



## Welcome message – H el ene Pelosse

Dear reader,

2009 has been an exciting year for anyone interested in renewable energy. 2010 promises to be even better!

In January 2009, several nations joined together to establish the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). With a mandate to promote the adoption of renewable energy globally, IRENA has grown to over 135 members – with more expected to join.

Since my appointment as Interim Director-General last summer, my small Secretariat team and I have been busy establishing IRENA's interim headquarters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



H el ene Pelosse

We have also been occupied meeting with major renewable energy stakeholders and consulting extensively with IRENA members. In collaboration with our Member States, we are currently drafting and defining our Work Programme and Budget for 2010.

The Agency's first fully operational year is set to begin, and we look forward to putting our plans in motion.

This newsletter provides you with an overview of IRENA's accomplishments over the last few months, and outlines a number of our goals.

It is clear that the international community recognizes the huge potential for renewable energy. The importance of renewables to the world's 1.6 billion people who do not have access to electricity cannot be understated. Renewables can enhance energy security, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change, and boost the global economy; all of which have a social impact on the communities involved.

Renewables already represent 18 percent of global energy consumption. This number is expected to increase as better technologies are developed, the right legal, economic and social frameworks are put in place and investment increases. The future for renewable energy looks bright indeed.

Sincerely,

H el ene Pelosse  
Interim Director-General of IRENA

## Welcome message – Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber



Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber

Esteemed reader,

With equal pride and pleasure I am honored to inaugurate the first edition of the IRENA newsletter from its selected headquarters, Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

In coming years the world will experience unparalleled global dedication as we collectively strive to ensure a sustainable future.

This year we witnessed the establishment of the international agency fully dedicated to renewable energy. With 138 members, the establishment of IRENA reflects a growing consensus among governments that we must actively commit to the development

and long-term adoption of renewable energy. This dedication, and the global attention we enjoy at this moment is paramount to the success of the industry and more importantly to the success of IRENA in its mandate to ensure that renewable energy technologies are disseminated to both developed and developing nations alike.

The United Arab Emirates is also proud to announce that 2010 will mark the Abu Dhabi Future Energy Week, where for one full week renewable energy thought leaders, industry experts, academics, researchers, NGO's and politicians will meet to discuss the future of renewable energy.

In January 2010, the members of IRENA will sit for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Preparatory Commission Meeting in Abu Dhabi to discuss the Agency's way forward. I believe that through such collective efforts we will succeed in our overall endeavor to ensure a sustainable future for all.

As Chair of the upcoming IRENA meeting, I look forward to welcoming you all to Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates.

Sincerely,

Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber  
Chair of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IRENA Preparatory Commission Meeting



Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

## About IRENA

The International Renewable Energy Agency has a mandate to promote widespread, and increased adoption and use of all forms of renewable energy, produced in a sustainable manner, such as bio energy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind. The Agency currently has 138 members, comprised of 46 from Africa, 36 from Europe – plus the European Union (EU) itself – 32 from Asia, 14 from the Americas, and 9 from Australia/Oceania.

It is IRENA's goal to become the international centre of renewable energy knowledge and a strong, effective voice for renewables. IRENA facilitates cooperation between its members and establishes collaborations with organizations that promote the use of renewable energy. The Agency assists its members obtain relevant renewable energy information, such as statistics, technical data, market data, economic data, renewable resource potential data, and information on best practice policy frame

works and renewable energy roadmaps and scenarios. Based on this knowledge, IRENA will offer policy advice and facilitate technology transfer, finance and capacity building and training in the field of renewable energy in its Member States.

Membership of IRENA is open to states that are part of the United Nations or regional intergovernmental economic integration organizations such as the European Union. Observer status may be granted to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that are active in the renewable energy field.

IRENA was officially established in Bonn, Germany, in January 2009. In the following June, IRENA's members designated Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, as the Agency's interim headquarters and appointed Ms. H  l  ne Pelosse as Interim Director-General.



Map of IRENA's Signatory States  
(as of 12 December 2009)

## Recent activities

IRENA's initial activities in 2009 have focused on the internal build-up of the Secretariat. To get the Agency operational as quickly as possible, IRENA secured office space, established the necessary technical infrastructure, and resourced its operations by inviting seconded staff from Member States. This ensures a truly international effort by IRENA. IRENA is looking forward to expanding its staff in 2010.

Of equal importance is establishing direct contact with stakeholders and creating a global network in order to combine strengths, disseminate information, and participate in global discussions. By working with other experts, IRENA will be able to pool global knowledge on renewables and spread this information in the spirit of international cooperation. →



H el ene Pelosse with Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

H el ene Pelosse with Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC

## Building relationships

As the implementing organ of IRENA, close relationships between the Secretariat and its Member States is of crucial importance to achieving shared goals. The Agency's Interim Director-General, Ms. H el ene Pelosse, has liaised extensively with representatives of IRENA's Member States during the last months. Member States formed a number of working groups to support IRENA in building the internal structure of the Agency. H el ene Pelosse also reached out to non-member countries to inform them about IRENA, its activities and goals.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, expressed strong support for IRENA. During the UN's International Climate Week in New York in September, Mr. Ban and Ms. Pelosse discussed future areas of cooperation between IRENA and various UN bodies, such as education and training, financing, access to energy and potential research studies.

