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Report on EU-India CECP activities at RE-Invest 2024 Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

16th -18th September 2024

Event Proceedings



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Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Sessions at RE-Invest 2024	3
2.1 Session-1: Scaling up India’s Green Investments and Financing: Role of MDBs.....	3
2.2 Session-2: Mainstreaming Offshore Wind in India	4
2.3 Session-3: Women as Leaders in Accelerating Energy Transition – Challenges and Opportunities	5
2.4 Session-4: Strategic Investment in Bioenergy – A Way for Sustainability	6
3. EU Booth at RE-Invest 2024	8
4. Annexure	10

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1. Introduction

The project “Support to the EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (CECP)” -Phase II is carried out as part of the contract titled “Provision of Technical Assistance Services to the Programme Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (CECP)”-Phase II. Under this project, support was provided to EU Delegation for organizing session and setting up of booth at 4th Global RE Invest 2024. The meet & expo was organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, from 16th to 18th September 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.

RE-Invest is a global platform bringing together key players in the renewable energy sector. The event brought together an array of participants and presence of manufacturers, independent power producers, transmission companies, utilities, major infrastructure financing firms, think tanks, academic institutions, government officials, industry leaders, investors, researchers, and policymakers. A dedicated exhibition showcased the latest renewable energy technologies and solutions. The conference delved into the future of energy, exploring trends, technologies, and policies shaping the global renewable energy landscape. This unique platform aimed to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and investment opportunities to advance India's renewable energy goals.

The conference at RE-Invest 2024 focused on future energy choices, offering participant’s insights into the latest trends, technologies and policy developments shaping the global renewable energy landscape. With around 50 key sessions, and 250+ speakers, the event covered the entire gamut of India's renewable energy system, creating a roadmap for future-ready infrastructure.

Furthermore, a dedicated EU booth was established in the exhibition area of RE-Invest 2024 to highlight and promote various EU projects and initiatives. This booth featured a range of collaborative EU-India joint projects and was supported by the active involvement of numerous industry EU associations. The objective was to provide a platform for showcasing the advancements and collaborative efforts between the EU and India in the field of renewable energy and sustainable development. Through interactive displays and presentations, visitors were able to gain insights into the innovative solutions and technologies being developed.



2. Sessions at RE-Invest 2024

2.1 Session-1: Scaling up India's Green Investments and Financing: Role of MDBs

Speakers	Designation	Company
Baldeo Purushartha	Joint Secretary, ISD Division	Department of Economic Affairs
Christine Toetzke	Director General	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, The World Bank
Zia Nariman	Senior Investment Officer	Climate Business Lead for Asia Infrastructure, IFC
Eiji Wakamatsu	Senior Representative	JICA
Moez Cherif	Lead Energy Specialist	The World Bank
Rajeev Topno	IAS	Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Ahmedabad

On 16th September 2024, a panel discussion was held on “Scaling up India’s Green Investments and Financing: Role of MDBs” moderated by Mr. Anish De, Global Head for Energy, Natural Resources and Chemicals (ENRC) to discuss the panelists views on the investments required annually in the emerging markets and developing countries to make adequate progress towards the climate goals, to manage the risks of climate change and to be on the path to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The discussion revolved around how the magnitude of this challenge necessitates that Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) assume a pivotal role in spearheading the mobilization of private finance, extending beyond their traditional functions of sovereign-backed lending. They must also bolster investments through their private sector development financing branches. Over the past few years, MDBs have made notable strides in increasing their climate finance contributions, with the average annual investment rising from USD 57 billion during 2017-2018 to USD 93 billion in the period 2021-2022. Despite this progress, achieving the objectives set forth in the Paris Agreement demands an extraordinary escalation in climate finance, requiring an annual increment of at least 590%. This underscores the critical need for enhanced and innovative financial strategies to address the pressing global climate crisis.

