



Support Overwhelms “Solar Business Bangkok 2010” Forging Ahead with Power Generation from Solar Cells

The Ministry of Energy, via the Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO), has allocated money from the Energy Conservation Promotion Fund in support of the forthcoming national conference and exhibition, **Solar Business Bangkok 2010**, organized by Energy for Environment Foundation (E for E), under the theme **“PV Solar Energy: Getting Down to Business,”** during 22-23 March 2010 at Hall A, Queen Sirikit National Convention Center. This will be a forum for networking between investors and technology providers as well as financiers. Participants will have opportunities to share experience and expertise in the development of solar energy projects both in Thailand and foreign countries, to catalyze the expansion of solar energy market, which will not only enhance energy security but also boost the economy and mitigate the problem of global warming.

Solar Business Bangkok 2010 has received overwhelming support from the public and private sectors, both domestic and overseas. Lately, Tokyo Electron Co., Ltd., a leading manufacturer of thin-film photovoltaic (PV) cells, has also supported the organization of this conference, viewing that the PV industry in Thailand is very prospective in this region.

According to Mr. Chaya Jivacate, Chairman of E for E, the first solar power plant in Thailand was established in 2003 by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT). A PV-cell system with a capacity of about 500-kV was installed in Pa-bong District, Mae Hong Sorn Province. “Unfortunately, we have to admit that investment in solar power plants was then limited to only few government agencies, so relevant knowledge and experience was acquired only by a small group of personnel whereas Thailand has enormous potential for solar energy development. E for E, therefore, organizes this conference to provide a platform for both local and foreign experts to transfer and share knowledge in terms of technologies, financing and investment opportunities, to serve as a major stimulus for Thai investors to engage in the development of solar energy industry,” said the E for E Chairman.

Mr. Viraphol Jirapraditkul, Director General of EPPO, Ministry of Energy, revealed: “The ADDER measure, which provides additional energy purchasing price on top of the normal rates that power producers using renewable energy as fuel will receive, has enabled the Power Utilities to purchase electricity generated from solar energy at 10.50 baht/unit on average. Moreover, the establishment of PV or solar cell manufacturing plants in Thailand in recent years has rapidly brought down the prices of PV cells in the country. As a result, a great number of investors have become interested in power generation using solar cells. To date, 200 applications to sell electricity have been received, accounting for a total proposed



sale capacity of 852 MW to the grid. However, only 7.7 MW is now being supplied to the grid; most of the remaining projects are still at the preparatory stage."

In response to the operators' concern over the determination of the amount of capacity purchase eligible for ADDER, in line with the target specified in the 15-year Renewable Energy Development Plan, i.e. 500 MW in 2022 for PV power generation, Mr. Viraphol explained, "The mentioned target is merely the minimum set. Actually, the Power Utilities can buy all capacity proposed by private power producers, with the ADDER provision. To materialize these power projects, however, is a great challenge for the government; EPPO, therefore, strongly supports the organization of this conference, hoping that it will catalyze the project development so that they would eventually come on stream."

The following is added by Ms. Suwaporn Sirikoon, Chief Executive Director of E for E. "From the experience of E for E, in our capacity as the ESCO Fund Manager engaging in a joint venture in a 6.1-MW PV-generated power project operated by Solar Power Co., Ltd., it is found that the ADDER measure together with the decrease in PV module prices has made the project more cost-effective. However, there are still many other difficulties encountered in the project development, for example, the selection of appropriate technology, project investment cost, and confidence of financiers, including the power system interconnection regulations."

Organized by E for E, this event is aimed to disseminate experience in the development of power projects using PV cells and to catalyze the development of comprehensive PV industry – from the manufacturing of PV cells to PV power generation. In the forthcoming **Solar Business Bangkok 2010**, there will be exhibition booths by more than 30 companies, displaying their PV products and equipment, and a seminar which includes both interesting presentations and panel sessions by more than 20 renowned speakers, local and overseas. No less than 500 participants are expected.

The conference will be highlighted by the participation of world renowned speakers, such as *Dr. Arnulf Jäger-Waldau* from the European Commission, the author of "PV Status Report 2009;" *Dr. Matthias Vetter*, expert from Fraunhofer -- a famous institution on solar energy in Germany; Mr. Sunil Gupta, CEO of the leading financial institution, Morgan Stanley, and representatives from the World Bank Group, who will share their worldwide experience and expertise in various aspects -- market implementation, technologies, financing and investment -- and particularly suitable applications in Thailand's environment. Additionally, E for E is highly honored by several PV-cell Gurus in Thailand who will join the event, for instance, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wattanapong Rakwichian, Ms. Wandee Kulchornyakong, Prof. Dr. Dusit Kruangam, Dr. Dhirayut Chenvidhya, representatives from various government agencies, and leading financial institutions. E for E is confident that, if the approaches proven successful in foreign countries are properly applied to suit the conditions in Thailand, they will efficiently contribute to the rapid growth of the PV solar energy business.

Mr. Thamapon Supachanprapa, Vice President of Solar Power Co., Ltd., added that the decrease in the prices of PV modules coupled with the growing capability of Thai personnel in the PV system installation have much reduced the cost of a PV-cell power project, resulting in greater investment. Currently, the first PV power generation project in Nakorn Ratchasima is under construction by Solar Power Co., Ltd., having obtained a long-term credit from Kasikornbank. Mr. Thamapon also emphasized the importance of creating confidence of financial institutions. He strongly believes that this **Solar Business Bangkok 2010** will be beneficial to interested persons in various sectors and that public and private sector executives as well as all participants will be provided with genuine and profound information and advancement related to investment in PV solar energy. The conference will be one of the most complete and comprehensive gathering of products, services as well as information and knowledge pertaining to PV solar energy.
