

## Going green won't come cheap in Gulf

04 February 2009



**According to the World Energy Council, the Gulf will require 100GW (gigawatts) of additional power to meet demand, says the International Solar Energy Society's (ISES) Bahrain chapter Arabic section chairman, Professor Dr Waheeb Alnaser.**

Speaking at the International Forum on Cleaner Technologies for Economic Development and quoted in the Gulf Daily News, Professor Alnaser said Bahrain would require investments of 1,200MW (megawatts), at an estimated cost of \$900 million.

He added that Kuwait would also need to spend \$2.5 billion, Oman \$800 million, Qatar \$600 million, Saudi Arabia \$15 billion and the UAE \$5.1 billion.

"We are expecting that the amount of new solar and wind electricity by 2015 in these countries may reach 5,000MW distributed as follows: 1,000MW in Bahrain, Qatar 3,500MW solar electricity, UAE 400MW, and Kuwait and Oman a few megawatts," he said.

"GCC countries are located in an arid zone belt and have 3,400 sunshine hours a year.

"With little natural water the GCC is created to use solar," he added.

Professor Alnaser said the only drawback at the moment was the high cost of solar energy technology.

"We cannot proceed with solar with the low subsidies in electricity prices or in the absence of an incentive for solar and wind," he said.

However, Professor Alnaser said the cost of solar panelling such as photovoltaic (PV) panels was expected to decrease.

{ Arabian Business }