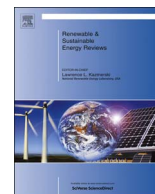




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## Electricity system in Jordan: Status &amp; prospects

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## ABSTRACT

The Kingdom of Jordan, like other countries, faces considerable challenges to cover always and securely the given electricity demand. This is due to e.g. limited locally available fossil fuel resources, insufficient available conversion capacities and the financial weakness of the energy entities. Additionally, the electricity demand is strongly rising due to increasing industrialization and a fast growing population; the latter is also true due to refugees from Syria and Iraq. One option to contribute to a secured and a climatic sound improved electricity generation system is an increased use of renewable sources of energy. For Jordan, this is especially true due to the availability of favourable solar and wind resources. Against this background, this paper assesses the current status of the electricity sector in Jordan and discusses the possible future role of renewable sources of energy for electricity generation within the Jordanian electricity system. The investigation shows that electricity from wind and solar can contribute indeed considerably to a more secure and climatic sound electricity supply system. Thus the realization of an exploitation strategy to increase the share of electricity from wind and solar could clearly be beneficial for the Kingdom of Jordan.

## 1. Background

Jordan is an emerging country in the Middle East with limited indigenous energy resources [1]. Although the country produces natural gas and crude oil, the overall amounts are low and do not exceed 3–4% of the total energy demand (i.e. they are clearly insufficient to meet the energy demand of the Jordanian Kingdom) [2]. Thus, the country is classified as a non-oil producing country. For this reason, Jordan imports the remaining 96% of its crude oil and natural gas needs from the neighbourhood (i.e. Egypt, Iraq, Gulf countries). But the currently given frame conditions like frequent interruptions of Iraq's oil production and continuously stopping of natural gas supply from Egypt makes it critical and challenging for Jordan to securely cover its energy needs [1,3]. Additionally, crude oil and natural gas imports are a considerable burden on the country's national economy even with low oil prices [1,4].

This situation will probably become even more challenging in the years to come. On one hand side the energy and electricity consumption will increase rapidly. For example, existing projections assume a doubling of the electricity demand in the next 15 years [5]. On the other side due to considerable societal and political challenges and thus increasing uncertainties the supply of fossil fuel energy from the neighbourhood will most likely become even less stable and less

reliable [6].

To improve the electricity supply security, the government of Jordan has started to search for alternative sources of energy. The "new" resources to be exploited in the future should be domestic, cheap, technologically mature and economically viable. Additionally, they should contribute to a secure power generation to allow for an uninterrupted electricity supply. At the same time, they should support the governmental plans to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions [7,8]. In this context, Jordan's energy policy has decided to promote renewable sources of energy. It is planned to achieve a contribution of 10% related to the total energy mix in 2020. For this reason, the Jordanian government has estimated the size of investment in renewables to fulfil that percentage to 15 billion US\$ [1,4,9].

Jordan as a country is located geographically within the sunbelt zone where direct solar radiation is available for roughly 300 days a year within an intensity range of 5–7 kW h/(m<sup>2</sup> d). Beside this favourable solar energy supply, the country has several locations with average yearly wind speeds between 7 and 9 m/s at 50 m height above ground throughout the year. In spite of these very promising frame conditions for electricity generation from wind and solar, these power generation options are still in an early stage of usage despite the fact that within other countries already a considerable share of the electricity is produced from these renewable sources of energy [7,9,10].

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**Nomenclature**

$a$	Annual / Year
$AES - Jordan$	Amman East South- Jordan Company
$A_{WEC}$	Area of Wind Energy Converter
$BAU$	Business as Usual
$BOO$	Build-Own-Operate
$c_{a,p}$	Total Yearly Cost
$CEGCO$	Central Electricity Generation Company
$COE$	Cost of Electricity Generation
$CO_2$	Carbon Dioxide
$d$	Day
$d_{rot}$	Rotor Diameter
$EMRC$	Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission
$EDCO$	Electricity Distribution Company
$F_p$	Yearly Fuel Cost
$GHG$	Greenhouse Gases
$GHI$	Global Horizontal Irradiation
$G. T$	Gas Turbine
$g$	Gram
$h$	Hour
$h/a$	Hour per Annual
$i$	Interest Rate
$I_p$	Overall Investment Cost
$IGCC$	Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle
$IDECO$	Irbid District Power Company
$IPP$	Individual Public Private Project
$JEPCO$	Jordan Electricity Power Company

