

ROUNDTABLE REPORT

**ALTERNATIVE AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY**

08 NOVEMBER 2018



Introduction

A Roundtable on Alternative and Renewable Energy was organized by the Centre for Peace, Security, and Developmental Studies (CPSD) at its premises on Nov 08, 2018. The roundtable was co-chaired by President CPSD, Lt Gen Agha M. Umer Farooq (retd) and Former Federal Minister, Suhail Wajahat.

The participants comprised energy experts from the public and private sector who deliberated on the current capacity and potential of the renewable and alternative energy industry in Pakistan. They all agreed that due to the current energy crisis and an ever increasing population, Pakistan must harness energy from alternative and renewable energy resources.

Agenda of the Roundtable

The agenda of the brainstorming session was to provide a platform to energy experts for discussion on the sources of alternative and renewable energy. The objective was to document the policy hurdles, barriers faced by the alternative and renewable energy industry, and suggest recommendations to significantly increase the share of renewables in the existing energy mix of Pakistan.

Proceedings of the Roundtable

Lt. Gen Agha M. Umer Farooq (retd), while welcoming the participants to the meeting, said that he was heartened to see energy experts with impressive credentials at the roundtable. He was of the view that alternative and renewable energy is the key to ensure Pakistan's energy security. Former Federal Minister, Suhail Wajahat commenced the roundtable by laying down the agenda which was to bring energy experts on a single platform encouraging a constructive discourse regarding key issues related to the alternative and renewable energy in Pakistan. He asked the stakeholders to provide concise, pragmatic, and doable solutions.

The participants recognized that current capacity and potential of the country do not add up in terms of alternative and renewable energy. Shaaf Mehboob, CEO Adoptive Technology, said Pakistan must convert most of the houses to solar power since it is fortunate enough to receive abundant solar irradiation on the order of over 2 MWh/m² and 3,000 hours of sunshine a year, which is at the highest end of global insolation averages. Moreover, Pakistan must incorporate policies that encourage people to buy electric and hybrid cars. Syed Baber Nadeem Gillani, Managing Director REVGREEN, said that in the aftermath of devolution of power, there are capacity issues of the provinces. While the power might have been delegated to the provinces, there are a lot of institutional issues such as financial constraints that must be addressed.

Hira Wajahat, Senior Project Consultant Stimulus Pvt Ltd, opined that there is a need to develop human resources who can partake in the development of the energy sector which necessitates building academic infrastructure particularly in public universities. There is also a requirement to encourage new startups that can provide innovative solutions to the energy crisis. Moreover, the electrical equipment currently installed at houses and offices needs to be efficient so they consume less energy.

Syed Khurram Shah, Head of Investment Banking AKD Securities, emphasized for cross-cutting and dynamic academic programs in public universities incorporating technical, management, and policy modules in the curriculum. He further stressed that relevant training on technical aspects and quality management for installers / suppliers / project developers needs to be supported. For example, themes such as indicated below should be made part of the technical curriculums:

- a. Context, challenges, and approaches to energy access
- b. Power sector in developing countries
- c. Regulation of power sector for energy access
- d. Finance and business models for electrification
- e. Strategic issues of energy access

Fahad Doudpota, an energy consultant with Nizam Energy, stressed for curtailing the circular debt since it cannot end overnight. He also urged the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) to support the net metering program by reducing the limit of four years. The current policy framework discourages new players on entering the market. As a result of such policies, there is limited innovation in the energy industry. He further informed the participants that in September 2015, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved a net metering program. Under this program, solar and wind generators under 1 MW of capacity are allowed to sell back produced electricity to the national grid. Residential, commercial, and industry scale owners of the eligible generators can participate in the scheme. Furthermore, the government can encourage off grid energy players to come in and help electrification in rural areas. There are examples in East Africa where these companies have saved their governments billions of dollars.

Conclusions

The participants agreed that the government needs to adopt a policy which is irreversible and is owned by all stakeholders in the federal and the provincial capitals. A consensus was reached that since the incumbent government is new, it should make a policy based on short, medium, and long term goals which will increase the confidence of the investors thus promoting alternative and renewable energy sources in the country. The participants agreed to stay engaged for the upcoming Seminar, "Energy Security Policy: Thinking Beyond the Norm" which is scheduled on December 03, 2018.

Picture Gallery





CPSDOFFICIAL



CPSDOFFICIAL



CPSDOFFICIAL



021-34372720-2



info@cpsd.org.pk



cpsd.org.pk