

International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) held for the first time in Latin America

The 7th biennial IREC opens today in Mexico City, welcoming over 2,500 participants

The Mexico International Renewable Energy Conference (MEXIREC) runs 11-13 September, co-hosted by the Mexican Government through its Energy Ministry (SENER) in Mexico City. The event will showcase how this diversification is occurring, not only in Latin American and the Caribbean but elsewhere in the world.

The design of MEXIREC reflects the importance of a systems approach to energy, where the generation and use of renewable energy is looked at from a cross-cutting perspective.

Notes SENER's Deputy Secretary for Energy Planning and Transition, Leonardo Beltrán, "The conference is reflective of the commitments of the Mexican government to a long-term target of 50% clean energy by 2050. It is our hope that MEXIREC will serve as a catalyst for renewables both in the Latin American and Caribbean region and globally, helping to meet the energy needs for all in a clean, affordable and sustainable manner."

The conference includes sessions on supporting infrastructure such as transmission and distribution networks, supply and demand balancing measures including through efficiency measures, the role of sector coupling and that of enabling technologies.

In parallel, a new report on tenders and community participation will be launched. *Renewable Energy Tenders and Community [Em]power[ment]: Latin America and the Caribbean* explores the status of both tenders and community energy projects in the Latin America region. The report proposes an approach for how best to combine tenders with community involvement and empowerment.

"The socio – economic co-benefits of renewables and the empowerment of marginalised social groups and local communities are important components of ensuring full energy access", says Arthouros Zevos, Chair REN21, and co-organiser of MEXIREC. "It is only by looking at all aspects of energy demand and supply that we can hope to help meet the energy needs for all in a clean, affordable and sustainable manner."

MEXIREC is part of the Strategic Dialogues on the Future of Energy (DEMEX) hosted by the Mexican Government at Expo Santa Fe in Mexico City. MEXIREC is hosted by the Mexican government together with REN21 and with the support of the German government.

- Ends -

About International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC)

MEXIREC builds on the success and outcomes of previous International Renewable Energy Conferences (IREC) and marks the 7th conference in this global series. The IREC is a high-level political conference series hosted by a national government. Previous hosts include: Bonn, Germany (2004), Beijing, China (2005), Washington, USA (2008), Delhi, India (2010), Abu Dhabi, UAE (2013) and SAIREC 2015 (Cape Town/South Africa).

Advance interviews are available.

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