



Energy policy to promote photovoltaic generation

S.M. Moosavian*, N.A. Rahim, J. Selvaraj, K.H. Solangi

UM Power Energy Dedicated Advanced Center (UMPEDAC), Level 4, Wisma R&D University of Malaya, Jalan Pantai Baharu, 59990 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Supplying present and future energy demand without adding to climate change is one of the most pressing problems today. Renewable energy is a potentially huge solution, for which governments are creating policies to encourage its harness and use. The dominance of photovoltaic (PV) among renewable energy technologies is owed mostly to its noiselessness, non-toxic emission, and relatively simple operation and maintenance. This study reviews the policies existing and in the making in seven leading countries that actively champion use of PV.

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Contents

1. Introduction	45
2. Solar energy on the world	45
3. Review on solar energy policies for selected countries	46
3.1. Australia	46
3.2. Canada	48
3.3. China	50
3.3.1. Photovoltaic development	50
3.3.2. Solar energy policies	50
3.4. Japan	51
3.4.1. Program to purchase surplus PV power	52
3.4.2. Highlights and prospects	52
3.5. France	53
3.5.1. Outlook	53
3.5.2. Feed-in tariffs (FIT)	53
3.5.3. Incentive	53
3.5.4. Generating capacity	54
3.6. Germany	54
3.7. USA	55
3.7.1. Grid-connected PV	56

Abbreviations: AUD, Australian Dollar; BIPV, building integrated PV systems; BMU, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature conservation and Nuclear; CAD, Canadian Dollar; CSH, concentrating solar high-temperature heat; CSP, concentrating solar power; DG, distributed generation; DOE, Department Of Energy; FIT, feed-in tariff; FY, Fiscal year; GDP, gross domestic product; GHG, green house gas; GWh, gigawatt-hour; IEA, International Energy Agency; ITC, Investment Tax Credit; JPEA, Japan Photovoltaic Energy Association; kWh, kilowatt-hour; LRET, large scale renewable energy target; MAFF, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan; METI, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry; MEXT, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; MoE, Ministry of the Environment; MPPT, Maximum Power Point Tracking; MWh, megawatt-hour; NSSP, National Solar Schools Program; OPA, Ontario Power Authority; PGEP, photovoltaic generating electric power; PV, photovoltaic; PVPS, photovoltaic power system programme; REC, renewable energy certificate; RES, renewable energy source; RET, renewable energy target; RPS, renewable portfolio standard; REL, renewable energy law; SER, Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables; SETP, solar energy technologies program; SHCP, solar homes and communities plan; SPV, solar photovoltaic; SRES, small-scale renewable energy scheme

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +60 176127815; fax: +60 322463257.

E-mail addresses: sm.moosavian@ieee.org, sm.moosavian@gmail.com (S.M. Moosavian).