In September, Ms. Pelosse also attended the Steering Committee meeting of REN 21, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century in Delhi, India where REN 21 and IRENA discussed possible fields of cooperation. IRENA also held working meetings with UNIDO as well as the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Vienna, Austria.

Meetings were also held with a number of financing institutions such as the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and business associations such as the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC), the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), the Indian Trade Associations and the REN Alliance. The aim of these meetings was to

establish close relationships with important individuals and institutions in renewable energies.

At a meeting on the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change, Ms. Pelosse introduced IRENA to the science community. Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, offered to assist in establishing cooperation between IRENA and outstanding scientists and research institutions.

## Setting the path for 2010

To brainstorm on IRENA's future activities and to liaise with experts, IRENA hosted a number of workshops on topics that might feature as core activities in the 2010 Work Programme which is currently under discussion by member states.

Collaborating with the Renewables Academy (RENAC) IRENA held a workshop on existing capacity building activities. Several regional and international organizations such as REEEP, UNEP and UNESCO participated in the event which focused on methodologies, best practices, and capacity building needs in different regions. Experts provided IRENA with suggestions on where the Agency could fill gaps and create an added value in the field of capacity building.

High quality information on renewable energy is a basis for assessing the role renewable energy can play in a future energy supply system. In 2010 IRENA plans to take stock of existing global knowledge on this topic. As IRENA wants to ensure that its efforts complement and enhance existing research, the →

Secretariat has brought together experts and held a workshop to plan effective methods to manage all of the information that will be assembled. IRENA invited a group of knowledge management experts to help define its overall strategy in this field. Existing internal and external knowledge management structures in other international organizations were discussed to identify different technical possibilities and database structures. This information will be used to recommend the optimal technical infrastructure needed for IRENA's internal and external knowledge management system.

One of IRENA's goals is to develop a global database on renewable energy potentials. An initial expert meeting on renewable energy potentials and scenarios took place in Paris. Representatives of several intergovernmental organizations like the International Energy Agency (IEA) and laboratories and research institu-

tes including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR), the Technical University Vienna, the Energy Economics Group together with EREC, REN21, and Greenpeace International were invited to exchange ideas. To further refine the idea of a global database, IRENA brought together experts in specific technologies in a second meeting, including representatives from intergovernmental organizations such as the IEA and UNEP and from research centers and laboratories such as NREL, the Umweltbundesamt (UBA), the Institute for Energy Economics (IEE), the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), DLR, Risø DTU, Ecofys, the International Geothermal Association and the Wave Energy Centre. The Secretariat received special guidance from UNEP, which has led a similar project. IRENA will continue its work on the global potentials database in 2010.

## A look ahead to 2010

It is IRENA's goal to promote the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy. To best do this, the Agency plans to strengthen existing relationships with members and other stakeholders and raise its profile on the world stage in 2010.

### Building IRENA's internal resources

One of IRENA's priorities is to hire new staff members from around the world: IRENA is planning to enlarge its staff considerably in 2010 and to achieve full gender equity.

### Enhancing networks with the international community

IRENA will continue to identify potential organizational partners such as Member States, governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, scientific bodies, industry associations and the media. IRENA will strive to identify possible opportunities and means for further collaboration in order to better transfer ideas, strategies and expertise among Member States and stakeholders. In 2010, IRENA's goal is to establish internal and external global communication structures and networks.

*„IRENA shall promote the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy”.* IRENA Statute

### Developing a global knowledge base for renewable energy information

Continuing its 2009 efforts, IRENA will assemble relevant and authoritative renewable energy information and data to further establish its knowledge base. This stock of knowledge will make IRENA a clearinghouse for trusted and current renewable energy data. The collection, generation, and dissemination of renewable energy knowledge will inform all of IRENA's future work.

### Assisting Tonga

A number of islands within the Kingdom of Tonga are lacking basic electricity supply. Tonga has turned towards IRENA to seek advice on tailor-made policies to power its remote islands in a sustainable way. Together with the Kingdom, IRENA has charted out a renewable energy based strategy to power the main and outer islands. Starting with Tonga and subsequently assisting other countries, IRENA will develop its own systematic advisory approaches and methodologies for policy advice in the field of renewable energy. →

## Working with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development

In 2010, IRENA will define ways how to cooperate with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD). The Fund offers USD 50 million annually for projects relating to renewable energy. IRENA will define selection criteria on the basis of which projects will be chosen to benefit from the funds available. After IRENA and the Abu Dhabi Government jointly decided upon governance structures and selection criteria for the fund, the cooperation could be started in the second half of 2010.

