



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 on Progress and Challenges of Solar Equipment Testing and Certification Marks (CM) License Issuance by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI)

A meeting was held at the 'Mohanonda' meeting room of SREDA on January 26, 2023, to discuss the existing process and challenges of testing and issuing Certification Marks (CM) licenses for solar modules and inverters by Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI). Representatives from SREDA, BSTI, BSREA, NSHD, and GIZ were present at the meeting. The challenges faced by BSTI in obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC) for solar panels and inverters were discussed, including dependence on private laboratories for testing and the shortage of skilled manpower to perform tests.

BSTI representatives informed during the meeting that they have a well-defined process for NOC for solar panels and inverters, and they are in the process of purchasing testing equipment for the testing lab. The meeting also discussed the

establishment of more labs in the private sector. The meeting was productive in discussing the challenges and process of testing and issuing CM licenses for solar modules and inverters.



Picture: Technical meeting with BSTI on process and challenges of Certification Marks (CM) license

Site visit and Pre-Feasibility of Rooftop Solar of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST)

To reduce carbon footprint and mitigate the effects of climate change, the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) has requested SREDA to assess a potential PV Solar system on their roof. The university administration intends to install a photovoltaic solar system on the roof of their buildings to fulfill part of their energy requirements,

while simultaneously reducing their electricity costs.

On 9th January 2023, in response to the request of the University, NSHD team visited the university. The team engaged in a brief discussion with the university officials regarding the system capacity and budget requirement. Following the discussion, a tour of the

premises was conducted to identify all possible locations for installing the rooftop solar system. A preliminary assessment of the University buildings suggests that around 120kWp rooftop solar system can be installed, utilizing almost all available space of the roof. However, to ensure accuracy, further

fine-tuning of this figure would require a detailed measurement of each roof including review of the load-bearing capacity of the metallic roof structure on the roof area for accurate assessment of the solar system size.

Workshop on the Challenges of Scaling Up Rooftop Solar PV systems under NEM

On January 30, 2023, the Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources organised a workshop titled "Challenges of Scaling Up Rooftop Solar PV Systems under NEM" at Bidyut Bhaban with support of Policy Advisory for Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (PAP) project implemented by GIZ. The workshop aimed to identify the obstacles to expanding rooftop solar PV systems in Bangladesh and to find ways to overcome them.

Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Secretary, Power Division attended the workshop as Chief Guest. Ms. Munira Sultana, ndc, Chairman (Grade-1), Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), and Mr. Mohammad Alauddin, Rector, Bangladesh Power Management Institute (BPMI) joined the workshop as Special Guests. Mr. Nirod Chandra Mondal, Joint Secretary, Renewable Energy, Power Division and National Project Director (NPD), PAP project, GIZ, chaired the event.

The workshop brought together the key stakeholders of the energy sector including government officials from different ministries, distribution utilities, EPCs and development partners. The discussions covered regulatory issues, technical challenges, and the role of stakeholders in promoting the implementation of solar PV systems.



Picture: Workshop on the challenges of Scaling up Rooftop Solar PV Systems under NEM

Discussion on the Challenges of EPCs in Implementing Rooftop Solar Projects under NEM

A roundtable discussion was held at GIZ Energy Programme Office on 1 February 2023, addressing the challenges faced by EPCs in implementing

rooftop solar projects under NEM. Attendees of this roundtable included representatives from Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association



Picture: Participants of the roundtable discussion session with EPCs

(BSREA), SREDA, NSHD, GIZ, and local EPCs. International Expert Tobias Marz from 8p2 presented the findings, highlighting issues including slow import processes, complicated approval procedures, non-standard solar components, and long NOC processes. Lack of awareness and knowledge on the benefits of rooftop solar system and insufficient training for DISCOMs were also discussed. The access to finance and high import tax applicable for solar components for rooftops were major barriers. Bank guarantees were also a challenge for expanding rooftop solar projects.

