

High Level Event on the Global Geothermal Alliance
1 December 2015
Peru Pavilion of the UNFCCC COP21 Conference Centre in Paris-le Bourget,
France
Concept Note

Background

With energy accounting for over two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions, action to decarbonise energy systems has become imperative to achieve the two-degree goal.

Identified in nearly 90 countries, geothermal energy can provide reliable, affordable electrical power in addition to direct heat. This proven clean energy technology offers stable base-load supply, as well as flexibility when needed. Direct geothermal heat can also serve multiple needs in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Geothermal energy contributes to grid resilience and adaptability to changing climate while providing cost-effective and efficient climate mitigation solutions using existing infrastructure in a more efficient way.

Despite being a mature technology, geothermal energy is still largely untapped. Indeed, while a wider adoption of geothermal energy is constrained by investments risks, policy uncertainty, shortage of skilled professionals, environmental concerns, and licensing delays, the main obstacle remains the high upfront costs of surface geophysical studies and drilling required to explore geothermal resources and assess their magnitude.

The Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) brings together partners with the aim to increase the share of geothermal energy in the world's energy mix through both power generation and direct heat. Collaborative action is essential to overcome the barriers to accelerated geothermal development. The Alliance calls on governments, industry and other stakeholders to support efforts towards achieving the deployment of realisable geothermal energy potential through a fivefold growth in the global installed capacity of geothermal power generation and more than two-fold growth in geothermal heating by 2030, as shown by the IRENA REmap 2030 analysis.

As a global platform for improved dialogue, cooperation and coordination, the Alliance builds upon an accurate understanding of the investment risks associated with geothermal energy. Through tailor-made finance and de-risking tools, customised support to regions and countries with geothermal market potential, and the exchange of insights and experience among key stakeholders in the geothermal energy value chain, the Alliance aims to foster an enabling environment to attract investments.

Objectives

The main objective of the panel presentations is to demonstrate the important role of geothermal energy as one of the tangible clean energy solutions for climate change mitigation while promoting the joint global action of leading geothermal countries and partners through the Geothermal Global Alliance. It will lay the groundwork for the launch of the Global Geothermal Alliance (GGA) on 7 December during COP21.

In the spirit of the "Agenda of Solutions", which is set to foster action in the lead up to COP21 and beyond, the launch of the Global Geothermal Alliance will forge a joint global action by all geothermal stakeholders towards an accelerated deployment of geothermal energy.

Some of the key issues to be discussed include:

- I. What policies and measures can be undertaken by GGA Members and Partners to strengthen the enabling environment for geothermal energy?

- II. Given the high risk profile of geothermal investments, what is needed to mobilise and scale-up finance from all sources?
- III. What kind of technology development and capacity building support are needed to contribute to the deployment of geothermal technologies?
- IV. How can the GGA help promote good practices, the exchange of experiences, initiatives and success stories in addressing climate change challenges?

Target audience

High-level representatives of the GGA member countries and partner institutions, all IRENA members, International Organisations, International Financial Institutions, etc. (up to 50 participants)

Date, Venue and Language

The high level event on the Global Geothermal Alliance will be held on 1 December 2015 from 8:45 to 10:00 at the Peru Pavilion of the UNFCCC COP21 Conference Centre in Paris, France in Paris-le Bourget. Registrations will start at 8:30. The discussions will take place in the English Language.

Draft Agenda (8:30 to 10:00)

1. Registration of Participants (8:30 to 8:45)
2. Welcome Remarks (8:45 to 9:05)
 - Mr. Adnan Amin, Director General, IRENA
 - H.E. Segolene Royal, Minister of Ecology, Republic of France
 - [Minister to be announced], Kenya*
 - H.E. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iceland
3. Establishing the Global Geothermal Alliance: The Value of Forming a Global Partnership for Geothermal Energy (9:05 to 9:20)
 - Mr. Rida Mulyana, Director General for New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia
 - Mrs. Melanie Nakagawa, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of State, US Department of State, USA*
 - Mr. Christian Boissavy, Board member, European Geothermal Energy Council
4. Concrete initiatives in GGA member countries (9:20 to 9:30)
 - Mr. Kurt Lonsway, Director, Division Environment and Climate Change, African Development Bank
 - Mrs. Sylvie Goyet, Director of Climate Change and Environment, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
5. Discussion with participants (9:30 to 9:45)
6. Family Photo (5 minutes)
7. Coffee and Networking

For more information please contact:

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¹ * Pending confirmation