



Government of Gujarat

Report No.
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Dated 10 April 2015

REPORT

HOSTING OF SOLAR IMPULSE 2 AT SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AHMEDABAD

DATES: 10TH MARCH 2015 TO 18TH MARCH 2015



Supporting Organizations

Climate Change Department



Tourism Department



Energy & Petrochemicals Department



Executive Summary

The Solar Impulse-2 team has approached Govt. of Gujarat to show case their Solar plane to Indian community and requested for help and coordination. The plan is on world tour and its second landing after Muscat is Ahmedabad, India. Government of Gujarat has assigned the responsibility to GERMI and GEDA along with Climate Change Department, Tourism Department and Energy & Petrochemicals Department for necessary coordination. Accordingly, the GERMI team has worked and coordinated with the Solar Impulse-2 team for smooth operations at Ahmedabad airport and later to be flown to Varanasi. In this regard, GERMI has arranged meetings with all the relevant stake holders and helped the Solar Impulse-2 team. Accordingly, the plan landed at Ahmedabad airport on 10th March, 2015. A team of personnel from the Government of Gujarat has received the pilot after landing. The pilot was also welcomed by the GERMI, GEDA and MNRE officials.



Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jasabhai Bhanabhai Barad greets the Pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg with shawl on his arrival



Smt. Meenaxiben Patel, Hon'ble Mayor of Ahmedabad greeting the Pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg on their successful landing at Ahmedabad



Shri D.J. Pandian, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat greets the Pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg with shawl on his arrival



GEDA and GERMI team (L-R: Ms. Narindejit Kaur Sethi, Mr. S. B. Patil, Mr. I. M. Bhavsar, Dr. T. Harinarayana, Mr. Bertrand Piccard, Mr. Andre Borschberg, Dr. Omkar Jani and Mr. Ranjit Singh Sodhi) welcomes the Pilots on arrival of Solar Impulse 2 at Ahmedabad International airport.

Several other dignitaries also visited from Govt. of Gujarat like Hon'ble Speaker of Gujarat Assembly, Shri Ganpatsinh Vasava, Hon'ble Minister of Energy and Petrochemicals, Shri Saurabhbhai Patel and many others during the stay of Solar Impulse-2.



Hon'ble Speaker of Gujarat Assembly, Shri Ganpatsinh Vasava visited the Solar Impulse 2 and has conversation with Solar Impulse officials.



Hon'ble Minister of Energy and Petrochemicals Shri Saurabhbhai Patel also visited Solar Impulse 2 and interacted with the Solar Impulse team.

More details of Solar plan follows:

The only plan able to fly day and night without fossil energy, Solar Impulse (SI) is first and foremost a milestone project in the history of exploration and aviation, bringing pioneering spirit to a new level. Solar Impulse is a symbol and a communication platform to promote clean technologies and renewable energies. The project is an illustration of how innovation can respond to societal challenges, while at the same time leverage emerging economic opportunities.

Solar Impulse is flying around the world in stages using only solar energy from March to the end of summer 2015 (with stopovers on each continent). The mission will cover approximately 35,000 km/ 22,000 miles with 20-25 flying days. The Round-the-World (RTW) solar flight will be an epic aviation challenge and a great first in scientific exploration that will remain in history books. The RTW journey is a bold adventure that will capture the emotions and passions of political decision makers, business leaders, key opinion makers and the public. India is the first country Solar Impulse has flied to. For both technical and symbolic reasons (namely shared values between the State of Gujarat and SI), Ahmedabad has been selected as the first destination. Solar Impulse has arrived in Ahmedabad on 10th March, 2015.

The State of Gujarat has been pioneer in the adoption of renewable energies and clean technologies. Moreover, one of Solar Impulse Partner companies, Solvay (a French-Belgium company), through their R&D and production facility in Vadodara, has developed high performance polymer materials which have been integrated into the Solar Impulse airplane. This has been a major technological milestone contributing significantly to weight savings and energy efficiency.

Solar Impulse stayed in Ahmedabad from 10th March- 18th March 2015. Various events have been organized around the plane such as Government official visits, corporate hospitality, media briefings, University and School children visit and public visit. From Ahmedabad Solar Impulse has flied to Varanasi before leaving India on its way to Mandalay, Myanmar.

Route Round-the-World: Abu Dhabi- Muscat, Oman- Ahmedabad and Varanasi, India- Mandalay, Myanmar- Chongqing and the region of Shanghai, China- crossing of the Pacific to Hawaii, USA- West to East coast of USA, crossing Atlantic, direction Morocco, Spain or France- Abu Dhabi.

Specifications: This revolutionary single-seater aircraft made of carbon fibre has a 72 meter wingspan (larger than that of the Boeing 747-8I) for a weight of just 2,300 Kg, equivalent to that of a car.

The 17,000 solar cells built into the wing supply four electric motors (17.5 CV each) with renewable energy. During the day, the solar cells recharge lithium batteries weighing 633 Kg (2077 lbs.) which allow the aircraft to fly at night and therefore to have virtually unlimited autonomy.