



Renewable Energy Forum Apia, Samoa 30 August 2014 To'oa Salamasina Hall, Sogi, Apia

Introduction

Reliable, clean, and affordable energy is essential for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to achieve their development goals. However, while many SIDS are taking great strides towards energy independence, most still remain dependent on imported fossil fuels for the majority of their energy needs – putting a significant strain on public finance, and leaving states highly exposed to oil price and supply volatility, as well as negative environmental impacts.

So what is the best way for SIDS to drive the continued development of renewable energy sources and achieve sustainable energy independence and security?

Bringing together SIDS leaders, development partners, and stakeholders from around the world, the Renewable Energy Forum will offer a unique opportunity for SIDS and their partners to identify the elements needed to transform island energy sectors and discuss how renewable energy is helping other SIDS achieve sustainable economic development.

Objectives

- To highlight the economic, social and climate change mitigation benefits of renewable energy.
- To identify and showcase policies, practices and experiences that could help increase renewable energy use in SIDS.
- To catalyse new and innovative partnerships for the deployment of renewable energy in SIDS.

Outcomes

Using real examples and case studies to draw out discussion on policies, technologies and capacities, the Renewable Energy Forum will:

- Lead to the announcement of new partnerships for the deployment of renewable energy in SIDS.
- Highlight the importance of measurable targets for initiatives implemented under renewable energy partnerships.
- Lead to recommendations to be presented to the Sustainable Energy Partnership Dialogue.



08.00 – 08.45

Registration

08.45 – 8.50

Mr. Lavea Tupaimatuna Iulai Lavea, CEO, Ministry of Finance, Samoa,
MC to greet at entrance:

- H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa
- Mr. Wu Hongbo Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA and Secretary-General of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

08.50 – 09.00

Opening Prayer - St. Mary's Primary School

09.00 – 09.20

Welcome Address

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister, Samoa

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA and Secretary-General of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

9.20 – 9.30

Family photo

9.30 - 11.00

Session 1: High level discussion on renewable energy

Introductory remarks and introduction to the Forum and outline of the day's plenary sessions

Mr. Adnan Amin, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Moderated discussion

Increasing access to reliable, clean, and affordable energy is an emerging priority for many Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as they look for ways to realise their sustainable development goals. Session 1 provides an opportunity for SIDS leaders to offer their perspectives on the opportunities and challenges inherent in their country's transition to a sustainable energy future. As part of this conversation, leaders will consider key issues such as: challenges and barriers to accelerating the uptake of renewable energy; the use of enabling frameworks for advancing renewable energy deployment in SIDS; the importance of regional cooperation in increasing energy access and security; and the role of renewable energy in stimulating small island economic growth and the related socio-economic benefits.



Moderator:

Mr. Adnan Amin, Director-General, IRENA

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Baron Waqa, President, Nauru

H.E. Mr. Henry Puna, Prime Minister, Cook Islands

H.E. Mr. Lord Siale'ataongo Tu'ivakano, Prime Minister, Tonga

H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana

H.E. Dr. Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K., Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration & International Trade, Mauritius

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00

Session 2: Mainstreaming renewables in SIDS

Achieving improved energy access, security, and sustainability requires the collaboration of many stakeholders, as well as significant financial investment. However, the unique geography of SIDS can present barriers to commercial opportunities, making it difficult to attract investment from the private sector and development partners. This session will explore the options for accessing the capital necessary to achieve renewable energy targets. Through experiences and perspectives provided by representatives from SIDS and multilateral development banks, panellists will consider issues such as: opportunities and financial mechanisms available for infrastructure investment; the creation of enabling environments for attracting investment (including effective policy, regulatory, and legal frameworks); and risk mitigation for financial investors in the electricity sector in SIDS.

Moderator:

Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Senior Advisor, SE4All

Panellists:

H.E. Mr. Abdou Nassur Madi, Minister of Environment and Energy, Comoros

Ambassador Andrew Jacobs, Head of Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific

Ambassador Angus Friday, Grenada

Mr. Gavin Murray, Regional Manager, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Dr. Venkata R. Putti, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank

Dr. Justin Ram, Director of Economics, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)



13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

Session 3: Filling the gap: Innovative partnerships and initiatives that made a difference

The complex challenges facing renewable energy deployment in SIDS require new and creative approaches, partnerships and technologies. Session 3 will showcase a series of innovative and replicable case studies from a variety of global actors.

Moderator:

Dr. Karsten Sach, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

14:00 – 14:30 Cluster I: Technology, infrastructure and off-grid solutions

This cluster will focus on how public and private actors have utilised innovation in using technologies to promote the use of indigenous, clean resources in the national energy mix.

Case Studies:

- La'a Lahi (Big Sun) Solar Field, Tonga
- Cabeolica Wind Project, Capo Verde
- Tokelau Renewable Energy Project
- Renewable Energy-based Rural Electrification Programme

14:30 – 15:00 Moderated discussion on Cluster I

15:00 – 15:30 Cluster II: Renewable energy for innovative partnerships and momentum for action

A critical element of finding creative renewable energy solutions for SIDS is to engage with states, development partners, and other sector experts beyond traditional bounds. This cluster will look at a range of new and innovative renewable energy partnerships and initiatives, many of which are already creating positive impacts.

Case studies:

- Pacific Energy Summit
- Renewables Readiness Assessments and SIDS
- The Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) Case



15:30 – 16:00 Moderated discussion on Cluster II

16:00 – 16:30 **Break**

16:30 – 17:30 Session 4: Meeting the Challenge

In Session 4, SIDS leaders and development partners will reflect on the day's discussions and outline, from their perspectives, the steps and strategies required to accelerate the deployment of renewables. Panellists are invited to consider the priority areas for progress; strategies to overcome barriers for renewable energy deployment; ways to maximise opportunities; and the potential for new partnerships and innovative technologies to increase the deployment of renewable energy.

Moderator:

Mr. Mike Allen, Special Envoy for Renewable Energy, New Zealand

Panellists:

H.E. Mr Toke Tufukia Talagi, Premier of Niue

H.E. Mr. Rolph Payet, Minister for the Environment and Energy, Seychelles

Mr. Adnan Amin, Director-General, IRENA

Mr. Stephen P. Groff, Vice President, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

17:30 – 17:45 Forum Outcomes

In this session, the Forum's themes and discussions will be drawn together into recommendations on the next steps to assist SIDS in achieving their renewable energy goals. These recommendations will be presented to the Sustainable Energy Partnership Dialogue.

Speaker:

Mr. Adnan Amin, Director-General, IRENA

17:45 – 18:00 Official Closing Remarks

Speaker:

H.E. Manu'alesagalala Enokati Posala, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Samoa

18:00 – 20:00 Reception at Samoa Tourism Fale, Beach Road, Apia [by invitation]