## IRENA at COP 15

IRENA will participate in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Ms. Pelosse will introduce the Agency to conference participants. IRENA and the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21), will host a side event on 15 December at 08.00 pm. Along with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the IEA Implementing Agreement on Renewable Energy Technology Development (RETD), the European Renewable Energy Council (EREC) and Greenpeace, IRENA will demonstrate how renewable energy can help meet CO2 reduction targets while securing affordable energy supplies.

## Approving the 2010 Work Programme and developing internal frameworks

On 17 January 2010, all countries that signed IRENA's Statute will gather in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Delegates will discuss and decide upon IRENA's Work Programme and Budget for 2010 and important legal and administrative frameworks shaping the Agency's future work. This meeting will pave the way for IRENA's activities in 2010 and beyond.



Meeting of Member States



IRENA Founding Conference, 26 January 2009

## IRENA's Work Programme for 2010

The IRENA Secretariat is currently drafting the Agency's Work Programme for 2010. This important document outlines IRENA's strategic direction for the coming year.

IRENA plans to spend the next year gathering, analysing and systematizing existing knowledge and information related to global renewable energy. The Agency plans to produce inventories of stakeholders, technologies, policies and financial mechanisms. It also plans to conduct reviews of data and establish databases and start first projects with Member States.

Prior to January 2009 there was no centrally located global knowledge centre for renewable energy. While some Member States have their own internal resources of renewable energy knowledge, many do not. IRENA hopes to make the sharing of information, lessons learned and best practices among members even easier and lay important groundwork for the future.

The 2010 Work Programme is being developed with input from experts in the field of renewable energy and IRENA's members, who have had the opportunity to provide comments and suggest amendments as the document evolved. This work will further establish IRENA as a centre of excellence for renewable energy. IRENA eagerly looks forward to commencing projects and helping the nations of the world take the next step into the renewable energy future.

## IRENA at the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi

From 18 – 21 January 2010, IRENA will participate in the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Participants of this conference and exhibition are invited to visit the booth to talk with IRENA staff. Ms Pelosse will speak at the first Plenary Forum on 18 January on “World Future Energy Policy”.



## Recruitment at IRENA

IRENA is hiring both permanent staff and seconded staff for its Secretariat in Abu Dhabi. IRENA's recruitment policy is to hire people from as wide a geographical basis as possible with a special emphasis on gender balance.

IRENA is currently looking for employees for its support functions (Human Resources, Finance and IT) as well as experts in Renewable Energy from across its main disciplines. The common qualities are the ability to think in an interdisciplinary, integrative fashion and to be able to combine knowledge from several different fields. IRENA needs individuals across

all functions to possess excellent communication skills, a strategic viewpoint and the ability to organize and develop their activities.

IRENA has assessed its manpower requirements for 2010 and is advertising all available positions on the website. Should you wish to submit your CV now, please email [steven.simmonds@irena.org](mailto:steven.simmonds@irena.org) along with a covering letter outlining your motivation and explaining how you can help make a difference.

*“At my nomination as Interim Director-General of IRENA, I made a commitment: I will staff IRENA with 50% women. Some of you might be interested in joining IRENA or are in key positions to identify possible candidates. Help me to make IRENA a diverse, open and active organization to advance the cause of renewable energy worldwide and to empower women: pass this message to your networks. I look forward to hearing from you or meeting you in the future. I am quite confident that we can make it happen – to make IRENA successful by promoting women.”* H el ene Pelosse

### **IRENA Secretariat**

10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chamber of Commerce, Corniche Road  
P.O. Box 236, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
[www.irena.org](http://www.irena.org), [info@irena.org](mailto:info@irena.org)



The offices of the IRENA Secretariat are currently located in the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce. In 2010, the Secretariat will move to another building in Abu Dhabi's Al Khalidiya district. IRENA is looking forward to moving in 2011 to Masdar City, a carbon-neutral, zero-waste city just outside of Abu Dhabi.

## **Imprint**

### **Publisher**

Hélène Pelosse  
Interim Director-General IRENA

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

10th Floor, Chamber of Commerce  
Abu Dhabi Corniche Road  
P.O. Box 236  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

[www.irena.org](http://www.irena.org)

### **For any questions please contact**

[info@irena.org](mailto:info@irena.org)

### **Design**

stoffers/steinicke – Idee/Konzept/Design  
[mail@stoffers-steinicke.de](mailto:mail@stoffers-steinicke.de), [www.stoffers-steinicke.de](http://www.stoffers-steinicke.de)

### **Photographs**

Windmill: BMU / Bernd Müller, Solar park: BMU / Bernd Müller  
Water: BMU / Bernd Müller, Geysir: Xilophon / pixelio, Sugar  
cane field: Robert Brenner / pixelio (p. 1); Hélène Pelosse and  
Ban Ki Moon: UN Photo Paulo Filgueiras (p. 6); Chamber:  
Thomas Imo / photothek.net (p. 6); Photovoltaic Power Plant:  
BMU / Bernd Wenzel (p. 7)

### **Date**

12.12.2009