Key Takeaways from the Discussion

A few key takeaway points from the discussion are listed below:

- MDBs can promote and strengthen the financing mechanisms such as blended finance, green bonds, and public-private partnerships tailored to green finance investments.
- MDBs can provide technical assistance and capacity building programs to enhance the capabilities of local government and institutions for planning and implementing green infrastructure projects.
- MDBs should engage with policymakers to create a conducive regulatory environment for sustainable development.
- MDBs can offer risk mitigation tools such as guarantees to lower the perceived risk and hence the cost of capital for foreign investors.



- Joint ventures between MDBs and private investors should be encouraged to share the risks and benefits.
- Provide subsidies and incentives for foreign investments.
- Conduct comprehensive market research to provide up-to-date information to the investors.
- Develop educational programs to offer training to local entities and foreign investors to better understand market dynamics and opportunities.

2.2 Session-2: Mainstreaming Offshore Wind in India

Speakers	Designation	Company
Lalit Bohra	Joint Secretary (Wind)	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy
Sean Whittaker	Principal Industry Consultant	World Bank
Ulrik Eversbush	Director	Danish Energy Agency
Phillip Josef Tremer	Project Manager	German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation
Sushil Kumar Singh	Chairperson	Deendayal Port Authority

On 17th September, a panel discussion was held on “Mainstreaming Offshore Wind in India” moderated by Dr. Biswajit Roy, DG, Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) to discuss the role of offshore wind in the growing demand for renewable energy as one of the major potential contributors to meeting India’s net zero target of 2070. The key objective of the discussion was to build consensus and facilitate the identification of priorities and interventions that may bring the necessary fillip to India’s offshore wind strides.

Key Takeaways from the Discussion

A few key takeaway points from the discussion are listed below:

- The Indian government’s prioritization of offshore wind reflects a strong policy commitment towards achieving the net zero targets set for 2070.
- There is a need for a comprehensive strategy that integrates offshore wind into the nation’s electricity mix.
- Development of supportive regulatory frameworks to streamline approvals, bring the costs down and address the challenges faced by the offshore wind industry.
- Drawing best practices and lessons learned from global experience on successful models from the countries like Denmark and Germany that have been developing offshore wind projects for a long time.
- Government should ensure a stable and predictable market with long term visibility to build stakeholder confidence including the investors and the developers. This should remain true even if the government changes.



- Incentives such as tax breaks, subsidies and feed-in-tariffs should be provided by the government to attract private investments.
- Include various stakeholders which would be impacted with the development of offshore wind sector such as the fisheries, tourism etc. to gain public acceptance of the sector.
- There are four key aspects of developing offshore wind projects namely, Technical, Commercial, Environmental and Social. Each of these aspects act as links in a chain and are equally important for the development of the sector.
- Government should develop and foster international collaboration to de-risk the offshore wind projects.
- The current port infrastructure needs to be updated to handle the equipment and supply chain associated with the offshore wind projects such as large wind turbines, ships and assembly infrastructure as well as and new ports to be developed.
- Upskilling of manpower especially for technical and safety related issues to be undertaken for readiness for development of offshore wind projects.

2.3 Session-3: Women as Leaders in Accelerating Energy Transition – Challenges and Opportunities

Speakers	Designation	Company
Susan Jane Ferguson	Country Representative	UN Women
Preeti Bajaj	CEO and MD	Luminous
Dr. Harish Hande	Co-founder	SELCO Foundation

On 17th September, a panel discussion was held on “Women as Leaders in Accelerating Energy Transition – Challenges and Opportunities” moderated by Ms. Dipa Singh Bagai, Country Head, NRDC India to discuss the current gender gap that exists in the renewable energy sector and assessing the discourse on increasing women’s participation in the energy transition.

A keynote address was delivered by Ms. Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany highlighting the importance of participation of women in the renewable energy sector and how the stakeholders can collaborate to accelerate the inclusive transition.

Key Takeaways from the Discussion

A few key takeaway points from the discussion are listed below:

- Targeted skill development and training programs should be developed to equip women with the necessary technical and managerial skills required in the renewable energy sector.
- Gender inclusive policies should be developed within organizations to ensure a supportive and equitable work environment.
- Mentorship programs showcasing successful female role models should be developed to inspire and guide other women.



