

During the opening of a regional energy workshop

**H.E. Zawati: Renewable energy is a national priority and the decision to stop receiving applications is temporary**



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The Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Engineer Hala Zwati said that the decision of the Council of Ministers to stop receiving requests for investment in renewable energy projects **is a temporary decision until the issuance of the national strategy for the energy sector expected in the first half of this year** and the comprehensive plan of the National Electricity Company, stressing that the renewable energy sector will remain an important national choice and a priority within the national strategy.

This came during the opening of the regional (**MENA-SELECT**) workshop on energy held by the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Jordan in cooperation with the German Agency for International Development (**GIZ**).

She added that the decision of the Council of Ministers aims to provide the opportunity to regulate the sector and stop randomness in the projects and set them in a comprehensive plan includes the obstetric capacity needed by the Kingdom and the time until 2030, noting that government land will be available for leasing for the purposes of renewable energy investment in parallel with the preparation of infrastructure for renewable energy projects by strengthening the national network and linking with neighboring Arab countries and adopting energy storage projects.

Minister Zwati welcomed during the opening ceremony of the workshop, which aims to study the most important scenarios and possible paths for the future of the electricity sector in Jordan until 2050 and update its plans and related programs to international companies interested in exploring oil and gas in the areas of Sarhan, Dead Sea, Northern Highlands, And West Safawi).

Four companies are working on the exploitation of shale, which is now in the financing stage and aims to produce 25,000 barrels per day of refined products (gasoline and diesel)," she said. The government is intensifying efforts to boost the productivity of Hamza and Risha fields , by working to double the production of the field next year is expected to provide this plan if successful about 5% of the gas consumed in the Kingdom.

In her speech, she said that Jordan imported about 94 percent of its energy needs in 2017 at a total cost of 2.34 billion dinars, which is about 8.5 percent of GDP.

The ministry is in the process of updating the national energy strategy to 2030, including short- and medium-term objectives, focusing on four axes: security and independence of energy, diversification of resources and reduction of energy costs.

The workshop is a free platform for constructive dialogue aimed at exchanging scientific knowledge and practical experience to take advantage of modern technological experiments and techniques to deal with the problems facing the electricity sector in Jordan in an attempt to find radical solutions in light of future economic, social and environmental challenges. Energy, water, food and vital systems.

The workshop, which was attended by scientists and researchers specializing in all fields of energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency in the desert areas of the public and private sectors in the following countries: Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as Jordan, discusses the economic and social impact and opportunities for electricity generation scenarios in Jordan , And the need to find different alternatives to generate electricity such as shale and renewable energy.

The Secretary General of the Water Authority, Eng. Iyad Aldhayat addressed the most important challenges facing the water sector, including the high cost of electricity bill on the water sector, pointing out that there should be a link between energy and water, especially that Jordan is going in the coming years to focus on the desalination mechanism which in terms requires large amounts of energy to pump water, which requires exploring the possibility of using water in the subject of energy storage.

The Vice President of the University of Jordan praised the role of the University of Jordan in hosting such projects aimed at serving the community and addressing its problems, pointing out its constructive cooperation with many European universities in a number of projects supported by The European Union and its leadership in this area.

Majdouba explained that this specialized workshop was one of the recommendations of the Sixth World Conference on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Desert Areas organized by the University of Jordan in April last year under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hamza Bin Al Hussein.

The Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the workshop and its coordinator, Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh, stressed the importance of holding such a workshop, under which a large group of academics, researchers and specialists in the electricity sector will gather in Jordan and abroad to come up with effective proposals and recommendations adopted by decision-makers to contribute in updating the

energy strategy, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources from 2019 to 2030, which will positively affect investments in Jordan and the neighboring region and contribute to solving the problem of energy in Jordan.

The workshop, held in partnership with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the University of Flensburg, Germany, and the Wuppertal Institute, Germany, universities and research institutions in Jordan and North African countries such as Morocco and Tunisia. The two-day workshop will be dedicated to discuss the challenges of energy in the water sector, Energy storage by pumping water to certain heights and using it to generate electricity when needed, in addition to presenting a number of projects related to renewable energy in the water sector, and will open a wide dialogue between different sectors and governmental and private institutions to achieve a comprehensive vision for the sector.