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.

Brainstorming session on setting NSHD objectives and future activities

A brainstorming session on different aspects of National Solar Help Desk (NSHD) was held among authorities and relevant officials from the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), Policy Advisory for Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (PAP) project implemented by GIZ and NSHD to finetune future objectives and activities of NSHD at Amari Hotel, Dhaka on 23 November 2022.

The session was presided over by Ms Munira Sultana, NDC, Chairman (Grade-1), SREDA and moderated by Dr Frank Fecher, Programme Coordinator, GIZ Bangladesh Energy Programme. A brief description on the past 14-months journey of NSHD was presented, highlighting its inception, scope of work, and accomplishments. The chairman of SREDA and other participants expressed their opinion on the progress of NSHD and discussed possible ways to make the help desk more dynamic and effective in terms of promotion of rooftop solar under net metering guideline and raising awareness and expansion of other renewable energy solutions in the country. Participants were divided into three separate groups to brainstorm on three different topics: green financing, awareness campaign, and the framework process; with the goal of identifying specific activities to support the promotion of net metering and Renewable Energy in Bangladesh through NSHD. Based on the groupwork, several actions were agreed upon which will be implemented by SREDA, with GIZ's technical cooperation.

Picture: Participants of the Brainstorming session

Pre- Feasibility of Floating Solar PV System

Considering the future energy security, the Government of Bangladesh has given special importance to the expansion of renewable energy sources. In line with this vision, under the guidance of Power Division, the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) and National Solar Help Desk (NSHD) team visited three significant water bodies of the capital Dhaka to assess the feasibility of floating solar PV system on those lakes. Floating Solar PV is an addition to the existing solar technologies, which enables electricity generation using the surface of stagnant and unutilized water bodies.

Hatirjheel and Gulshan-Banani Lake

Located in the heart of Dhaka, Hatirjheel and Gulshan-Banani Lake is a huge reservoir connecting important areas of the capital. On 4 October 2022, A delegation led by Mr. Mohammad Golam Sarware Kainat, Member (Renewable Energy), SREDA along with NSHD members met with representatives from the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK) and Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) to discuss the feasibility of floating solar systems in the Hatirjheel and Gulshan-Banani Lake.

After the discussion, the delegation visited the lake and surrounding areas to identify possible locations for the floating solar systems and to assess the current condition. it was found that the surface areas of Gulshan Lake (separated in parts by the dividing roads) could be utilized to generate 1.5 MW electricity using floating solar,keeping the waterway for planned waterboats free. Banani Lake, which has less width compared to Gulshan Lake, will not have enough space to install solar panels on its surface after allocating space for planned boat route, hence this lake is recommended to be excluded from this feasibility.

Picture: Hatirjheel Lake

Picture: Visit to Hatirjheel and Gulshan-Banani Lake

The delegation noted that the entire stretch along the middle of Hatirjheel Lake is used for passenger boat and would not be suitable for installation of continuous floating solar systems. They identified three possible areas which can be used to install approximately 2MW of solar systems. Adequate distance should be maintained from the lake sides for safety. They suggested that a detailed survey with actual measurements would help to accurately determine the capacity of the floating solar system on the lake. They also noted that installing solar panels along the walking track around the lake would provide shade for pedestrians as well as generate electricity.

Dhanmondi Lake

On 21 November 2022, A team comprising SREDA and NSHD led by Mr. AKM Fazlul Haque, Deputy Director, (Solar), SREDA, visited Dhanmondi Lake and met representatives from Dhaka South City Corporation and Dhaka Power Distribution Company to explore the possibility of installing a floating solar system in the unused parts of the lake. The lake is 1.5 km long, 20-50 m wide and 5 m deep, with a total area of 37 hectares.

Picture: Visit to Dhanmondi Lake

Most of the length of the lake is in the north-south direction and there are parks on both sides of the lake covered with large trees, which shade major parts of the lake for most of the day, making it unprofitable to install solar systems commercially. The team suggested that, approximately 3000 square meters of the Dhanmondi Lake reservoir can be used for setting up floating solar systems. However, they also noted that as the described part of the lake is next to the busy road producing dust and increased security measures will be required due to the daily gathering of people. All these factors need to be considered when installing a floating solar system.

Uttara Lake

Uttara Lake is located across the vast area of Uttara Sector 4, 5 and 7, one of the gateways of Dhaka city, it is under the jurisdiction of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK). A team led by Mr. AKM Fazlul Haque, Deputy Director, (Solar), SREDA, visited Uttara Lake on 22nd November 2022, and met with representatives from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (RAJUK) and Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited to explore the possibility of a floating solar system in the lake.

The lake is approximately 1 km long and is surrounded by many trees that are 0-4 feet away from the bank. The trees are shading only a small part of the lake making the remainder suitable for installing floating solar systems. The team estimated that 2 MW of floating solar systems can be installed in an area of 20000 square meters of Uttara Lake and suggested that more detailed surveys are needed to determine the best location for installing floating solar systems along with safety measures.

Picture: Uttara Lake

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Technical Meeting on Net Metering with Bangladesh Special Economic Zone (BSEZ)

The Bangladesh Special Economic Zone (BSEZ) at Araihazar, Narayanganj is an ecofriendly economic zone initiative of the Bangladesh Government jointly owned by Sumitomo Corporation, JICA and Bangladesh Government. A technical meeting took place with them at SREDA on 20 December 2022. Mr. Khandker Md. Abdul Hye, PhD, Member, Renewable Energy, SREDA presided over the meeting to discuss the energy management and distribution plan for the economic zone. BSEZ expressed their intention to install solar system on the rooftop and supply the power directly based on PPA signed between tenants and BSEZ.

Mr. Saleh Ahmed, Project Director for Development of Japanese Economic Project briefed the attendees about the progress of the development work so far and the energy management plan for BSEZ, highlighting the desire for net metering.

The Lead Expert of National Solar Help Desk, Mr. Reaz Chowdhury, mentioned that the idea of interconnected rooftop solar system on the sheds of BSEZ is appreciable as the best utilization of rooftops. However, he also raised a concern about the loss of power generated from rooftop solar during weekends and public holidays when there will be no consumption by internal tenants and thus, he recommended connecting those systems to the grid under net metering guidelines. He also suggested including "Waste to Energy" technology in BSEZ to further adopt eco-friendly solutions.

652 services have been provided by NSHD since its inception

Contact Details of National Solar Help Desk

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