- Distributed renewable energy (DRE) can significantly improve the quality of life of women in rural areas by providing reliable and clean energy.
- DRE can create new job opportunities for women in the rural areas in the field of installation and operation and maintenance of the DRE systems.
- Access to clean energy will have positive impact on health by reducing indoor air pollution from traditional cooking methods and improving educational outcomes through better lighting.
- Partnerships between government, NGOs, private sector and local communities should be fostered to create a collaborative ecosystem to increase the participation of women in the sector.
- Active engagement with women in local communities should be undertaken to understand their specific needs and barriers and design inclusive solutions that can address these challenges.

2.4 Session-4: Strategic Investment in Bioenergy – A Way for Sustainability

Speakers	Designation	Company
Dr. Sangita M Kasture	Advisor, Bioenergy	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Bijay Kumar Mohanty	Director (Finance)	IREDA
Christoph Spurk	Vice President	German Biogas Association
Patrick Crehan	Founder and Director	Crehan Kusano & Associates
K.S. Popli	Country Director	World Biogas Association
Raju Chopra	Head of Technical Sales and Service (Clean Fuels, Chemicals & Clean Air)	Topsoe India Pvt.

On 17th September, a panel discussion was held on “Strategic Investment in Bioenergy – A Way for Sustainability” moderated by Dr. Gaurav Kedia, Chairman, Indian Biogas Association to discuss the role of global collaboration in bioenergy projects, benefits of bio-methanation beyond energy, monetizing carbon credits in bioenergy, carbon capture and downstream utilization in bio-methanation plants and financing instruments for de-risking large scale bioenergy projects.

Key Takeaways from the Discussion

A few key takeaway points from the discussion are listed below:

- International collaboration will allow for the exchange of knowledge, technologies, and best practices, accelerating innovation and efficiency in bioenergy projects in India.
- Develop global standards and protocols for bioenergy that can facilitate smoother implementation and integration across different regions.
- Bio-methanation can significantly improve waste management by converting organic waste into valuable biogas and byproducts.
- It can also help in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by capturing methane that would otherwise be released from decomposing organic matter.
- Robust systems for verification and certification of carbon credits should be established for bioenergy projects to ensure credibility and marketability.



- Policy incentives and frameworks should be developed that encourage that encourage the monetization of carbon credits.
- Best practices for adopting cutting edge technologies and innovations from leading countries, implementing policy frameworks and support mechanisms that have been successful in other countries should be leveraged.
- Carbon capture technologies should be integrated in bio-methanation plants to enhance the overall efficiency.
- Investments should be made in R&D to improve the carbon capture and utilization technologies and their integration into bio-methanation process.



3. EU Booth at RE-Invest 2024

From 16th to 18th September 2024, the EU hosted an EU booth at the exhibition area of RE-Invest 2024. A total of 2 projects and 2 EU associations were showcased at the EU booth. The EU booth was set up in Hall 2 of the exhibition area which included booths of other state government agencies and country partners. The profiles of the EU projects and EU associations that participated in the EU booth are as follows:

1. **EASE:** The European Association for Storage of Energy (EASE) located in Brussels, Belgium, is the leading member-supported association representing organizations active across the entire energy storage value chain. EASE supports the deployment of energy storage to support the cost-effective transition to a resilient, climate-neutral, and secure energy system. EASE was established in 2011 and represents approximately 70 members, including utilities, technology suppliers, research institutes, distribution system operators, and transmission system operators. Together, EASE members have significant expertise across all major storage technologies and applications. This allows us to generate new ideas and policy recommendations that are essential to build a regulatory framework that is supportive of storage.

Website: <https://ease-storage.eu/>

2. **ENERSHARE:** The ongoing energy system digitization is making available an enormous amount of data, paving the way for cross-value chain services enabled by data sharing, which may contribute to system-level increased efficiency and hence facilitate the energy transition. However, data sharing in the energy sector is lagging, mainly due to a lack of trust and the risk of privacy breaches. In that respect ENERSHARE facilitates the energy sovereign and trusted data exchange and sharing, enabling thus the transition of current energy systems towards more smart and decentralized paradigms, capable of taking full advantage of renewable sources at the local level.

