



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. At present, NSHD is covering different activities under the leadership of SREDA. SREDA envisions to enlarge the scope of NSHD to cover all Renewable Energy solutions in the future.

Technical Meeting with SUNGROW on Floating PV Technology

SUNGROW, a leading supplier of inverters and EPC contractor, was interested to present the new floating solar PV technologies to SREDA. A technical meeting took place with them at SREDA on 26th June 2022. Ms. Munira Sultana, Chairman (Grade-1), SREDA presided over the meeting. Mr. Imran Chowdhury, Country Head, Bangladesh Region (PD & EPC Business Division), SUNGROW shared their experience of large-scale project implementation in various countries of southeast Asia. Also, he shared the plan for expansion in solar business in near future. They are also researching automated cleaning robots for solar panels and Energy Storage Solution (ESS) for Bangladesh.

Mr. Maxim Zhang from SUNGROW presented on 'SUNGROW PV introduction (Floating).' He shared their experience with FPV from the past years and their involvement in 1.7GW of FPV projects. Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarware Kainat, Member (Renewable Energy), SREDA asked Mr. Maxim about the impact of FPV on aqua systems and how to minimize it, and about the evaporation of water and its effect on the climate. Mr. Reaz from NSHD suggested to consider the weather effect and local fishing situation for implementing FPV in Bangladesh. SUNGROW was requested to conduct an assessment on a potential demonstration site for floating solar where SREDA will participate as well.

Technical Meeting with Development Technical Consultants Pvt Ltd (DTCL)

SREDA has initiated the process to revise The Renewable Energy policy, 2008 and assigned Development Technical Consultants Pvt. Ltd. (DTCL) as the consulting firm to support this activity. A technical meeting was held between SREDA and DTCL on the scope and approach for the revision of Renewable Energy Policy on 26th July 2022. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarware Kainat, Member (Renewable Energy), SREDA. NSHD took part in the meeting with SREDA team for technical clarification.

Member RE emphasized on the importance of the

scope of this RE policy revision, highlighting the reason behind this assignment and the relevance of the revised target with the development of the country. He requested the consultants to be careful about accuracy of their work. Team Leader, DTCL briefly presented the scope and coverage of this assignment. Mr. Reaz, Lead Expert, NSHD focused on the approach and correctness of the survey process. He talked about the need of technical briefing for the consultants assigned for the survey and expressed the interest of National Solar Help Desk to cover such briefing if requested.

Visit to Padma Bridge for Potential Solar System

A delegation comprising SREDA and representatives from NSHD visited Padma Bridge on August 3rd, 2022, to explore the possibility of generating solar power by installing solar systems in the area adjacent to Padma Bridge. With a length of 6.15 km, Padma Bridge is currently the largest bridge in the country. There is a possibility of generating electricity from solar power systems in the area adjacent to the bridge and its surrounding.

During the inspection, it was observed that solar systems can be installed on the empty space between the road and the railway line and on the slope of the railway line. Also, solar systems can be installed on roofs of railway stations and surrounding open spaces. After the inspection, the team visited the army engineering camp office next to the railway station to check the feasibility of the solar system. During the visit, a brief discussion took place where

the camp authority expressed interest in installing a solar system and requested for technical assistance from SREDA. The team members agreed to provide all technical assistance and advice to the consumer in this regard.



Picture: Visit to Padma Bridge for Potential Solar System

Visit to HMCL Niloy Bangladesh Ltd. Manufacturing Plant

A site visit was held on 4th September 2022 at the manufacturing plant of HMCL Niloy Bangladesh Ltd. (HNBL) at Jashore. A team led by Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarware Kainat, Member (Joint Secretary), Renewable Energy, SREDA accompanied by NSHD representatives visited the site to assess their existing Solar PV system and find out future potential from the PV system.

During the visit, a brief discussion session was held on the factory premises. A short presentation was given by the HNBL authority on their operation, maintenance, and future plans. They emphasized their approach of transitioning to green energy and energy conservation measurements to achieve the 'net zero' carbon emission target.

Member RE, SREDA briefed the audience about the role of SREDA as a nodal agency and mentioned

about the involvement of SREDA to introduce Net Metering Guideline. For better understanding of the attendees, SREDA and NHSD members highlighted the background and purpose of net metering guideline, limitations for grid connectivity and stability, billing process and adjustment of credit units (NEM) and subsequent activities for the implementation of net metered rooftop solar in Bangladesh.

HNBL attendees raised their concerns about receiving payments of exported electricity units from the net metered system. On that point, Jashore PBS-1 has explained the adjustment of those units in the subsequent month or carry over of those units to subsequent months till the end of fiscal year (June of each year) to be paid at once. After the discussion session, the team physically visited the plant and their existing rooftop solar system.



