

Energy Access Monitor

January 2018

Trending topics

Rural Electrification



- India set to complete village electrification before target

Financing Energy Access

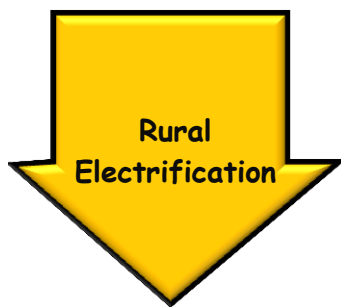


- Husk Power Systems raises \$20M from Shell, others to scale renewable mini-grids in Africa and Asia
- Solar Alliance signs \$5bn financing deal

Women and Energy Access



- WiSER Conference explores opportunities for women advancement
- Economic Teamwork Among Hindu Kush Countries hangs on Access to Water, Energy



India set to complete village electrification before target. The Union government's ambitious plan to complete rural electrification by May 1, 2018 is set to be achieved before target with the rural electrification corporation of India (REC) in the last leg of the scheme. The scheme was launched on August 15, 2015 for the electrification of 18,458 villages by May 1, 2018 in the country of which only 1,227 are left currently.

✓ The government had sanctioned nearly Rs 45,000 crore for this initiative that also includes strengthening the distribution (transmission) system, which is a major loop hole in the electrification process.

REC, which has already raised nearly \$650 million from international markets for financing several rural electrification projects, will soon go for another round of funding, aiming to raise nearly \$300-\$500 million. It has an approval from the Reserve Bank of India to raise \$1.5 billion till March 31, 2018.

The Economic Times, 29 January 2018



Husk Power Systems raises \$20M from Shell, others to scale renewable mini-grids in Africa and Asia. Husk Power Systems, a leading distributed utility company that provides reliable power to rural communities and businesses entirely from renewable energy sources announced that it had raised a \$20 million Series C round of equity funding. Shell Technology Ventures LLC, Swedish development finance institution Swedfund International, and ENGIE Rassembleurs d'Énergies, ENGIE group's impact investment fund, participated in the round.

Husk developed a proprietary system by combining and synchronising solar power system (PV), biomass gasification system, and batteries to deliver reliable, 24x7 power. It offers customers a flexible "pay-as-you-go" energy service, using a mobile-enabled smart metering system.

Solar Alliance signs \$5bn financing deal. The World Future Energy Summit (WFES) hosted the first-ever gathering of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), when it discussed the body's aim of raising \$1 trillion in global solar investments by 2030.

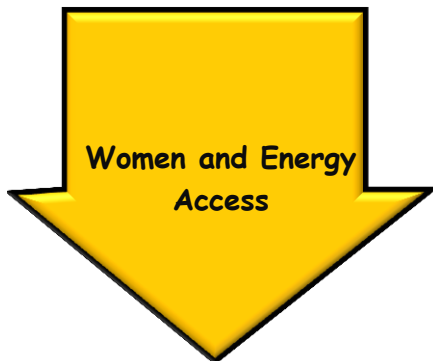
On the sidelines of the event in Abu Dhabi:

- ISA also signed a letter of intent with Yes Bank for its first financing commitment of up to \$5 billion by 2030.
- The organisation also signed nine solar projects across five ISA member countries, including UAE, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, India and Spain.

The alliance includes more than 121 prospective member countries located either fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. It aims to help developing countries harness 1,000 GW of solar by 2030 by raising \$1 trillion, and arranging the associated technological assistance to support the goal. Half of the total is expected to come from the private sector, with national governments and public sector companies providing the rest.

Of the \$1trillion, \$700 billion will be in the form of concessional credits – investments for countries to add solar capacity - while the remaining \$300bn will be earmarked for risk mitigation to protect companies wishing to invest in solar.

[Your Story](#), 16 January 2018 | [Trade Arabia](#), 18 January 2017



WiSER Conference explores opportunities for women advancement.

Global leaders from business, government and academia have gathered in Abu Dhabi for the third annual Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy (WiSER) conference under the theme, ‘Women of Easternisation’, focusing on the impact on women advancement through renewable energy and sustainability initiatives.

The rise of Easternisation due to rapid growth of domestic economies, particularly in India and China, has seen heavy investments in renewables. China’s announcement of the "The Silk Road Economic

Belt" initiative sees a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan and ample opportunities arising in efforts to shift trade flows towards Asia and revitalise the old Silk Road stretching from Asia and the Middle East, to the Mediterranean. This shift in geopolitical and economic power from the west to the east also presents unparalleled opportunities for women to enter the clean energy industry and support the global energy transition to new, clean forms of energy.

Specifically, the existing strategic energy-focused partnership between the UAE and China, which is anchored on research and development of renewable energy sources, supports the UAE’s move towards achieving a competitive knowledge economy, and has created many advancement opportunities for women.

The WiSER conference also convened women leaders at a panel to discuss the impact of Easternisation on women advancement. The panellists discussed opportunities and barriers for women’s entry into education, science and knowledge industries, and the critical importance of having policies that not only protect women’s rights but ensure the inclusion of women at the beginning of any opportunities that arise from Easternisation.

Economic Teamwork Among Hindu Kush Countries hangs on Access to Water, Energy. Joining hands in disaster management and economic development, and leveraging water and energy as the entry points to promote regional cooperation, is vital for a sustainable and productive future for the vulnerable Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH). This comes from experts who think the region is already experiencing the effects of climate change.

Sensing that “mountain characteristics such as inaccessibility, fragility, and marginality require specific solutions for resilience building that address socio-economic and environmental challenges in the mountain setting”, they’ve drawn up a 12-point agenda for the HKH to remain a resilient region. The agenda draws specific attention to the lack of knowledge from eight countries affected by the environment of the HKH region.

It was subsequently adopted at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development's (ICIMOD's) recent 'Resilient Hindu Kush Himalayas' conference. One of the gathering's conclusions was a prediction – that if the temperature increased by 2° C or more in the HKH region by the end of the century, it will precipitate substantially decrease the amount of snowfall and hie melt rates by at least 33%. The experts added that the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDRC) vis à vis a rapidly warming Himalayan region can be the common platform for proactive action.

- The HKH provides water, livelihood and access to a unique ecosystem to more than 210 million people and water to more than 1.3 billion, almost a fifth of the world's population, living in downstream river basins.
- The idea was to underscore the fact that mountain characteristics like inaccessibility, fragility, and marginality necessitate special solutions to build resilience against climate change while also addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges.

ICIMOD also acknowledged that meeting the Sustainable Development Goals targets was important. In 2015, 194 members of the UN agreed on these targets – a set of milestones and a roadmap for eradicating poverty and hunger and tackling climate change by 2030.

[The Gulf Today](#), 17 January 2018 | [The Wire](#), 23 January 2018