

Solar firms want simple eligibility process

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German and Filipino companies have discussed business plans as part of the 'renewables Made-in-Germany' Program of the German Embassy. The program has identified Southeast Asia for development of [renewable energy](#), especially solar power. Though it is expected to drive clean technology projects from Germany, the [rules for eligibility](#) in the Philippines may be impeding the program.

"The rules for eligibility for renewable energy in the Philippines are too complicated because in Germany developers only have to download a form and there is no need for lawyers. It would be better if it were simpler and there are less administrative expenses," said Guenter Matschuck, VP of the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We want to sit down with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Energy department to talk about simplifying the process. The way we see it is that construction prices are going down for solar power but the transaction to get them set up is not," noted Tetchi Cruz-Capellan, spokesperson of the Philippine Solar Power Alliance.

"The delay in the implementation of the [feed-in tariff](#) is unexpected but the Philippines is learning how to approach the rates. We are hoping that there is more support from the government to implement the feed-in tariff and these business-to-business meetings with foreign investors is a signal to the government that the tariff is urgent," added Capellan.

Representatives from the German Embassy said the country has a lot of experience in the [solar industry](#) because the country already has an installed capacity of 22GW of solar power. Germany is also planning to install at least 50GW of solar power by 2020.

"German firms can provide training, systems and other solutions to Philippine companies. We see that there is a big market for solar that is still growing especially with the ever lowering prices of the technology. The Philippines should make use of its solar potential," opined Jan Knaack, project manager of the German Solar Industry Association.

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