Picture: Discussion Session and Factory Visit at HMCL Niloy Bangladesh Ltd

Workshop on Green Financing for Sustainable Energy Solutions

Access to finance continues to be a challenge towards large scale proliferation of sustainable energy. The Government has undertaken steps to make this process systematic for potentially impactful projects. To enhance the knowledge level of financing professionals on green financing policies, categories, incentives and available funding, green financing disbursement and refinancing process, on 13th September 2022 a daylong workshop titled “Green Financing for Sustainable Energy Solutions” was supported by NSHD in collaboration with the Bangladesh Bank. This workshop was attended by representatives of 30 banks and financial institutions.

Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Secretary, Power Division attended the event as Chief Guest. Ms. Munira Sultana, ndc, Chairman (Grade 1), Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA); and Mr. Abu Farah Md. Nasser, Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank attended as Special Guests. Mr. Florian Höllen, Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany represented the German Government. Mr. Nirod Chandra Mondal, Joint Secretary, Renewable Energy, Power Division, chaired the event.

The workshop included sessions on green financing policies, categories, incentives and available fundings, green financing disbursement, and refinancing

process for banks and financial institutions. Around 100 officials and representatives from Bangladesh Bank, Banks and Financial Institutions, Power Division, SREDA, development partners, and sector experts participated in the workshop.



Picture: Participants of the Green Financing workshop

The workshop was divided into three sessions. First session included the Opening Session and remarks by distinguished guests. Second session focused on technical presentations. This included a keynote presentation by Bangladesh Bank explaining the available financial schemes for 68 selected categories was presented followed by presentations on green financing disbursement and refinancing process for banks and financing institutions. In the last session, participants of different Banks/FIs attended a group exercise, where example cases on financing applications were analyzed from a green financing perspective and presented by the participants.



Picture: Group Discussion and Question & Answer Session

Technical Meeting with Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BGCCI)

National Solar Help Desk presented the features and benefits of NEM to Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) representatives during a technical meeting arranged by BGCCI on 13th September 2022. Vice President of BGCCI Mr. Sebastian Groh defined the meeting as an opening session for knowledge sharing on renewable energy projects.

Mr. Reaz, Lead Expert, NSHD briefed the audience on the background and purpose of net metering (NEM) guideline, the role of SREDA for dissemination of net metered rooftop solar, BSTI for NOC process, Banks for green financing schemes, and Utilities for inspection and

approval of net metered system. Also, the aspects of CAPEX and OPEX models were described with key features. Role of EPCs and distribution Utilities in different stages of CAPEX and OPEX models were also highlighted.

A BGMEA representative mentioned the adjustment requirement of rooftops for compliance or LEED certification impacts rooftop solar layout and costs. At the same time, he raised his concern about dust formation and the old steel structure of their factory. NSHD representative mentioned that currently there are several manual and automatic cleaning procedures available in the market to overcome the problem of dust.

NSRRA Site Assessment

Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) has installed 8 solar radiation monitoring stations across Bangladesh to conduct National Solar Radiation Resource Assessment (NSRRA) and make the data available for project developers. Also, a web server was installed at SREDA office to collect and monitor the solar irradiance data collected from those stations.

Based on the request of Member RE, SREDA to assess the current situation of NSRRA equipment at Bangladesh Agricultural University and take necessary steps to reactivate the system, an expert team including NSHD

visited the site on 8th September 2022.

The team identified that communication software, and data recording and processing software are not working. The data logger/ controller was also not functioning or recording any data. As the data logger is not commercially available and there is no documentation found in SREDA for the datalogger, it was deemed that repairing was not possible. The team recommended replacing the data logger which is commercially available for best result and recommended to update the existing server.

A total of 530 services were provided by NSHD till September 2022

Contact Details of National Solar Help Desk



National Solar Help Desk

SREDA Office, 9th Floor
IEB Building, Ramna, Dhaka-1000



Implemented by:
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Hotline: 01550777777, 01550711711
Email: nshd@sreda.gov.bd
Website: <https://shd.sreda.gov.bd>

Online Service: Zoom/Google Meet/MS Team
Appointment: <http://shdappointment.sreda.gov.bd>

Responsibility of the Content: GIZ Bangladesh
Author: Muhammad Yeasin, Rayed Hasan and Reaz Chowdhury, NSHD
Photo Sources: National Solar Help Desk
For more information on GIZ Bangladesh Energy Programme,

Contact: Dr. Frank Fecher, Programme Coordinator, PAP
Email: frank.fecher@giz.de
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