

The 21st Century Power Partnership is a multilateral effort of the Clean Energy Ministerial and serves as a platform for public-private collaboration to advance integrated policy, regulatory, financial, and technical solutions for the large-scale deployment of renewable energy in combination with deep energy efficiency and smart grid solutions.

NEWS AND EVENTS

South Africa Moves Forward on Distributed Generation PV

The 21st Century Power Partnership (21CPP) is organizing a public forum March 24–25 in Johannesburg to discuss international experiences and lessons in sustainable PV integration and to facilitate an exchange of stakeholder viewpoints regarding the technical, regulatory, and institutional implications of solar PV for South African consumers, developers, utilities, and others.

In December, 21CPP facilitated a multi-country review of the National Energy Regulator of South Africa's discussion paper on a proposed regulatory framework for rooftop solar. 21CPP is now developing a curated library of resources on a range of distributed generation regulatory topics for 21CPP members.

In February, 21CPP completed a review of Eskom's capacity adequacy assessment methodology and provided suggestions for model and process enhancement.

Mexico Advances Smart Grid Implementation

International experts recently developed a regulatory smart grid roadmap for Mexico, resulting in 91 recommendations. In February, 21CPP held a workshop with various experts to help Mexico discuss, organize, and prioritize the recommendations and establish public policy for implementation. A report recommending next steps will be presented to the Government of Mexico (GOM) in March.

The GOM Steering Group for the 21CPP program in Mexico held a meeting in February to confirm objectives for the 2015-16 Work Plan. The Steering Group is chaired by Mexico's Ministry of Energy and includes representation from the Ministries of Finance and Economy, all GOM energy organizations, and various renewable energy associations and research institutions, including Germany's GIZ and the Danish Energy Agency.

21CPP is beginning analytical work in Mexico to develop a power sector transformation roadmap for the state of Baja California Sur.

On March 18–19, 21CPP will hold a workshop in Mexico on the implementation of a distributed solar PV program.

India RE Roadmap Unveiled

21CPP participated in the development and review of a renewable energy roadmap, commissioned by the Government of India (GOI) and produced by the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Shakti Foundation, and the Regulatory Assistance Project. It was endorsed by the Minister of State at the RE-Invest conference in February 2015.

21CPP is actively engaged with the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and other key GOI stakeholders on strategies to achieve an ambitious 170 GW renewable energy target by 2022 and to address challenges of grid integration and system operations. This will include hosting a 21CPP Fellow at U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories to advance joint work on these topics, with a focus on joint development of modeling datasets for a 21CPP Indian national grid integration study in 2015–16.

At India Smart Grid Week in March, 21CPP will present a paper on PV tariff design best practices.

21CPP Announces Fellowship Program

21CPP is launching a Fellowship Program in 2015. The program provides opportunities for Fellows to gain, or deliver, experience in best practices in power system planning, operations, power markets, and the application of tools and methods for analysis and decision-making. The program enables Fellows to observe, train, and work on real world projects with Host Organizations. Information about the program can be found at 21stcenturypower.org/fellowship.cfm.

21CPP Thought Leadership Paper Released: Power Systems of the Future

This new report summarizes key forces driving transformation in the power sector around the world, presents a framework for evaluating decisions regarding the extent and pace of change, and defines pathways for transformation. Many 21CPP members contributed as authors and reviewers. Find this report and other 21CPP publications at 21stcenturypower.org/publications.cfm.

21CPP Hosts Country Delegations at UVIG Workshop

21CPP hosted delegations from India, South Africa, and Mexico at the Utility Variable-Generation Integration Group's (UVIG's) Fall Technical Workshop in San Antonio, Texas last October. In addition to the workshop, delegates visited Austin, Texas to tour the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the Pecan Street Smart Grid Testbed. Delegates had opportunity to discuss energy issues they each face and how they can learn from each other's experiences.



ERCOT Control Room. Photo courtesy of ERCOT

Power System Transformation Status Report Scheduled for CEM6 Release

This status report will closely examine emerging best practices in regulation, business models, finance, and power system operations through case studies and other examples of global progress toward power system transformation. By drawing upon real-world emerging experiences, 21CPP hopes to illuminate the early stages of this transformation and provide common frameworks for understanding the breadth of the power system shift. Contact 21stcenturypower@nrel.gov for more information or to contribute to this publication.

CEM6 Scheduled for May 27-28, 2015

The 6th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM6) will be held May 27–28 and co-located with the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) ministerial in Mérida, Mexico. 21CPP will provide background materials for two of the six CEM6 roundtables: Sustainable Urban Energy Systems and Power System Transformation and the Smart Utility of the Future. More information is available at cleanenergyministerial.org/Events/CEM6.

21CPP is planning two side events for CEM6—one held in partnership with ECPA to discuss strategies and resources to support power system transformation in Latin America, and a second for 21CPP members to discuss the 21CPP plan of work.

REQUEST FOR INPUT

We ask all Power Partnership partners for suggestions on priority areas for Power Partnership research, peer-to-peer consultation, and events. Please share ideas with 21CPP staff.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and its affiliated Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis (JISEA) together are the inaugural operating agent of the Power Partnership.

Clean Energy Ministerial, www.cleanenergyministerial.org

Regulatory Assistance Project, www.raonline.org

International Smart Grid Action Network, www.iea-isgan.org

Global Green Growth Institute, www.3gi.org

Clean Energy Solutions Center, www.cleanenergysolutions.org

Leonardo Energy www.leonardo-energy.org

Contact the 21st Century Power Partnership at 21stCenturyPower@NREL.gov