



## IORA UPDATE

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Energy is an important source for economic opportunities. However, during the past century, energy has mainly been harnessed through the exploitation of fossil fuels and natural gas. As a result, the extensive exploitation of fossil fuels is now causing serious climatic damage such as air pollution as well as land and ocean pollution through the emission of carbon dioxide and other volatile pollutants in our natural environment. With the rising attention to Climate Change, it is now high time for the global population to shift from using fossil fuels to renewable energy resources for a sustainable future of humanity.

According to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), around 80% of the world's energy could be generated by renewable energy resources. The Indian Ocean is the world's third largest ocean and is host to approximately one-third of the world's population connecting Africa, the Middle-East, Asia and Australia. The Indian Ocean Rim region, representing approximately 15% of global energy demand, is rapidly emerging as a cost-competitive market for renewable energy. However, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable energy data in this region is very limited.

In this regard, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in collaboration with IRENA is organizing a technical working session on 20 January 2016 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with the objective to develop an IORA/IRENA Action Plan on Renewable Energy for the Indian Ocean Rim region. The proposed working session would also consider follow-up of the "First Meeting of the Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum of the IORA" which was hosted on 21 January 2014 by the United Arab Emirates and where the Abu Dhabi Declaration was announced in collaboration with IRENA. This meeting would also address potential future areas of cooperation on renewable energy between IORA and IRENA, as well as to consider the scheduling of a "Second IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Conference" in 2016.

This meeting will also encourage Member States to consider implementing the outcomes of the "First Meeting of the Renewable Energy Ministerial Forum of the IORA" and will reiterate the use of Renewable Energy as an alternative to fossil fuels and natural gas within the Indian Ocean region through the acquisition of knowledge and expertise on the applications of renewable energy.

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