to provide competitive energy supply, while reducing negative impacts on the environment and human health, bringing opportunities for universal access to modern energy sources.”

Kyrgyzstan is among the most energy-intensive countries in the world, leading to recurring energy shortages and reducing economic productivity and competitiveness. While large hydropower is set to retain its role as the backbone of the power sector, the introduction of other renewables such as solar photovoltaic (PV), wind and bioenergy provide a reliable solution to rising energy demand and various social, economic and environmental benefits, according to the report.

The IRENA report, prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy of Kyrgyzstan, proposes 12 key actions to accelerate renewable energy adoption in the country. The recommendations point to tariff reforms in the energy sector as key to creating a level playing field, generating revenue and lowering barriers to market entry for renewable energy projects. The report also highlights the need to implement auctions to attract investments to large-scale hydropower, solar and wind projects.

When it comes to unlocking the small-scale renewable energy market segment, the report recommends net metering, wheeling and other distributed generation policies. It also underscores policies that can promote the decarbonisation of end-uses through renewables-based electrification of heating and transport.

Bishkek, 15 April 2021- The Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic held an Expert Consultation Workshop to discuss key challenges and opportunities for the development of renewables in Kyrgyzstan and prospects for renewable energy projects.

Kyrgyzstan is currently in the process of revising its NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) as part of its contribution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep global warming below an average of 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050. The NDCs will be finalized in the next month and will underpin the country's negotiations in

the framework of the Paris agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will inform the deliberations of the 26th Conference of Parties in Glasgow later this year.

The Renewables Readiness Assessment (RRA) identifies and explores resource potential assessment (Solar PV and Wind) as well as capacity building on Renewable Energy target setting as foundations to strengthen investment. These activities will provide important insights on the suitability of conditions in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan for the deployment of renewable energy, along with the overarching objective of supporting its NDC process.

The role of renewable energy solutions in mitigating climate change impacts is proven. The heavy reliance on fossil fuels and inefficient and outdated coal-fired power plants are some of the main reasons for the energy sector's high contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. This not only elevates global temperatures but seriously impacts air quality and human health. Transitioning to renewable energies, therefore, supports significant progress on the Paris Agreement on climate change, as well as on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the discussion, the workshop participants made suggestions for the country's development of renewable energy infrastructure, improving legislation in the field of renewables, and financial mechanisms for attracting investments in the development of renewable energy sources.

Also, during the meeting, such barriers to the development of renewable energy sources as the limited capacity of the energy system for redundancy, lack of cost-effective energy storage technologies, insufficient competence of national companies in several segments of the renewables market in Kyrgyzstan were identified.

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

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