

COP24 SIDE EVENT

Thursday, December 6 2018
Pacific Pavilion

Solar Head of State - a partnership with the Government of India & the Pacific Islands Development Forum: Showcase of Project in Pacific Nations



SOLAR HEAD OF STATE

Pacific island countries have demonstrated tremendous resolve in committing to combat climate change. Increasing use of fossil fuels has had far-reaching consequences, including pollution, sea-level rise and climate change and a burdensome impact on recurrent household and national budgets. The crucial role of renewable energy, including solar, in this task cannot be emphasized enough. Renewable energy is important not only for combating climate change but also as a source of clean, healthy, affordable energy for developing countries.

In recognition of the negative implications of fossil fuels, the *Pacific Islands Development Forum* (PIDF) recently announced that the Government of India is supporting the solarisation of Head of State residences of PIDF member countries. Through funding support from the *India-UN Development Partnership Fund* operated by the *United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation*, PIDF is implementing this initiative together with *Solar Head of State* (SHOS). SHOS is a non-profit organisation that focuses on the installation of solar energy infrastructure to power prominent government buildings and promote renewable energy. In doing so, each country's leadership is given first-hand experience with the proven benefits of sustainable technologies. SHOS has a proven track record and has already completed similar projects in the Maldives (Official Presidential Residence), St. Lucia (public residence of the Governor-General) and Jamaica (Office of the Prime Minister).

The initiative will start implementation in *Palau, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati and Fiji*. Through this project the PIDF headquarters will also be solarised supporting PIDF's aim to move to net-zero emissions by 2020. Each system installed would become a demonstration project to inspire the mass adoption of solar energy and other renewable energy technologies by the citizens of the country and around the world. The projects will be used as a way of engaging the general public on the benefits of renewable energy through an effective media campaign and community outreach and demonstrate the moral leadership of the Pacific Islands on climate change. We extend a warm invitation to you to join our interactive discussions on how this journey, enabled by South-South cooperation, will be undertaken.

Date: Thursday, December 6th 2018

Venue: Pacific Pavilion, Katowice, Poland

Time: 4.15pm to 5.15pm

For further information contact:

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