

GOI Summit Creates a Roadmap for Building and Strengthening Taiwan's Offshore Wind Industry Chain

- Taiwan plans to increase offshore wind capacity to 15.5 GW by 2035, and sets goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050
- Localization is key to making Taiwan a central player in the Asian offshore wind industry
- Infrastructure improvements, talents training, and international standards certification will be major factors in successful localization

On March 23, GOI (German Offshore-Wind Initiative) hosted the Summit, a two-part event that highlighted opportunities and issues in building up Taiwan's indigenous offshore wind industry chain and in embracing RE100 through offshore wind. Each session at the summit featured talks by leading figures in offshore wind followed by in-depth panel discussion on their respective topics.

The afternoon session was opened by Executive Board Member of the Offshore Wind Power Foundation Dr. Martin Skiba, who stated that the goal of the summit was to identify strengths and weaknesses, identify gaps, share lessons learned and best practices, and connect companies from Germany and Taiwan. He points out that it is only logical that Taiwan should develop a strong supply chain to accommodate its growing offshore wind industry, and it is exciting to see what new innovations Taiwan, as a ICT technology leader, will bring to the field.

Additional opening remarks were given by Chief Representative and Executive Director of the German Trade Office Taipei Axel Limberg, Commissioner Dr. Chung-Chieh Lin of the Taipei City Government Office of Economic Development, and Deputy Director General of the Bureau of Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Chun-Li Lee.

The keynote speakers at the afternoon session gave informative talks on challenges and opportunities in building and strengthening Taiwan's indigenous offshore wind industry chain. Po-Cheng Huang, project manager at the Thousand Winds Turbines Promotion Office, pointed out that the Taiwan Strait's development potential of 100 GW of offshore wind power makes it one of the most promising regions in the world for offshore wind. This has spurred the government to formulate a financial, technological, and legal framework to support the development of Taiwan's fledgling offshore wind industry. The island is currently entering phase 3 of its offshore wind program, in which it is welcoming investors with the intention of increasing capacity by 1.5 GW annually until 2035. Government planners are looking into flexible IRP options to help local suppliers get into the market, and expect to add 74,000 jobs and procure nearly one billion euros in foreign and domestic investment.

CSBC Executive Vice President Chih-Ming Chou discussed CSBC's diversification into offshore wind marine transport, which now comprises 20% of its business, and the company's work on engineering an indigenous deep water floater and turbine system for use in phase 3 as well as its engagement of local partners to develop a new floating offshore wind supply chain based in Taiwan.

Chou was followed by Hao-Wei Chiu, Sales and Business Development Manager at Deutsche Windtechnik, which provides both onshore and offshore wind farm operational and maintenance services. Chiu noted that it is Deutsche Windtechnik's policy to use a collaborative approach, bringing in European experts to train local companies and technicians and develop local knowledge while relying on Taiwanese companies to help navigate local regulations and utilizing local equipment in BoP operations. The ultimate goal is to quickly transition to 100% Taiwanese control with European personnel occupying a supporting role only. As the company branches out to other countries in the Asian region, Taiwan can then take on the mentor role.

The final two speakers were Mr. Markus Schueller, General Manager of engineering consultancy firm Fichtner Pacific, who discussed challenges for international players trying to meet localization requirements and the feasibility of the 50% localization requirement for engineering services in phase 3, and TUV Rheinland Taiwan Ltd General Manager of Industrial Services and Cybersecurity Mr. James Liu. TUV Rheinland Taiwan has operated in Taiwan for over three decades, and advocates a 'glocal' approach to wind farm development and trains and emphasizes achieving European standard certification so that local companies can compete as equals on the international level.

After the keynote presentations, the speakers joined Moderator Assistant Professor Hedy Yang of National Taiwan University in a free-ranging discussion on the current status of the offshore wind industry in Taiwan, local strengths and capabilities, human resources issues and the importance of knowledge transfer, and infrastructure needs, particularly with the upcoming floating offshore installments. Taiwan's offshore wind chain already leads the Asian region; successful localization is the key to turning the island into the future hub of the Asian offshore wind industry.