
Editorial

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The transformation of current energy systems to those which are sustainable is currently a major challenge facing all stakeholders in energy systems. Renewable energy sources and associated technology research will play a major role in this process. However, these research activities will be successful only if the technologies are competitive in the marketplace and are accepted by all. Regarding both of these features it is important that accompanying policies are triggered. Hence, linking research on technological subjects with corresponding recommendations for policy strategies is crucial for a broader dissemination of new research findings.

We would like to stress that whilst most OECD countries can learn from the many successful promotion policies for renewables that have been implemented, developing and emerging countries have less experience in linking policy recommendations to specific results of technology research.

This special issue of *IJETP* on 'Policy considerations for renewable energy in developing countries' focuses on research work which is dedicated to this subject with special focus on developing countries. The papers represent the best contributions of the 4th International Renewable Energy Congress (IREC) 2012 in Sousse. These papers were

selected by a double-blind peer review process. Note, that these papers constitute an updated and extended version of the papers submitted to the IREC 2012 Conference.

The range of the papers goes from technology transfer to in-depth chemical analysis. The paper by Carvalho et al. discusses mechanisms of technology transfer of an information technology centre for the Southwest region of Parana in Brazil. In the paper by Abbas et al., the techno economic performances of a dry cooling solar power tower plant under Algerian climate is analysed. Taieb and Brahim document chemistry and mineralogy studies of PM₁₀ atmospheric aerosols in the Gulf of Gabès, South Tunisia.

An evaluation of the performance of a condensation-irrigation solar system under arid climate conditions is presented by Chouaib and Chaibi. Finally, Kammoun et al. present a fuzzy maximum power extraction control system for a photovoltaic water pumping system.