

Draft outline for a session during WCPEC-7 at Waikoloa, HI

Topic:

Past and present forecasts for the development of the PV Market

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Why forecasts were wrong

Rationale: Over the years a large number of forecasts on the development of PV markets have been published in various countries all over the world. The first exercise was done in the USA in the 1980's followed by the Japanese vision of the Sunshine Programme and the European Union's Strategy for renewable energy sources in the 1990's with a horizon of 2010. International Organisations like the IEA are publishing forecasts in the mid-and long-term until 2050. However, all these forecast have underestimated the pace how PV would develop and the critical question to be discussed in this session is: Why were all forecasts wrong? The focus of the session is less on technologies, which are discussed in details during the rest of the conference programme, but more on the reasons, why experts and politicians alike were and to some extend are still underestimating the potential of solar photovoltaic electricity generation.

The session will shortly present the overall situation and the forecast activities in the three regions of the USA, Japan and the European Union, followed by a moderated discussion before all participants are invited to continue their discussions during a lunch.

Programme:

10:30 – 10: 35: Introduction to the topic by Sven Teske

10:35 – 10:50: US roadmaps from the 1980's to today: Robert Margolis

10:50 – 11:05: The Sunshine Programme and roadmap activities in Japan, Izumi Kaizuka

11:05 – 11:20: From the European Union Green paper on Renewable Energy to the 2050 Roadmap; Arnulf Jäger-Waldau"

11:20 – 11:35: Gaëtan Mason, Industry roadmaps

11:35 – 12:00: Moderated Discussion; Moderator Sven Teske