



Renewable Electricity Markets & Policies An IEA Perspective

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METI Sub-Committee, Tokyo, 10 June 2019



Solar PV and wind expanding very fast in the next five years





Notes: Utility-Scale PV: more than 1MW, Distributed PV: less than 1MW but the data also takes into account country definitions due to availability of information and may include projects larger than 1 MW under the distributed PV category. For instance, China's definition of distributed PV may include projects up to 5 MW but these are connected to the distribution grid.

Distributed generation capacity growth makes the difference in solar PV's leadership Cumulative PV capacity could reach 1.1 TW and wind over 0.9 TW by 2023 under the accelerated case

Renewable electricity status and forecast



Cumulative installed renewable power capacity in selected countries, 2017 & forecast 2023



Japan is #6 worldwide in terms of cumulative installed renewable power capacity; #3 for solar PV

Renewable investment costs are relatively high in Japan





Investment cost of onshore wind and solar PV by technology

Both country-specific conditions and policy design influence the cost of wind and solar PV

History of FIT schemes in Europe





European countries repeatedly faced major challenges in controlling deployment and total subsidies, ultimately leading to boom and bust cycles, which are detrimental to the industry

Competition accelerating cost reductions





Notes: For countries all over the world

Almost 60% of renewable capacity additions over 2018-23 remunerated by competitive auctions; announced contract prices need to be verified as project delivery schedules and final costs may differ

Auction design matters to achieve competitive prices





Utility-scale PV auction prices and global average LCOE by commissioning date

Notes: For countries without fixed commissioning date, 2 years was assumed. Japan prices reflect high and low winning bids

Auctions can provide certainty on prices giving long-term visibility to developers. They also allow governments to control volumes and total policy costs

Transferring risk





System integration: different phases



Specific power system regions can be at higher VRE integration phases due to limited interconnection and VRE penetration. This can require market reforms to meet increased flexibility requirements

Flexibility requirements depend on a combination of factors



	Denmark	Hokkaido	Ireland	Kyushu
VRE Share	63%	8%	29%	11%
Area (1000*km2)	42.9	83.4	84.4	36.7
Peak electricity demand (GW)	5.8	5.3	4.9	15.9
Total electricity demand (TWh)	31.7	30.6	28.2	87.8
Interconnector capacity	8 GW combined AC and HVDC	900 MW HVDC	420 MW	2.78 GW AC
Population (million)	5.75	5.28	4.78	12.97

The challenges faced by specific subsystems will vary according to the flexibility resources available. Even at low VRE shares, integration can require policy and regulatory innovation.

Flexibility requirements depend on phase





A comprehensive approach to system flexibility covers not only technical aspects, but also policy, market and regulatory frameworks, as well as institutional arrangements.

System-friendly renewables policies



Action area



Integrated planning: wind and solar embedded in energy strategy

capacity and/or load centers



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Policy example



Mexico: auctions reflect timeand location- value of electricity



Technology mix: balanced mix of VRE resources can foster lasting synergies



Optimising generation time profile: design of wind and solar plants

Location: siting VRE closer to existing network



Resource Plan California: incentive to

produce at peak times

South Africa: Integrated

24/7

System services: wind and sun contribute to balance system



Spain: wind active on balancing market



Local integration with other resources such as demand-side response, storage



Australia: incentives for self-consumption

Example of European balancing markets



The design of automated Frequency Restoration Reserves (aFRR or 'secondary reserves'), situation end of 2017



aFRR can be procured often on a per-hour basis to make use of high RES infeed times.



Bid can often be made only for downward reserves which is more advantageous for wind and solar.

European balancing markets are often technology-neutral. To attract VRE sources the market design needs to ensure it is feasible and attractive for these sources to participate. Similar considerations apply for attracting demand flexibility.

Pro-active communication on system hosting capacities



(Example: Vito, Belgian voluntary study on hosting capacity for PV on substation level)

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Renewable Auction Mechanism (RAM) Program Map Help | ContactUs | Log Out



(Example: PG&E Distribution Resource Plan in line with CPUC code)

Also in liberalized energy markets, there is value in having an integrated planning exercise to understand system limits, guide investment plans and create incentives for VRE connection in suitable locations.

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High retail prices are a driver for self-consumption





Potential of self-consumption critically depends on the match between PV supply and load demand, which can strongly vary across countries, type of end-uses and remuneration schemes

Sector Coupling addresses wider energy system decarbonisation

- Sector coupling efforts have the potential to enroll new flexible loads at scale to enhance power system flexibility.
- As all energy sectors are impacted there is a need for coordination of economic policies beyond the power system.
- Interlinkage of taxes and tariffs between various sectors of electricity, fuels, gas and bioenergy should not become barriers for wider system decarbonization



A new Clean Energy Ministerial horizontal accelerator focused on sector coupling will be considered in 2019 to broaden understanding and share experiences of this trend.





Efficient operation of the power system	 Ensuring least-cost dispatch Trading close to real time Market integrations over large regional areas 		
Unlocking flexibility from all resources	Upgrade planning and system service marketsGeneration, grid, demand-side integration and storage		
Security of electricity supply	Improve pricing during scarcity/capacity shortagePossibly capacity mechanism as safety-net		
Sufficient investment in clean generation capacity	Sufficient investment certaintyCompetitive procurement (with long-term contracts)		
Pricing of externalities	• Reflecting the full cost (i.e. environmental impacts)		



- Increase competition and complete transition from FITs to auctions (except for smallscale installations)
- Aim at deploying a larger portfolio of renewables, including wind off-shore, bioenergy, geothermal
- Make renewables responsible for balancing and allow them to participate in ancillary service markets
- Implement integrated planning and provide information on system-readiness to integrate renewables
- Foster distributed energy resources, self-consumption and distributed flexibility
- Plan in advance coherent sector-coupling, including looking at tariffs and taxation