

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ISA REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

15 - 17 JULY 2025 | COLOMBO, SRI LANKA



Partnering for Progress: Integrated Institutional Strengthening in Action

17 July 2025, 10:30 -12:00 hours

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Registration link: https://isa.int/rcm_apac

CONCEPT

The global energy transition is no longer just about megawatts—it's about **skills, institutions, and systems** that can sustain long-term solar growth in a rapidly changing world. In this context, the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is taking a bold and future-facing step toward **redefining international cooperation** in solar deployment.

From its origins as a mission-driven platform to accelerate solar uptake, ISA is now transitioning toward a **new model of engagement**—one that emphasizes **facilitation, regional leadership, and institutional co-creation**. Instead of acting as a direct implementer, ISA will now **empower Member Countries and national institutions** to lead the solar transformation, with ISA serving as a backbone for technical guidance, policy coherence, and programmatic support.

At the heart of this shift is the **STAR-C (Solar Technology Application Resource Centres)** Programme—ISA's flagship initiative for **institutional capacity building**. Originally designed as national solar training centres, STAR-Cs are now being reimagined as **regional hubs of excellence** that bring together governments, academia, industry, and communities to (i) train the next generation of solar professionals, (ii) promote research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, (iii) serve as coordination platforms for ISA-supported initiatives and technical assistance. This evolution is not just about training—it's about creating **resilient, adaptive ecosystems** for solar knowledge, skills, and leadership.

To amplify this transformation, ISA is also establishing a **Solar Global Capability Centre (GCC)** in India. The GCC will serve as a **global knowledge and innovation engine**, supporting STAR-Centres with digital learning platforms, advisory services, entrepreneurship incubation, and performance benchmarking. Through the GCC, ISA aims to deliver **scalable, data-driven, and regionally relevant support** to STAR Centres worldwide.

This session, **"Partnering for Progress: Integrated Institutional Strengthening in Action,"** marks a critical moment in ISA's journey—where Member Countries, international partners, and institutional collaborators come together to reflect, recalibrate, and recommit to building the **solar institutions of the future**.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Enhanced visibility of the STAR-C programme as a cornerstone for country-led solar progress - recognition of progress in Bhutan, PNG, and Kiribati's STAR-C implementation
- Formal recognition of **Sri Lanka** as the next STAR-Centre in the APAC region

- Clear articulation of ISA's strategy for **integrated institutional strengthening** including sustainability of STAR-Centres, global academic partnerships, and GCC
- Stronger momentum to scale STAR-C across ISA regions

AGENDA

Time	Session	Speaker
2 min	Welcome and setting the context	Dr. Gurleen Kaur, Technology & Solar Specialist, ISA
3 min	Opening remarks Vision for STAR-C and integrated capacity building	Mr. Ashish Khanna, Director General, ISA
5 min	Special Remarks	Mr. Tekeewa Tarati, Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy, Republic of Kiribati
5 min	Reflections Experiences from national STAR-Centres	Mr. Karma P Dorji, Director General, Department of Energy, (DoE), Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR), Royal Government of Bhutan
10 min	Presentation: ISA's Way Forward Strategy update: Sustainability of STAR-C through global partnerships and GCC	Dr. Gurleen Kaur, KMID, ISA
50 min	Discussion on "From Training to Transformation" Institutional perspectives and future roadmap	Panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi • Representation from INES • Andrea Alejandra, UNIDO • Dr. Tripta Thakur, Director General, NPTI • Shubhranshu Patnaik, Partner and G&PS Industry Leader, Deloitte India • Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI • Mrs. Rehana Riyawala, Former Vice President, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
5 min	Closing Remarks	Mr. Anupol Bordoloi, KMID, ISA