

**Visit of Mr. Klein and GIZ Delegation
to BK Gyan Sarovar, "India One" and Shantivan
17-18 September, 2014**

On the 17th and 18th of September, 2014 WRST and BK solar team was honoured to host a GIZ Delegation in Abu.

GIZ, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a federal enterprise that supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

For WRST „India One“ Solar Thermal Power Plant Project, GIZ has been an execution and development agency of the German government, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), that provided significant part of the project funds within the „ComSolar“ Indo-German Energy Programme (IGEN).

There were following members of the delegation that visited WRST and Brahma Kumaris in Abu:

1. Volkmar Klein, Member of Parliament, Board Member GIZ
2. Sandra Schenke, GIZ, Director South Asia
3. Stefan Helming, GIZ, Country Director India
4. Jens Burgtorf, GIZ, Director IGEN

The first destination of the delegation was Brahma Kumaris Gyan Sarovar campus in Mt Abu. They arrived safely from Ahmedabad in the evening of the 17th of September. After freshening up in the Peace Cottage, all enjoyed a delicious dinner that was interwoven with introduction to Brahma Kumaris and WRST philosophy and activities.



On Thursday, the 18th of September, the program started with visiting the solar cooker installed in Gyan Sarovar. This solar steam cooker has been the first solar cooker ever installed in India and it was sponsored by German Government via GTZ (today GIZ). Thanks to the weather conditions, the day of the visit, was the first day, when the system got back to operation after the monsoon break.

The respected guests were able to see the whole installation, the tracking mechanism and steam generation. They also had a quick look at another application of the same solar system that is the drinking water pasteurization.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) installation of 200 kW at Gyan Sarovar was the next highlight of the visit in Mt Abu. The GIZ guests were able to have a close look at the battery system, inverters and the PV panels. The detailed explanation was given on the technical parameters and effective maintenance procedures applied by Brahma Kumaris on the visited site and in many other installations throughout India.



The morning in Gyan Sarovar was finalized with visiting Harmony Hall and Solar House.

After that, the whole delegation moved downhill to “India One” Solar Thermal Power Plant in Abu Road. Here the guests were greeted by the “India One” team and after the introduction to the project, everyone moved to the first prototype reflector and receiver cum thermal storage.



Upon hearing the explanation on the overall system with the unique R&D features, all went to the workshop, where the GIZ representatives saw in detail, how the fabrication process is organized in an accurate and effective manner.



Further on everyone moved on to the turbine house, in front of which the tree plantation ceremony took place. Delegation members had a chance to plant the fruit trees as a small memorial of the visit.



The turbine and generator from Siemens and financed by the BMUB, that has already been installed and aligned, was the next visit point. The German guests received explanation on the specifications of the turbine and the progress of the project in the respect of turbine island and power evacuation system. Solar tracking system software was also demonstrated to the guests with detailed explanation on the unique features.



Finally from the roof top of the TG building they could enjoy the view of the solar field, where abt 500 reflectors have been erected.

The last place to see by the delegation was the photovoltaic (PV) installation and the battery room of 125 kW solar PV system installed to provide the required power for the parasitic load of the solar plant.

Senior brother Ramesh Shah, the Managing Trustee of WRST invited the respected guests for a lunch to his residence in Shantivan. Everyone enjoyed special food prepared for that occasion

while having a conversation on the current situation in the world and the spiritual aspects of that.



Following the lunch, Dadi Ratan Mohini, the Joint Chief of Brahma Kumaris, met with the GIZ representatives to express the gratitude on behalf of the organization to German government and the GIZ, for continuous significant support in “Iniai One” project.

Dadi shared with the guests lots of spiritual jewels as well as beautiful gifts.

At the end of the stay in Shantivan, the guests visited the Diamond Hall, kitchen and solar cooker.



While leaving, all members of the delegation expressed how much impressed they were seeing the activities in Gyan Sarovar, “India One” and Shantivan. They concluded that the organization serves as a very good example of solar applications, in terms of possibilities and overcoming challenges, for other institutes in India.

They shared their experience of observing high dedication and doing things together, cooperation of the people they met and they showed interest and appreciated the combination of science and spirituality in practice.

All in one, they were very satisfied with the visit and shared later on, that it was the highlight of their whole trip to India.

Hereby, we would like to thank the whole Solar Family for the great cooperation in making the GIZ delegation visit such a memorable experience.

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