BSREA requested GIZ's support to establish a testing lab for solar products. NSHD suggested conducting a

separate discussion focusing on the challenges of OPEX models, representatives from BSREA raised concerns about profit margins and unhealthy competition among EPCs in the market and proposed that BSREA and GIZ should work together to provide training and awareness to stakeholders. The attendees discussed several issues, and Dr. Frank Fecher, Programme Coordinator, Energy Programme, GIZ Bangladesh, requested everyone to work together to address the challenges faced by EPCs in implementing rooftop solar projects under NEM.

Technical Meeting on Carbon Capture Utilization (CCU) Proposal

A technical meeting was held at the 'Mohanonda' meeting room of SREDA on February 28, 2023, to discuss on the Carbon Capture Utilization (CCU) proposal submitted by the Center for Global Public Procurement of Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), with the support of Hyundai Power Systems. Representatives from SREDA, KAIST, Hyundai Power Systems and NSHD were present at the meeting.

The project aims to conduct a feasibility study for a CCU plant to capture approximately 50 tonnes of

CO₂ per day from the Matarbari coal-fired power plant. The captured CO₂ can be compressed into LCO₂ for producing dry ice or other industrial byproducts. The proposal also includes the design of a financial structure with grants or official assistance from development banks and Korean ODA programs. The technology can be deployed in six sectors of Bangladesh, including power generation, steel production, natural gas processing, fertilizer production, chemical production, and cement production.

Workshop on the Rollout of Rooftop Solar PV under NEM

The PAP project implemented by GIZ, SREDA and the Power Division jointly organised a workshop on "Rollout of Rooftop Solar PV under NEM" on March

22, 2023, at Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Nirod Chandra Mondal, Joint Secretary, Renewable Energy, Power Division



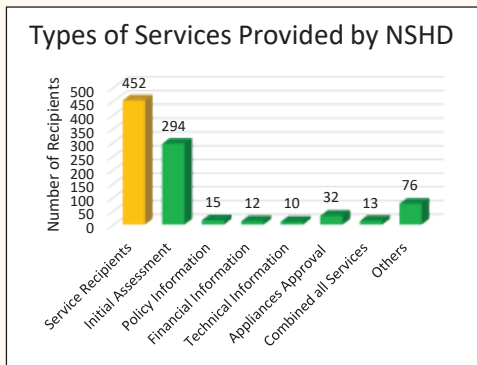
Picture: Participants of the workshop on the Rollout of Rooftop Solar PV under NEM

and National Project Director (NPD), PAP project, GIZ.Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Secretary, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, attended the workshop as the Chief Guest. Special Guests included Mr. Mohammad Hossain, Director General, Power Cell, and Ms. Munira Sultana, Chairman, SREDA.

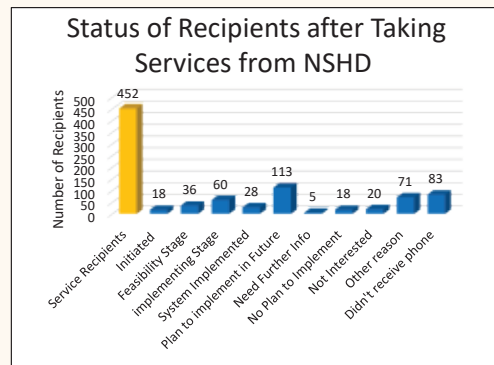
Stakeholders from distribution utilities attended the workshop to discuss the expansion of the rooftop solar system. The participants were divided into 4 groups to discuss topics related to the expansion of

rooftop solar systems, such as online monitoring, billing format, integration of NEM in new connection application, and online NEM application. The discussions focused on identifying challenges and proposing solutions to facilitate the rapid expansion of rooftop solar systems. At the end of the workshop, Mr. Habibur Rahman, Secretary of the Power Division, highlighted the importance of having precise guidelines and policy-level interventions to accelerate of rooftop solar PV under NEM.

762 services have been provided by NSHD since its inception



Picture: Types of services provided by NSHD



Picture: Status of recipients after taking services from NSHD

Contact Details of National Solar Help Desk



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