

# Press Release

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## Forget targets, stabilise policies, says Wind Industry

March 9, Bangalore: In the last two years, India's wind energy usage has dropped from 3000 MW to 1500 MW, despite having one of the world's most established and mature wind sectors. Even the Central government's ambitious 60 GW target announcement hasn't generated much enthusiasm amongst wind sector stakeholders. Industry representatives blame India's uncertain government policies as one of the key reasons for their apprehension.

'Even though the cost of wind power per mega watt is the cheapest in India, we think twice about setting up shop in India because of the lack of assurance in policies and incentives, and the ill health of state power utilities. We would like to receive our money on time', said Mr. Glen Reccani, Managing Director, Acciona Energy – India.

Today, India has manufacturing capabilities to the tune of 10,000MW per annum, but less than half of this capacity is being utilised. States with surplus wind energy generation have had to keep their mills shut due to lack of scheduling of power. The need of the hour, established at the Fourth Wind Discussion Forum, held in Bangalore today, include the setting up of Renewable Energy Management Centres for streamlining forecasting and scheduling of wind power and the need for stability and convergence in government policies.

'The problems of scheduling and forecasting are not unique to the wind sector, even for successful solar projects, the government will have to think about institutionalising these activities', said Mr. V. Subramanian, Former Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in his Key Note Address at the Forum.

With all the excitement in India's Renewable Energy sector about solar energy, the wind sector has become the neglected wife. Both, the government and the private sector are asking for solutions to long standing problems of intermittency land allotment, grid integration, absence of power markets, uncertainty in incentives provided by the government, poor health of utilities, lack of access to finance at reasonable rates and divergence between state and central government policies.

'Karnataka has 2500 MW of installed capacity, but produces only 103 MW of power from wind. We want to understand if and how the state's entire capacity can be generated and what alternate sources can be used to fill in the gaps?' enquired Mr. P. Ravikumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy), Government of Karnataka.

Idam Infrastructure Advisory, Center for Study of Science Technology and Policy (CSTEP) and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation organised the 4<sup>th</sup> Wind Discussion Forum to bring together representatives from the wind industry, power dispatch centres and the government to discuss key challenges faced by the wind sector today, especially with regards to grid integration and project development of wind power. The objective of the 4<sup>th</sup> Wind Discussion Forum is to evolve consensus and wind sector development solutions amongst industry and other key stakeholders, which will be provided to the Central government in the form of 'Wind Vision India 2030' in May this year.

Notes to the Editor:

1. Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (Shakti): At Shakti, we work to strengthen the energy security of the country by aiding the design and implementation of policies that encourage energy efficiency as well as renewable energy. Based on both energy savings and carbon mitigation potential, we focus on four broad sectors: Power, Transport, Energy Efficiency and Climate Policy. We act as a systems integrator, bringing together key stakeholders including government, civil society and business in strategic ways to enable clean energy policies in these sectors.
2. Idam Infrastructure Advisory Private Limited (Idam): Idam, a part of the IDAM group, is a company established by professionals with vast experience in the domains of energy and infrastructure. From its inception in 2007, Idam team has gathered rich and valuable experience and gained deeper insights across the entire value chain of energy infrastructure. Idam has sound institutional memory of the initiatives that Idam and its staff have worked on, and we use collective experience to provide consulting support to its clients in the energy sector. For this initiative, Idam will develop few thematic papers for discussions at the forum meetings and provide logistical support.
3. Dr. Pramod Deo, Former Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), has kindly accepted to chair the Wind Discussion Forum meetings.
4. Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is a not-for-profit research organisation incorporated in 2005 u/s 25 of The Companies Act, 1956. It was formed with the vision “to enrich the nation with technology-enabled policy options for equitable growth”. The mission is to impact policy at governmental and corporate levels by assessing and designing science and technology options with informed and systematic analysis for (equitable and inclusive) human development and economic growth CSTEPs aspiration is to develop as a world-class institution conducting rigorous, independent and interdisciplinary research on subjects relevant to India’s economic, social and technological growth and development. CSTEP undertakes multi-disciplinary policy research in the areas of Energy and Climate Studies, Infrastructure, New Materials, and Security Studies. CSTEP is recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. CSTEP constantly aims at science and technology enabled policy options for an inclusive and equitable economic growth.

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