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Public Administration

RELEVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE (ISA) AND ITS CHALLENGES

KEY WORDS: International Solar Alliance (ISA), Solar Energy, Capacity Building, IETC etc.

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ABSTRACT

In the development of cost-effective and transformational solar energy solutions, International Solar Alliance (ISA) is the action-oriented and mobilized efforts among various countries. ISA is a member-driven and collaborative platform and there are more than 120 countries working under ISA Framework Agreement. India is one of the leading country and has been reelected for ISA. The activity of the ISA is based on the four priory such as Analytics & Advocacy, Capacity Building, Programmatic Support and Readiness & enabling activities. The governance structure of the ISA is followed by ISA Assembly as an apex decision-making body, Steering Committee for strategic guidance, Secretariat as administrative arm and Head of ISA headed by the Director General. Due to immense demand to create and implement solar energy, ISA is initiated with One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) programme. Now a days, ISA has various challenges like funding, policy coordination, limited participation and implementation. In this regards India has launched the scheme named as Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). For its proper implementation to get fruitful results on the ground, the administration will play vital role.

INTRODUCTION

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an organisation that was come into the effect in November 30, 2015. It is launched by the Heads of the Government of India and France at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris. The headquarter of ISA is National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India. It is an intergovernmental organization with action-oriented towards increase in the deployment of solar energy technologies. With collaborative platform, ISA is projected by it's 'Towards 1000' strategies [1, 2]. These strategies are related to achieve the aims of investments of USD 1000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, installation of 1000 GW of solar energy capacity and mitigate global solar emissions of 1000 million tonnes of CO₂ every year.

The Alliance, which was inaugurated a few days after the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, became a treaty-based inter-governmental international organisation on 6 December 2017, with 61 countries signing the ISA agreement (and 32 of them ratified it so far) [3].

ISA is working under member-driven vision: make the sun brighter, and mission: every home will have a light. There are more than 120 countries as a member are working under ISA Framework Agreement. In order to provide for regular and well-defined cooperation between the alliances, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has been granted as observer Status. ISA headed by the Director General for governance followed by ISA Assembly as an apex decision-making body, Steering Committee for strategic guidance, Secretariat as administrative arm. Among the ISA countries, India is working as one of the leading countries and has been also re-elected for ISA [4, 5].

1. Objectives And Work Function Of ISA

ISA is working with the specific objective such as to develop a mechanism for providing a cost-effective and transformational solar energy solutions to member counties. It is aimed to help member countries for low-carbon growth to the developed as well as developing countries. In this regards several steps were taken by associated counties to achieve the objectives.

a. Responsibilities and Priority Areas

With the objective of efficient utilisation of solar energy, there are various responsibilities and priority areas. These are taken as analytics, advocacy, capacity building, programmatic support and enabling activities. It is enabling for facilitate the capacity of 1000 GW of solar energy globally by 2030. This will add the responsibilities to collect more than

US\$ 1 trillion in investment for the development of solar energy among member countries by 2030 [6-8]. It opens the priority areas for developing the innovative financial mechanisms that resulted in the reduction of cost of solar energy deployment. In order to provide solar energy for all it requires that member countries encourage the research and development of solar energy technologies with a responsibility to establish solar energy as a mainstream source.

b. Projects and Programs

The ambitious project of the ISA is One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG). The OSOWOG is a framework oriented project for facilitating the solar energy with global cooperation and building a global ecosystem. It has the vision named as 'The Sun Never Sets' which is based on geographical location globally [6]. It is an inter-governmental project and have global significance with sharing of economic benefits. This is a technical assistance program under the financial assistance of the World Bank. A centre titled as ISTAR C (ISA Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre) is made for technical training, entrepreneurship, research, innovation and capacity-building. In this contest India has made centre named Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Scheme.

2. Solar Energy Initiatives Of India

As Sun is the source of all energy, it is emphasised by Indian government that world must turn to solar which is the power of our future. The alliance countries of ISA are sunshine countries that is ISA countries are lying in between the two tropics named as Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn receive sunshine for more than 300 days. It is referred that the sun-rich countries are "Suryaputras". The Suryaputra have huge potential to make use of the abundant solar energy as a natural resource. It may fulfil the ISA objective of efficient utilization of solar energy. It will reduce the dependence on non-renewable sources of energy like fossil fuels. In this regard, the Government of India is supporting the ISA by launching the scheme named as Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Scheme. The aim of ITES is to provide a training to master trainers in the field of solar energy [9-11].

3. Indian Technical And Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Scheme

For the achievement of the goal of ISA the Government of India has hunched Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Scheme for providing the programmatic support among the alliance countries. The duration of this programme is 21 days and all costs are bear by the Government of India. In

this scheme 133 representatives from 25 countries were trained at the National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram in year 2018-2019.

4. Challenges Associated With ISA

Although there is various programme, mobilised effort among the various countries to develop a cost-effective and transformational solar energy solutions. However, there is various challenges. There is a lacking of economic plan for availability of solar power grid. There is no accessibility for achieving the goal of energy security. The technology and required funding are one of the major impediments. There may a conflict interests of among the associated countries. It may be debates about various strategies like manufacturing the solar panel and business related to it.

The role of administration for the implementation of any small- or large-scale scheme is very important and plays a vital role. The first motto of the Governments of the member countries should be mobilization of the fund through its proper advertisements along with advantages among the general public. The NGOs, SHGs etc. may be useful for this task. To attract the private manufacturing companies in the participation in this noble cause, the policies may be prepared in more flexible ways to setup the plants. The time for the approval of projects, paper formalities, taxes etc. may also be the major concern for plants.

CONCLUSION

International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an organization driven by member countries and is an action-oriented effort to develop a cost-effective and transformational solar energy. It was come into account on November 30, 2015. ISA is working under the framework of more than 120 countries. It has the object to help the alliance countries for low-carbon growth to the developed as well as developing countries. There is an ambitious project named One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG). The OSOWOG is working for facilitating the solar energy among member countries with aimed for global cooperation and global ecosystem. There is a vision named as 'The Sun Never Sets' that followed by geographical globally. The financial assistance is taken from World Bank. India is playing an important role to fulfil the vision and objective of ISA and has been reelected for it. India has made centre named Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Scheme which is based on the cooperation for technical training, research, innovation and capacity-building.

There is great optimism that the solar alliance would help in pushing 'power for all' into a more realistic realm. Furthermore, the ISA could be greatly beneficial in boosting technology transfer and emphasising the need for greater storage technologies. ISA member countries could also cooperate in developing an integrated electronic mobility ecosystem that is fueled by solar energy. India too would benefit immensely from the Alliance. Not only would it facilitate it in its endeavor to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement, but would also allow it to take a leadership role in the developing world.

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