Website: <https://enershare.eu/>

3. **RE-EMPOWERED:** The Project aims to develop and demonstrate novel tools to provide a complete solution for all stages of a Microgrid / Energy Island and Multi-Microgrid applications. The tools include energy planning ranging from the design of Microgrids from scratch to the upgrade of an existing installation to high-RES systems. The tools and solutions will be demonstrated in four demo sites with weak or non-existing grids, two in Europe, (Denmark and Greece), and two in India. The project brings together 7 European partners and 7 Indian partners, in 5 countries.

Website: <https://reempowered-h2020.com>

4. **Solar Power Europe:** The member-led association for the European solar PV sector, Solar Power Europe represents over 280 organizations across the entire solar sector. It works to create the appropriate regulatory and business environment to propel solar to new heights. A team of dedicated policy experts, it brings solar organizations together to understand and influence current priority issues affecting solar development. With an office in the heart of Brussels' EU quarter, its strong relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders ensure Solar Power leading role in the European energy transition and beyond.

Website: <https://www.solarpowereurope.org/>

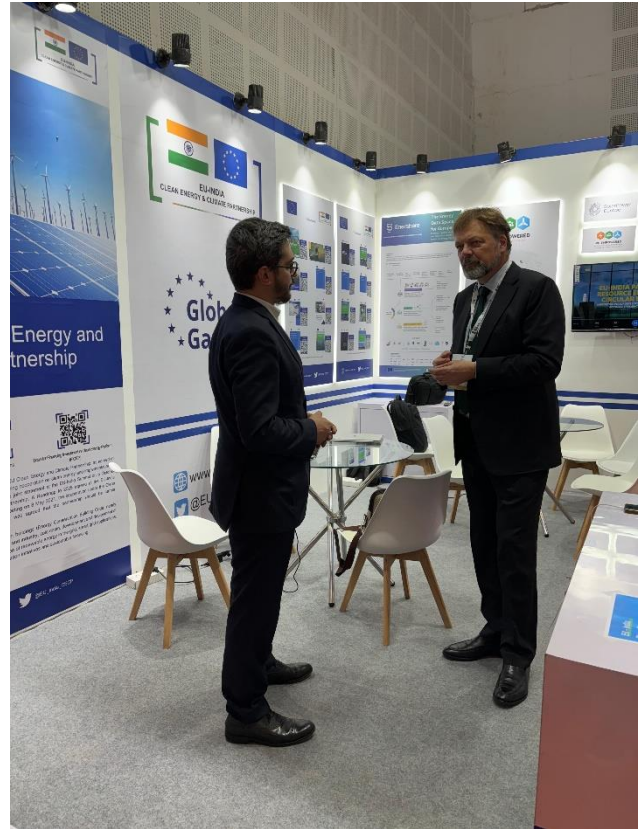


The EU booth was visited by the Ms. Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany and Dr. Phillip Ackerman, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan and our experts engaged with them detailing out the objectives, work done and future prospects of the EU-CECP Programme. Additionally, a large number of stakeholders visited the EU booth including officials from the Government of India and various departments of different state governments as well as from the industry, various academia and research institutions.

Over the course of the three-day event, our booth attracted attention of more than 250 participants. The attendees engaged actively with our team of experts, who were present at the booth to discuss and explain the various projects and publications that we were showcasing. This interaction provided an excellent opportunity for our experts to delve into the specifics of the work being carried out under the EU-CECP Programme. Through detailed explanations and discussions, our experts were able to effectively communicate the objectives, progress, and impacts of the Programme, thereby significantly enhancing its visibility and understanding among the visitors at the booth. This engagement not only raised awareness about the EU-CECP Programme but also fostered an appreciation of its importance and the efforts being made to achieve its goals.



4. Annexure



EU Booth at RE-Invest 2024

About EU-India CECP

The EU-India CECP aims to reinforce cooperation between the EU and India on climate change and energy with a view to ensure a secure, clean, affordable and reliable energy supply for all and to progress in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

For more details, please visit:

www.cecp-eu.in

twitter.com/EU_India_CECP