Andris Pielbags, European Commissioner for Development (2010-2014)

“During my mandate as the EU Commissioner for Development support for the access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy in the rural areas have been one of the most important priorities. I received a great support from the Alliance for Rural Electrification. I am glad that ARE has increased its ambition in providing renewable energy solutions in developing countries. Increase of the productivity of farming, access to quality health services and education could only happen only with increased use of renewable energy.”

Ernesto Macías, at that time General Manager of Isofoton (Spain), was the Founder of ARE in 2006. While there was a strong focus on FiT markets, the renewable energy sector also realised early on the advantages of engaging and investing in rural electrification markets in developing countries.

Thanks to its association founding members (EPIA, ESHA, EWEA, EUBIA and GWEC all based in Brussels), ARE could also open up to individual memberships of entities from the private and public sector.

"It is an honour to have been re-elected twice and serve as President of ARE and watch the association mature. Over the last 10 years, ARE has become the global business association representing the off-grid industry. The passion and commitment of ARE’s growing membership to bring clean energy solutions to rural areas has been commendable and encouraging. For the future, I am confident that with the expertise of ARE members we can considerably leverage the impact of available resources for the benefit of all those without access to energy and services."

Today, ARE enjoys more than 90 members worldwide. We are delighted with the contributions of the association, its members and partners could provide to the positive developments of the renewable energy off-grid sector. ARE will remain committed to do so in the future!

Join us in honouring the persons and organisations who have contributed to the positive development of ARE and the off-grid sector as such!

Kandeh Yumkella, UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative & SE4All CEO (2013-2015)

"The Alliance for Rural Electrification has been a very valuable platform for knowledge sharing on what works and what does not work in bringing energy services to poor communities."

Ernesto Macías, ARE President (2006-present)

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ARE Awards 2016 Categories
- Multilateral & International Organisations
- Developing Country Government
- NGOs & Foundations
- Private Sector in Developing Countries
- Private Sector in Developed Countries.

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UNIVERSAL ACCESS to CLEAN ENERGY

Alliance for Rural Electrification
Shining a Light for Progress
Energy Access: Where we are today

Renewable energies are central to almost every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Especially for sustainable growth, socio-economic development and improvement of quality of life universal access to energy is essential. It is estimated that about 2.9 billion people have no access to modern energy services and over 1.1 billion have no electricity.

2015 has been marked by great strides in the global development and energy community, which has never been more determined to tackle these problems and create a real path to universal access to clean energy.

The United Nations’ Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative, of which ARE is the only business association partner, has intensified its efforts to reach its ambitious targets, which include ensuring universal access to clean energy at the pinnacle of its development and energy priorities, by adopting UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), which aims to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”

The COP21 Paris Agreement reaffirmed the strong linkage between climate mitigation and adaptation efforts and sustainable development, expressly acknowledging “the need to promote universal access to sustainable energy in developing countries, in particular in Africa, through the enhanced deployment of renewable energy” – reflecting our expectations as outlined in the ARE Call for Action.

Importantly, during COP21, many big new initiatives were announced, including the European Commission’s ‘Electrification Financing Initiative’ (ElectriFI), the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, the Climate Aggregation Financing Initiative’ (ElectriFI), the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, the Climate Aggregation Platform, and in the context of the ADB’s Clean Technology Fund and the Green Climate Fund.

Hence, in view of these great achievements for the sector, ARE and its members, in close cooperation with numerous key partners, will keep working hard to remain the global reference and to make access to clean energies a reality!

ARE Milestones 2006-2016

- 1st Secretary General Paula Llamas, President & 2 Board members, New Communications & Development Department, New membership category for SMEs and companies based in developing countries established (2007)
- 1.4 billion without access to energy (IEA) (2008)
- 2nd Secretary General Guido Gancia, 6 Board members, New Communications & Development Department, New membership category for SMEs and companies based in developing countries established (2009)
- 200 Mio. € initiative by EC for small + medium scale projects ACP countries, Founding member of the African Renewable Energy Alliance (AREA), 1st ARE Best Practices, Ernesto Macías joins NEZ21 steering committee, 1.3 billion without access to energy (IEA) (2010)
- 3rd Secretary General Simon Rolland, 9 Board members, 1st SEP Newsletter, 1st partnership with EC, AEP launched (2011)
- 1st IOREC in Accra, Ghana, 1st ARE business delegation to the Ivory Coast (2012)
- 4th Secretary General Marcus Wirmann, 10 Board members, New Policy and Business Department, Launch of AREP Stakeholder Dialogues, AREP Small & Medium Wind Position Paper, AREP Energy Storage + Battery Position Paper, AREP signed with EBTC, AREP Industry Lessons Learnt Paper, 1.2 billion without access to energy (IEA) (2013)
- 5th Secretary General and CEO Marcus Wiemann, 11 Board members, New Communications & Development Department, New membership category for SMEs and companies based in developing countries established, 1.5 billion without access to energy (IEA) (2014)
- 6th Board members, New Communications & Development Department, New membership category for SMEs and companies based in developing countries established, 1.3 billion without access to energy (IEA) (2015)
- 2014
- 7th Secretary General Simon Rolland, 10 Board members, 1st Executive Director Marcus Wiemann, 1st ARE Business Matching Event in Brussels, Belgium, Only business association selected as partner for SE4All, The UN declared 2014 the 1st year of the SE4All Decade (2014-2024), AREP Small & Hydro in Latin America Position Paper, 1st SE4All Forum in New York, USA, Creation of SE4All Hub on Clean Energy Mini-grids (Co-Secretariat ARE + UNF), 2nd IOREC in Manila, the Philippines (2016)
- ARE members by technology
- ARE members come from Europe (68%), Asia (12%), Africa (10%), USA (8%), Australia (1%) and the Middle East (1%).

Internal

- ARE members by technology
- ARE members come from Europe (68%), Asia (12%), Africa (10%), USA (8%), Australia (1%) and the Middle East (1%).

External

- ARE members by technology
- ARE members come from Europe (68%), Asia (12%), Africa (10%), USA (8%), Australia (1%) and the Middle East (1%).