



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Promoting Renewable Energy: Committee Meets in Kabul

Kabul, 14th March 2019 – This week, the Sixth Renewable Energy Coordination Committee (RECC) met at the Afghan Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) in Kabul. About 60 attendees, including government officials and stakeholders from the private and public sector, discussed trending issues in the energy sector, such as the Afghan government's 2000 megawatt renewable energy package. They also presented recent achievements and provided a status update on current activities. The Afghan-German Cooperation's Energy Sector Improvement Programme (ESIP) supported the event.

At the event, the Afghan Minister of Energy and Water, Mr Mohammad Gul Khulmi, stated, 'Renewable energy can significantly reduce our reliance on imported energy from neighbouring countries. We shall help each other in this matter and facilitate coordination between stakeholders in the energy sector. We should also find ways together to create job opportunities, particularly for women.'

During the meeting, experts presented the current progress in implementing the 2,000 megawatt renewable energy package that the Afghan government recently initiated. The package shall attract private investment to the solar energy sector to facilitate renewable energy production. In this regard, attendees discussed achievements and initiatives. For example, solar panels that provide energy sustainably shall be installed on governmental buildings in Kabul.

The attending Deputy of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Mr Zabihullah Tahirzada, commented, 'The 2,000 megawatt package by the government is one of the largest measures for electrifying Afghanistan in Afghan history. Indeed, with the implementation of this programme, Afghanistan will be one of the biggest renewable energy promoters in Asia.'

RECC's main goal is to coordinate the implementation of the Afghanistan National Renewable Energy Policy (ANREP), addressing drawbacks in the sector and putting solutions into effect. Renewable energy resources are an opportunity for Afghans, especially in rural areas, to produce and access electricity.

On behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH implements the Afghanistan Energy Sector Improvement Programme (ESIP). ESIP aims at promoting renewable energy generation and energy efficiency in Afghanistan to boost economic growth and protect the environment. To achieve this goal, ESIP closely cooperates with key actors at national and provincial level to establish an institutional framework that enables a reliable energy supply. It also supports the private sector in adopting market-based quality standards and maintenance concepts for photovoltaics and solar thermal energy to attract investments. At the same time, ESIP implements capacity-building activities for staff in the public and private energy sectors and at universities.