



SREDA
Sustainable and Renewable
Energy Development Authority



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Newsletter

National Solar Help Desk

The National Solar Help Desk (NSHD) is an undertaking of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), to support the proliferation of primarily Solar Rooftop programme under net metering. Initial establishment of NSHD was supported by GIZ Bangladesh. SREDA envisions to enlarge the scope of NSHD to cover all renewable energy solutions in the future.

Training on Fundamentals of Financial Modelling for Rooftop Solar Projects

The Project Development Programme (PDP) of GIZ assists German companies which are seeking to enter emerging and developing countries. The main focus of this programme is to promote SMEs in the renewable energy sector to access emerging markets under PDP. In taking these steps, the programme contributes to the global transition to renewable energy and to sustainable economic growth in Germany and in the partner countries. PDP in collaboration with the Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association (BSREA) and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programme (REEEP) II organized an online training on Financing in Solar on 24 and 25 January 2022 for RE sector stakeholders. The objective of the event was to focus on financial component of a solar project with an aim to support Bangladesh solar project stakeholders to benefit from the German expertise in solar PV technologies and engineering services by providing a platform for know-how transfer as well as facilitating

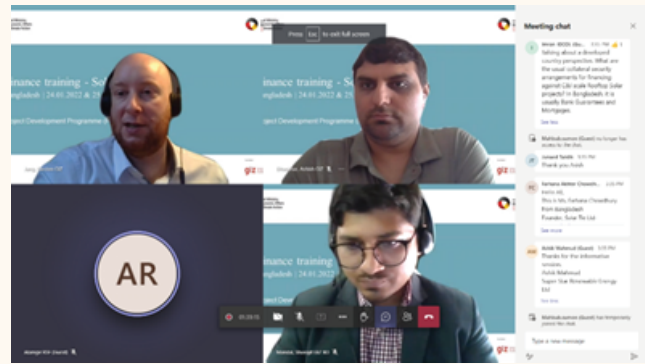


Figure 1: Session on Financial Modeling

business partnerships. More than 100 participants from different Engineering, Procurement and Constructions (EPC) and other RE stakeholders were invited to participate in the training courses. This session discussed about basic requirements for understanding the financing of solar projects followed by introduction of financial modelling for Rooftop Solar and also working with a case study.

Visit to Dhaka Reporters Unity and Feasibility Study for Rooftop Solar



Figure 2: Visit to DRU

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) is the largest professional body of working reporters based in Dhaka, representing all newspapers, electronic media and news organisations. This building is

situated in Segunbagicha, Dhaka. It has a one storied building with an empty rooftop, with potential for a rooftop PV system. The authority of DRU requested SREDA to conduct a feasibility of rooftop solar system on the roof of that building. In response to that request, a team lead by Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Grade-1), SREDA visited and inspected the sites on 15 February 2022 with Mr. Md. Rashedul Alam, Assistant Director (Solar), SREDA, Mr. Reaz Chowdhury, Lead Consultant, NSHD and Mr. Rayed Hasan, Executive, NSHD. Accordingly, a feasibility study report of rooftop solar system in that building was prepared and submitted to the authority.

Workshop on "Net Metered Rooftop Solar at HSTU"



Figure 3: Workshop on Net Metered Rooftop Solar at HSTU

An awareness program on "Net metered Rooftop Solar" was organized at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) to raise awareness for Net Metered Rooftop projects. The objective of the event was to develop awareness for local officials and academicians to have a clear understanding of technical and financial aspects of rooftop solar projects, and the uses and benefits of solar energy. Prof. Dr. M. Kamruzzaman, Honourable Vice Chancellor, HSTU attended the workshop as Chief Guest. Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman, [Additional Secretary], SREDA was the Guest of Honour. Prof. Dr. Bidhan Chandra Halder, Treasurer,

HSTU attended the workshop as Special Guest. Prof. Dr. Md. Zamil Sultan, Chairman, Department of EEE of HSTU chaired the workshop. Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarwar e Kainat, Member (Renewable Energy), SREDA and Mr. Md. Rashedul Alam, Assistant Director, SREDA gave presentations about Net Metered Rooftop Solar. More than 100 participants were present at the event. The workshop was appreciated by the students. In his speech, Mr. Mohammad Alauddin pointed out the benefits of installing solar systems, highlighting the environmental impacts. He assured that for installing rooftop solar, all technical assistance will be provided by SREDA. Speaking as the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. M. Kamruzzaman mentioned that they have decided to install solar panels in Dr. M A Wazed Building and the newly constructed academic building with total capacity of 120 kW. Lastly, he thanked the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) for its overall cooperation. SREDA also conducted an assessment of solar power generation from the roofs of buildings of HSTU.

Workshop on "Net metered Rooftop Solar at BRUR"

An awareness program on "Net Metered Rooftop Solar" was organized at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) to raise awareness for Net Metered Rooftop projects. The objective of the event was to develop awareness for local officials and academicians of Rangpur on technical and financial aspects of rooftop solar projects. Prof. Dr. Md. Hasibur Rashid, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, BRUR attended the workshop as Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Sarifa Salowa Dina, Pro- Vice Chancellor, BRUR; Prof. Dr. Abu Kalam Md. Farid Ul Islam, Dean (Faculty of Engineering and Technology), BRUR attended the workshop as Special Guest. Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Grade-1), SREDA chaired the workshop. Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarware Kainat, Member (Renewable Energy), SREDA delivered his presentation comprising the basics of Net Metering and the financial aspects of



Figure 4: Workshop on Net Metered Rooftop Solar at BRUR

Net Metered Rooftop Solar. Mr. Md. Rashedul Alam, Assistant Director (Solar), SREDA also delivered his presentation comprising the technical aspects of Net Metering, eligibility criteria for application for rooftop solar projects, equipment and installation standards for rooftop project implementation under net metering. More than 100 participants were present at the event. Speaking as the Special Guest, Prof Dr.

