



# Battle for Solar Energy

An advertising special edition

With over 15 years of experience in the electrical engineering arena, Co-founders of Regen Renewables (Pvt.) Limited Mr. Lakmal Fernando – Managing Director/CEO and Mr. Champika Periyapperuma Director/CTO decided to extend their contribution to the national energy generation by establishing a clean energy company in April 2013. For last 7 years the company has earned a dominant place within the industry penetrating different ventures providing the best engineering solutions to its customers and steering the Nation to a Greener and Sustainable future. With higher expectations and poise for a better tomorrow, in the dawn of the new decade Mr. Fernando wishes to share a glimpse of Solar-dependent future.

Being the undisputed leader in the commercial scale rooftop solar industry in Sri Lanka, Regen Renewables is accountable for over 10% of total rooftop installations in the country, where the total solar footprint of Sri Lanka is about 265MW (megawatts) of which 60MW are ground mounted industrial systems. In other words, out of 200 +MW of all rooftop solar systems, Regen has installed over 20MW rooftops including a 1.4MW system; the largest in operation and 2.5MW system currently in progress.

With the proposed renewable energy plan by the government under the directives of the new President, Regen Renewables anticipate the industry will move into exuberant heights in the new decade. Currently the country is depending mostly on non-renewable resources such as coal and diesel to produce the national energy demand. Due to high scarcity of these resources and their contribution to deteriorate our environment, the plan is to drive the country to produce 80% of the total energy demand by renewable energy solutions by the end of the decade. This 80% is further categorised as 40% from Major Hydro Power and 40% from NCRE (Non-Conventional Renewable Energy). The major contributors to NCREs are solar and wind-energy.

Considering the availability and reliability of resources, geographical barriers, operational and maintenance cost, socio-economic impact, and many other aspects, solar energy is far superior to wind and other renewable energy systems

## Solar Energy - The Path to next decade

practically available in Sri Lanka. Therefore, to achieve the above target by 2020, the solar energy in Sri Lanka must play a major role and hence to redefine its horizon.

Being an agriculture-based country, the land is the most important and scarce resource in Sri Lanka. This makes Rooftop Solar systems more prominent compared to ground mounted systems. By converting idling rooftops into solar energy power plants, we can virtually increase the useful land area. Ideally voluntary approach with the elevated consciousness of the public with regards to environmental implications of prevailing energy resources shall drive the society to promote the use of renewable energy. However, if combined with the law and is made essential, the industry will grow

whilst protecting the environment which we live in. Bearing these noble aspirations in mind Regen Renewables has constantly urged the authorities to bring in legislations to make roof top solar allocation a mandatory in all buildings. This will initiate a regulation to keep provision on each rooftop to install solar energy systems, turning a new page within the history of our proud nation.

Evaluating Regen's customer portfolio, 90% of them are commercial rooftops, while the balance 10% are domestic installations. Key players in electrical energy sector such as LTL Holdings and Windforce (Pvt) Ltd [who is the largest renewable energy producer in SL and a subsidiary of Akbar Brothers (Pvt) Ltd], who set high standards in compliance are Regen's repeat customers. In addition, regulatory bodies namely Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

and Ministry of Finance has built up trust on the brand's excellence. The Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka has installed a Rooftop Solar PV project through Regen Renewables considering its expertise & history of quality work.

Regen's expertise are highly diverse and the product portfolio consists of small systems of two kilowatts and commercial/industrial projects up to thousands of kilowatts; even much larger systems are yet to be achieved. A strong engineering team backs up the continuous growth of Regen Renewables. The installation team is led by a high caliber engineering professional, a key member instrumental in construction and commissioning of a 300MW power plant in Sri Lanka, who holds the office of Head of Engineering. The co-founder and Director/Chief Technology officer Mr. Periyapperuma is probably the only Accredited Solar Consultant appointed by SLSEA, and serving as a director of a solar rooftop EPC company.

The plan of Regen for the year is to focus more on the domestic solar sector. A huge potential is envisioned within this sector. The Samurdhi beneficiaries tally upto about a 40bn LKR expense for the government annually. There are proposals for the government to donate 2-3kW solar system for these beneficiaries. This electricity generation income will replace the monthly payment of the Government. Through this, the government will be able to avoid a reasonable portion of that immense burden while giving the beneficiaries an opportunity to start industries on their own using clean energy.

The government is planning for a new low-interest loan scheme for solar energy which will benefit both government and private sector employees. Therefore, a massive surge in enthusiasm for solar energy integration is expected in the near future. With this, Regen



658 kWp Solar Roof Top System, Homagama HI Fashion Holdings (Pvt) Ltd

Renewables is set to target domestic rooftops whilst consolidating the commercial sector. Sri Lanka's plan is to establish 1GW of Solar rooftops by 2025. Currently, the brand has achieved around 20MWs, and has a long way to go until this dream is converted into a reality.

Regen has remained partnered with the same panel/inverter suppliers ever since its inception. Regen Renewables represent the highly advanced and demanded technologies of Suntech Power Co. Ltd, China which has over 19 years of experience in the Panel manufacturing. It is the principle distributor of the Siemens KACO New Energy - Germany and Huawei Technologies - China for inverters. The product combination provides



1.4MWp Solar Roof Top System, Kahathuduwa Hirdaramani Industries (Pvt) Ltd.

a promising outcome throughout, exceeding customer expectations.

Investing on a solar energy system is an important decision; much more complicated than buying a car. Once invested, it is difficult to revise. It is an investment which pays high dividends over time. It cannot be a price sensitive decision since inferior products and substandard installation could lead to a total loss of investment and even a hazardous situation. This necessitates to partner with established professionals and a promising organization with a clean record.

Regen Renewables urges the community to remain cautious of environmental implications and move onto green energy sources to ensure a better future for the generations to come. Global warming is expected to increase the mean sea level by 8 to 10 inches for every degree centigrade increase in the ambient temperature. As an island nation, we have more responsibility to eradicate this situation for our own survival. The brand motivates the public to 'go green and get there faster'. If you partnered with Regen for this journey, it assures to deliver what it promised. Past performances have proven and there is no reason to look back and compromise on what was achieved so far. The decade seems bright, and it could be made even more brighter. Regen Renewables remain committed to partner the journey towards a greener and cleaner future.

Randheer Mallawaarachchi

## Most Secured Investment with Highest Returns



**Regen Renewables (Pvt) Ltd**  
48, 27th Lane, Colombo 03  
Call: +94 11 55 65 890  
www.regen.lk



**100% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS OUR STRENGTH**

**The Solar Energy Partner**