

SOLAR ENERGY POTENTIAL OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Renewable Energy (RE) Resources Profile of the regions includes solar, wind, biomass and ocean. It was intended to further break down the energy resource types in each region but it was not feasible to account for solar energy potential by region. Although there was an advanced computerized mapping system (ACMS) conducted by the United States National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in the 1990s, which simultaneously identified the potential areas for wind resource generation as well as those areas with solar energy potential, it was gathered from renewable energy engineers that it is relatively difficult to establish the feasibility/ potential/ specific areas of solar energy owing to the technical factors (e.g. duration of the sunshine, relative location, tilt of the sun) that have to be considered. Certainly, these studies require further studies and more in-depth groundworks than were already done jointly by the University of the Philippines' Solar Laboratory and World Wide Fund (WWF).

Hence, instead of a region-specific discussion on solar energy in each region, a national map of potential solar energy is presented in Figure 1 to provide the readers an overview of the relative location and the vast potential of solar energy in the Philippines.

Figure 1. POTENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY SITES