Sarifa Salowa Dina thanked everyone and mentioned this workshop helped them to learn and acquire more knowledge about various uses of Solar System. She recommended BRUR and other universities should arrange similar workshops to transfer and apply knowledge about solar system and support the accomplishment of the Honourable Prime Minister's vision 2041. Speaking as the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Md. Hasibur Rashid said that if these solar projects can be made successful, then the university will be benefitted academically and financially. He also mentioned the importance of having skilled manpower to implement such projects. He also

requested support from stakeholders to implement solar rooftop system in their new building. He also said that the existing equipment for solar rooftop projects are in good condition but maintenance is not being done properly due to lack of skilled technical man power. Lastly, he humbly requested to the guests that if they provide any cooperation and guidance in this regard, then EEE department will be able to take this matter forward. Mr. Mohammad Alauddin hoped that the universities will take lead to share knowledge on new inventions and encourage students of different departments to conduct research on these topics.

Discussion Meeting on Expansion of Rooftop Solar under Net Metering and Energy Efficiency & Conservation

A Discussion session on expansion of Rooftop Solar under Net Metering and Energy Efficiency & Conservation was organised by National Solar Help Desk (NSHD) was held on 28 March 2022 at SREDA. 26 participants from Distribution utilities, Petro Bangla, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources were present at the meeting. Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Chairman (Grade-1), SREDA chaired the meeting. The Chairperson welcomed all and started the meeting. At the end of the brief introductory session, the member (Joint Secretary), Renewable Energy, SREDA, presented details about the context and purpose of the meeting at the request of the chairperson.

Status and existing challenges of promoting Net Metering Rooftop Solar and Energy Efficiency & Conservation were discussed. Member (Joint Secretary), Renewable Energy, SREDA informed in the meeting that there are some hurdles in setting up solar system, including land scarcity and restrictions. However, it is possible to utilise the empty rooftops of commercial and industrial buildings for generating solar power. To develop the capacity of DISCOM and utility engineers to implement solar systems. SREDA, in collaboration with GIZ, organised a ToT (Training of Trainers) as an alternative to training a large number of engineers. The Chairperson informed the meeting that if a solar project is set up, the cost of power generation will be around 4 taka and payback period will be within 6 to 7 years. Lack of awareness and proper knowledge have been identified as the main reasons for the unexpectedly low expansion of solar projects. Based on the demand, the OPEX model was incorporated in

the 'Net Metering Guidelines-2018' in 2019 to give third party investment opportunities and reduce customers' risk.

A representative from DESCO informed that about 400 solar systems have been installed by them as of June 2021, about 79,700 units of electricity have been exported to the grid by consumers after their own use. All these customers will be informed about the benefits of renewable energy and will be encouraged to install renewable energy systems. He said that the shortage of Bi-Directional meters and the lack of capacity to monitor the quality of solar system equipment is a problem. He also informed that shortness of time as a condition of new connection is an obstacle to installing solar system. The Joint Secretary, Power Division suggested that the provision of 70% of the sanctioned load mentioned in the Net Metering Guideline should be removed. He suggested increasing the capacity of renewable energy as well as the transport capacity of transmission lines in the country. In addition, the Joint Secretary, Power Division also suggested in the meeting that the distribution utilities should inform the net meter consumers about their own benefits and encourage everyone by collecting sufficient data. Member (Joint Secretary), Energy Efficiency and Conservation, SREDA mentioned that Rule 13 (1) of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Rules 2018 states that as a National and sector-wise authority and if necessary, use of fuel at single installation stage, overall energy wastage including distribution edge wastage, audit report, conservation facility, SREDA will be responsible for coordinating, consolidating, maintaining, analysing and reporting detailed information related to the implementation of

energy conservation systems. Rule 13 (2) (b) states that information and data relating to the production, use and disposal of energy, equipment used for fuel,



investment, operation and maintenance of energy use and other relevant data collected from all concerned government agencies.

The Director General, Hydrocarbon Unit, Energy and Mineral Resources Division informed the meeting that since it takes some time to collect information from the field level and prepare the report, there is some discrepancy between the information in the monthly and annual report and the monthly report is published sometime later. However, all the information in the annual report is correct. He

suggested publishing this information on the dashboard of the Hydrocarbon Unit's website.

The Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources said that despite the approval to import naphtha, no one is currently importing from the private sector. Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is the only importer of octane and BPC has the information of import. Gas import calculations are ongoing and Furnace Well is importing only private power plants. Member (Joint Secretary), Energy Efficiency and Conservation, SREDA said in the discussion that Super Petrochemicals, Chittagong imports naphtha. Besides, two private companies produce octane in the country. A clearance is issued at the time of permitting the import of naphtha, so that its quantity is specified. It is possible to collect this information from there. Lastly, the chairperson took part in the discussion and said that all these issues were made known through this discussion meeting. He requested all to give thoughtful views on the issues presented at the meeting in future. At the end, an Independent Renewable Energy cell for each utility, more training for utility engineers, inclusion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation services in NSHD were suggested in the discussion meeting. Participants agreed to provide required information to SREDA as necessary.

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