

Workshop Promoting Climate Technology and Carbon Market Partnerships

4-5 November 2009, GICC, Gaborone, Botswana

Report from the Solar Energy Focus Group, Session 9, November 5 (13:30 – 16:30 hr.), 2009.

Facilitator: Mr. Ari Kalmari, Report by: Prof. P K Jain.

Presented to the closing plenary session (Session 10).

The group started with 15 members from academia, government, private sector in Botswana and potential international partners. After the tea break, the group melted down to 9 members, a clear indication of global warming from GHG emissions from energy use. The discussion was chaired by Prof. P K Jain from the University of Botswana.

The group started with the introduction of members, and their focus area of interest in solar energy. This followed with three short (5 minutes each) presentations:

- Prof. P K Jain, UB, "*A case for solar energy in Botswana*"
- Mr. Oagile Setlhare, Department of Energy, Government of Botswana (GoB), "*A report on various ongoing solar projects in Botswana, and their present status.*"
- Mr. Hussaini Abkenari of Solar Power Kgalgadi Company made a presentation on the 250 MW solar thermal power project in Botswana which he is pursuing.

The three presentations gave a near complete picture of the current status of solar energy in Botswana that included its potential, Governmental interventions, and involvement of the private sector in promoting the use of solar energy in Botswana. It was also noted that GoB is aiming to increase the contribution of renewable energy to the total energy supply from the present of less than 1.1% to 25% by the end of NDP 10 in 2016. This will include all forms of renewable energy sources namely solar, coal bed methane, bio, and wind; solar perceived to be the largest contributor. The group discussions followed with a focus on the two questions that were presented to the group by the organizers. The questions and the Group's response to them are summarized below.

Question 1:

To what extent and how can CDM generate relevant additional income to projects in this sector?

Summary of Group's response:

- The 250 MW solar thermal power plant when implemented will certainly generate CDM credits which will be sold to generate income for the up-keep of the project and for expansion of capacity.
- The 1 MW PV power station, planned by the Energy Department will also generate CDM credits. It was not clear how those credits shall be used by the Government of Botswana and the financing agency, the Government of Japan in this case.
- Now that the power generation sector in Botswana has been opened to private investors, and feed-in-tariffs are on the cards, potential exists for CDM credits irrespective of what renewable energy technologies, namely solar, bio or any other are used to generate power.

Question 2:

What potential partnerships could be formed in the group?

Summary of Group's response: Two potential partnerships were identified by the group.

- Industrial partnership for the 250 MW solar thermal power station between Solar Power Kgalgadi Company represented by Mr. Hussaini Abkenari and ESM International, Ireland represented by Mr. Philip Henderson. The two potential partners shall carry the discussion further.
- Academic partnership in research and development between the University of Botswana and the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden. This shall also include student exchange and joint projects in solar energy and related fields.
- In addition, partnership between the Governments of Botswana and Japan for the 1 MW PV power station is at an advanced stage.

Thank you.