

Concept Paper		
Dissemination Webinar on “Study to Investigate the Difficulties for Household Solar Home System in SAARC Region”		
Dissemination Webinar	6th March, 2018	SAARC Energy Centre

Background:

With energy demand projected to be more than double in South Asia by 2035, it is imperative that the region would prefer renewable sources to generate power while gaining reduction in the greenhouse gas emissions. Continuing on with business as usual is unacceptable, as the harmful effects of climate change have the potential to wipe out the progress this region has worked toward in its fight against poverty.

Present-day solar PV technology, a low-carbon energy solution, is well suited for South Member States. With large areas of the region endowed with bountiful solar radiation, many countries in the region have the ideal conditions for utilizing solar energy.

Introduction:

Solar energy is a promising option to meet electricity demand of rural households in remote locations in the developing countries. After some early success in SAARC Member States, more and more doubts have arisen about the effectiveness and suitability of small PV systems for rural development. There have been many organizational, financial and technical problems that appeared in various programmes of Solar Home Systems (SHS).

Off-grid solar PV systems are applicable for areas having no power grid in the vicinity. Hence, such solar PV systems are usually installed at isolated sites where the power grid is far away, such as rural areas or off-shore islands. But they may also be installed within the city in situations where it is inconvenient or too costly to tap electricity from the power grid.

SEC had already conducted a comprehensive study to review the already completed household Solar Home System programmes and projects implemented by the SAARC Member States. The study had helped to identify barriers and suggest measures for the promotion and development of Solar Home Systems in the SAARC Region.

Objectives:

The objective of this webinar is to discuss the difficulties and problems which broadly include technical, financial, organizational and social issues faced by the SHS programmes in South Asia. The Webinar shall suggest solutions and recommendations from experts around the globe for effective implementation of Solar PV technology in off-grid electricity supply.

Major Aspects/Topics to be covered during the Webinar:

The contents of the Webinar will include but are not limited to the present conditions of the SHS, the degree of satisfaction experienced by the users of SHS, finding constraints in SHS, investigating the constraints and measures to overcome these for further promotion and success of the solar energy in Member States of SAARC.

Relevance and Coherence:

One of the goals of SAARC Energy Centre is to promote the development of new and renewable energy resources in the region as an instrument towards sustainable energy development in the SAARC Member States over the long-term. The Webinar is relevant to SEC's strategy to highlight renewable as the solution for combatting the energy demand and supply prevailing in the region. In the past, SEC had conducted a video conference on the utilization of Renewable Energy through distribution generation. This webinar is, however, meant for off-grid locations where access of electricity is not available. The energy generated from Solar Energy in rural and remote areas through SHS is economical in comparison to grid electricity.

Potential Professional Resource / SEC's Intellectual Contribution:

Experts on off-grid Solar PV electrification will be delivering their presentations during the webinar and responding questions by the participants. SEC shall engage other experts from within/outside SAARC Region who will give insights on various aspects of SHS during the webinar.