

## PRESS RELEASE

**EMBARGOED for release at 00:01 GMT 12 July 2011**

*The report **Renewables 2011 Global Status Report** will be launched on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011.*

*The report in full can be previewed at*

<http://www.ren21.net/REN21Activities/Publications/GlobalStatusReport/GSR2011/tabid/56142/Default.aspx>

user name: press

password: press2011

# Continued Global Growth of Renewable Energy in 2010

**Renewable energy supplied an estimated 16% of global final energy consumption**

**Solar PV more than doubled thanks to declining costs**

**Global Investments in Renewables Up Over 30% to a Record \$211 billion**

**Emerging and Developing Economies Increase Share of Policies, Investment, Supply and Use**

**REN21 launches Renewables Interactive Map**

**Paris, 12 July 2011:** The *REN21 Renewables 2011 Global Status Report* released today shows that the renewable energy sector continues to perform well despite continuing economic recession, incentive cuts, and low natural-gas prices.

In 2010, renewable energy supplied an estimated 16% of global final energy consumption and delivered close to 20% of global electricity production. Renewable capacity now comprises about a quarter of total global power-generating capacity. Including all hydropower (estimated 30 GW added in 2010), RE accounted for approximately 50% of total added power generating capacity in 2010.

In 2010, existing solar water and space heating capacity increased by an estimated 25 gigawatts-thermal (GWth), or about 16%.

The report was commissioned by REN21 and produced in collaboration with a global network of research partners. ([www.ren21.net](http://www.ren21.net)).

“The global performance of renewable energy despite headwinds has been a positive constant in turbulent times”, says Mohamed El-Ashry, Chairman of REN21’s Steering Committee. “Today, more people than ever before derive energy from renewables as capacity continues to grow, prices continue to fall, and shares of global energy from renewable energy continue to increase.”

Global solar PV production and markets more than doubled in comparison with 2009, thanks to government incentive programmes and the continued fall in PV module prices.

Germany installed more PV in 2010 than the entire world added in 2009. PV markets in Japan and the U.S. almost doubled relative to 2009.

Globally, wind power added the most new capacity (followed by hydropower and solar PV), but for the first time ever, Europe added more PV than wind capacity.

Renewable energy policies continue to be the main driver behind renewable energy growth. By early 2011, at least 119 countries had some type of policy target or renewable support policy at the national level, more than doubling from 55 countries in early 2005. More than half of these countries are in the developing world.

At least 95 countries now have some type of policy to support renewable power generation. Of all the policies employed by governments, feed-in tariffs remain the most common.

Last year, investment reached a record \$211 billion in renewables -- about one-third more than the \$160 billion invested in 2009, and more than five times the amount invested in 2004.

Money invested in renewable energy companies, and in utility-scale generation and biofuel projects increased to \$143 billion, with developing countries surpassing developed economies for the first time, as shown in the GSR’s recently released companion report, UNEP *Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2011*. China attracted \$48.5 billion, or more than a third of the global total, but other developing countries also experienced major developments in terms of policies, investments, market trends, and manufacturing.

Beyond Asia, significant advances are also seen in many Latin American countries, and at least 20 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa have active renewable energy markets, the report says.

Developed countries still led the way in investment in small-scale power projects and R&D during 2010. Germany, Italy and the US were the top three.

“The increased renewable energy activity in developing countries highlighted in this year’s report is very encouraging, since most of the future growth in energy demand is expected to occur in developing countries,” says Mohamed El-Ashry, Chairman of REN21’s Steering Committee.

“More and more of the world’s people are gaining access to energy services through renewables, not only to meet their basic needs, but also to enable them to develop economically”, says El-Ashry. Renewable energy in even the most remote areas is ensuring that more of the world’s people are gaining access to basic energy services, including lighting and communications, cooking, heating and cooling, and water pumping, while also generating economic growth through services such as motive power.

## **Further highlights from the Report:**

- Renewable capacity now comprises about a quarter of total global power-generating capacity and supplies close to 20% of global electricity, with most of this provided by hydropower.
- Developing countries (collectively) have more than half of global renewable energy power.
- Solar PV capacity was added in more than 100 countries.
- The top five countries for non-hydro renewable power capacity were the United States, China, Germany, Spain, and India.
- In the United States, renewables accounted for about 10.9% of U.S. domestic primary energy production (compared with nuclear's 11.3%), an increase of 5.6% over 2009.
- In the United States, 30 states (plus Washington, D.C.) have Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).
- China led the world in the installation of wind turbines and solar thermal systems and was the top hydropower producer in 2010. The country added an estimated 29 GW of grid-connected renewable capacity, for a total of 252 GW, an increase of 13% compared with 2009.
- Renewables accounted for about 26% of China's total installed electric capacity in 2010, 18% of generation, and more than 9% of final energy supply.
- Brazil produces virtually all of the world's sugar-derived ethanol, and has been adding new hydropower, biomass and wind power plants, as well as solar heating systems.
- In the European Union, renewables represented an estimated 41% of newly installed electric capacity. While this share was significantly lower than the more than 60% of new capacity in 2009, more renewable power capacity was added in Europe than ever before.
- The EU exceeded its 2010 targets for wind, solar PV, concentrating solar thermal power, and heating/heat pumps. Countries including Finland, Germany, Spain, and Taiwan raised their targets, and South Africa, Guatemala, and India, among others, introduced new ones.
- Developing countries, which now represent more than half of all countries with policy targets and half of all countries with renewable support policies, are playing an increasingly important role in advancing renewable energy.

REN21 is also launching its Renewables Interactive Map - a streamlined tool for gathering and sharing information online about developments related to renewable energy. [www.map.ren21.net](http://www.map.ren21.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Contact: Alexandra Parvulescu, [alexandra.parvulescu@ren21.net](mailto:alexandra.parvulescu@ren21.net), Tel +33 1 4437 5091**

**ABOUT REN21:** REN21 is the global renewable energy policy network that provides a forum for international leadership on renewable energy. Its goal is to bolster policy development for the rapid expansion of renewable energies in developing and industrialised economies. REN21 Secretariat is supported by both The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and The Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

REN21's Renewables Global Status Report (GSR) comprehensively captures the full status of renewable energy worldwide. The report involves the amalgamation of thousands of data points, hundreds of reports and other documents, and personal communications with experts from around the world. The report has become a collaborative effort among several authors, REN21 Secretariat staff and Steering Committee members, regional research partners, and more than 100 individual contributors and reviewers.

REN21's Renewables Interactive Map - a streamlined tool for gathering and sharing information online about developments related to renewable energy. [www.map.ren21.net](http://www.map.ren21.net).