$JD$	Jordan Dinar
$K_A$	Distance Factor
$kW$	Kilowatt
$kWh$	Kilo Watt Hour
$KEPCO$	Korean Electricity Power Company
$kV$	Kilovolt
$km^2$	Kilo Meter Square
$L$	Lifetime
$MEMR$	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
$MW$	Mega Watt
$MJ$	Mega Joule
$m$	Meter
$m^2$	Meter Square
$m^3$	Cubic Meter
$m/s$	Meter per Second
$NEPCO$	National Electricity Power Company
$O\&M$	Operation and Maintenance
$O\&M_p$	Yearly Operation and Maintenance Cost
$P$	Power Generation Technology
$PJ/a$	Peta Joule per Annual
$PV$	Photovoltaics
$QPCO$	Qutraneh Power Company
$SEPCO$	Samra Electricity Power Company
$t/a$	Ton per Annual
$TWh$	Tera Watt hour
$US\$$	United States Dollar
$\eta$	Efficiency of Photovoltaic

Against this background, this paper assesses the status of the electricity sector in Jordan. Based on this, the possible future role of an electricity generation based on wind mills and photovoltaic systems as an integrated part of the Jordanian electricity system is analysed. This is performed through an investigation of economic and environmental aspects for different scenarios. Based on this several conclusions are drawn.

**2. Jordanian electricity system**

**2.1. Primary and final energy consumption**

Within the Kingdom of Jordan, in 2015 roughly 360 PJ of primary energy have been used mainly from crude oil and natural gas. This primary energy supply has strongly increased between 1990 and 2015 (Fig. 1(a)). The coverage of the primary energy demand throughout the

last 25 years has been realized by using growing amounts of these two fossil fuels to a strongly varying extend. For example, between 2003 and 2011 the Jordanian primary energy provision depends mainly on natural gas from Egypt due to supply interruptions from Iraq. Compared to these sources, other fossil primary energy carrier (e.g. coal, nuclear) are not used for the time being [11].

After removing the given transportation and refinery losses as well as losses in power plants and within the industry sector, this energy is used as final energy to cover customer needs (Fig. 1(b)); in 2015 roughly 300 PJ are used as final energy. The development of the final energy supply mirrors the increased energy use related to the use in the various sectors. All over, the transport and agricultural sector shows the highest and lowest consumption, respectively [11].

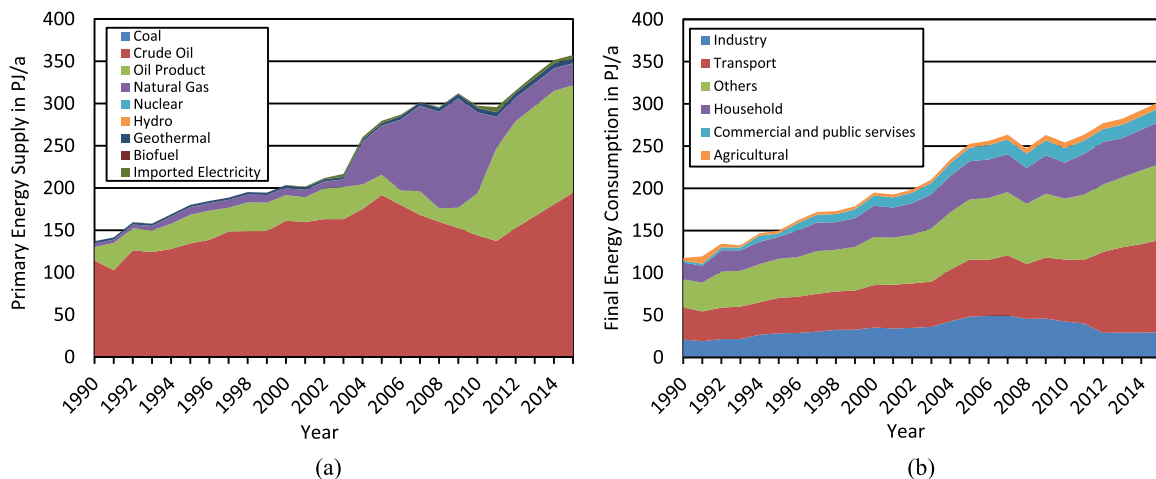


Fig. 1. Primary energy supply (a) and final energy consumption (b) in Jordan for the period 1990 till 2015 [11].

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