

The closing of the regional workshop

Proposals to derive potential scenarios for the future of electricity in Jordan



The Regional Energy Workshop held by the School of Engineering at the University of Jordan in the Dead Sea area concluded to compromised solutions following the discussion of the MENA SELECT project, which is interested in studying the participation of electricity generation technology in community in supporting the region, Middle East and North Africa, and the advancement of renewable energy technologies, to derive potential scenarios for the future of electricity in Jordan until 2050.

The discussion of the Mena Select project contributed to better understanding of the complex relationships between the various power tracks and sustainable development in three selected countries in the MENA region - Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia - to come up with effective proposals and recommendations adopted by decision-makers to contribute to the development of the energy strategy in Jordan, which is developed according to economic, technical, social and environmental standards, taking into account the challenges and opportunities facing the energy and electricity sector in the coming years.

According to the final statement of the workshop, which was held in cooperation with the German Agency for International Development (GIZ) and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

(IIASA); the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) should address the energy policy needs as well as address the challenges of economic and social development and climate change at the same time. The statement stressed that a key requirement to overcome these challenges is the deployment of new electricity infrastructure.

The statement clarified that most countries in the Middle East and North Africa stand at the crossroads of current electricity policies that support traditional fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil, including oil shale, but renewable energy and nuclear energy often require discussion by stakeholders to come up with useful proposals for their countries and serves the energy sector, which requires holding a series of meetings for dialogue and consultation in this regard.

Despite the many studies that were conducted in energy, there is no certainty on to how the investments in different electricity development can interact with social, economic, political and environmental dimensions at multiple levels.

In addition, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the workshop and its coordinator Prof. Ahmed Al-Salaymeh said in a press statement: "The participants in the workshop were researchers and specialists in the fields of energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency in the desert regions of Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Morocco, Tunisia, As well as representatives from academia, industry, civil society, public authorities and research centers, to exchange views and provide appropriate solutions on many issues related to the challenges of energy transformation in Jordan and the mechanism and potential for international co-operation for participatory management Energy.

During the workshop, together with the results of the Mena Select project, the GIZ project on the energy-water nexus was discussed.

Participants put forward a variety of views on the necessary standards for energy conversion such as local energy use, on-site job creation, integration of the local value chain, transfer of technology and knowledge, electricity generation costs, global warming potentials, pressure on water resources, pressure on land resources, local air pollution and health and safety.

According to Prof. Al- Salaymeh and Dr. Nadejda Komendantova, the concerns about energy security is dominated for the energy transfer, such as electricity costs and electricity generation safety. The participation of stakeholder revealed that solar generation was one of the most preferred techniques and that modeling software was useful for developing the possible alternatives for the energy resources mix for electricity generation in the future.

The workshop, which was inaugurated under the patronage of the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Eng. Hala Al-Zawati, lasted for two days. The main topics related to the human factors of energy conversion such as the social acceptance of various electricity generation technologies, the desire to use different technologies and participate in energy transformation, views around the world and perceptions of risk across different groups of stakeholders and the need for a political solution in energy.