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Renewable energy policy in Mexico: A review

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Power generation in Mexico is dominated by thermoelectrics (using fossil fuels) and is followed by renewable energy sources. Power generation from RES increased from 26 terawatts (TW) in 2003 to 39 TW in 2012, however RES contribution to overall power generation has remained stagnant with an average of 16%. Mexico has already been taking initiatives in policies to promote renewable energies since the Rio Conference of 1992. Specifically in electricity, there is a state-integrated system with private investments only opened for power generation. The participation of private firms in the natural gas industry downstream markets was allowed in 1997, but upstream belongs to only one public state-owned company, PEMEX, inhibiting competition. Three main legal instruments are expected to promote renewable energy in Mexico. One is the recent Energy Reform approved by the Congress of the Union where articles 25, 26 and 27 of the Constitution were modified to allow the participation of private firms in the energy sector in order to share technology and experience. A fund will be created where 10% will be used to finance projects in science, technology and renewable energies and 10% in scholarships for development of human capital in universities and postgraduate. The second instrument is the General Law for Climate Change adopted in May 2012 which sets the goal of 35% of energy generated in the country should come from renewable sources by 2024. Finally, the Law for the Use of Renewable Energy and Finance of the Energy Transition recently modified and approved.

Biography

Dr. Parra-Saldivar is the Director of Environmental Bioprocess Chair at Centro del Agua, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico. He has over 15 years of experience on environmental bioprocess and conducts research on the nexus water energy and food. He has more than 40 papers in scientific journals; 276 research references; 9 patents. He is senior consultant for professionals in the Wastewater Treatment sector in GEF Caribbean Regional Fund projects for Wastewater Management UNEP-CAR/RCU and he train professionals in wastewater treatment programs from 17 Central American and Caribbean.

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