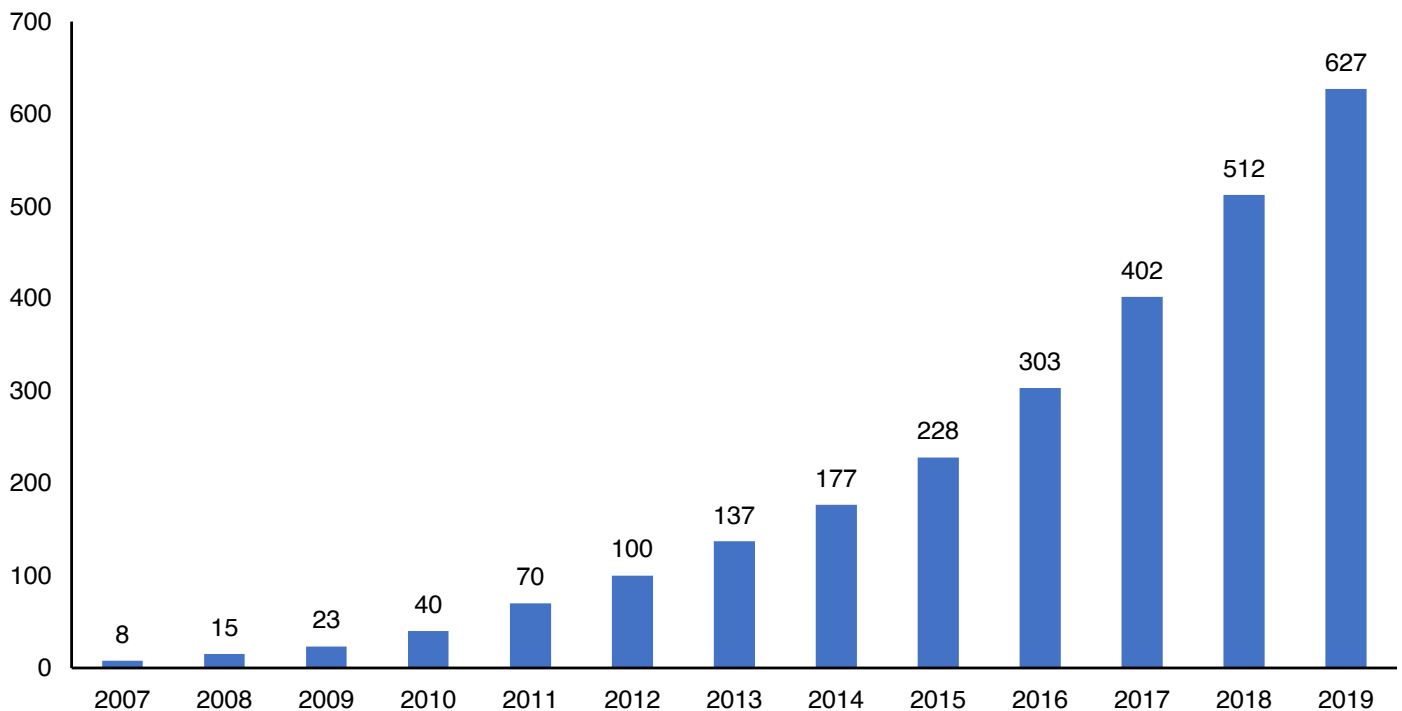


Data Insight

09/07/2020

Trends in Global Solar PV Installation

Figure 1. Global cumulative solar PV capacity (GW).

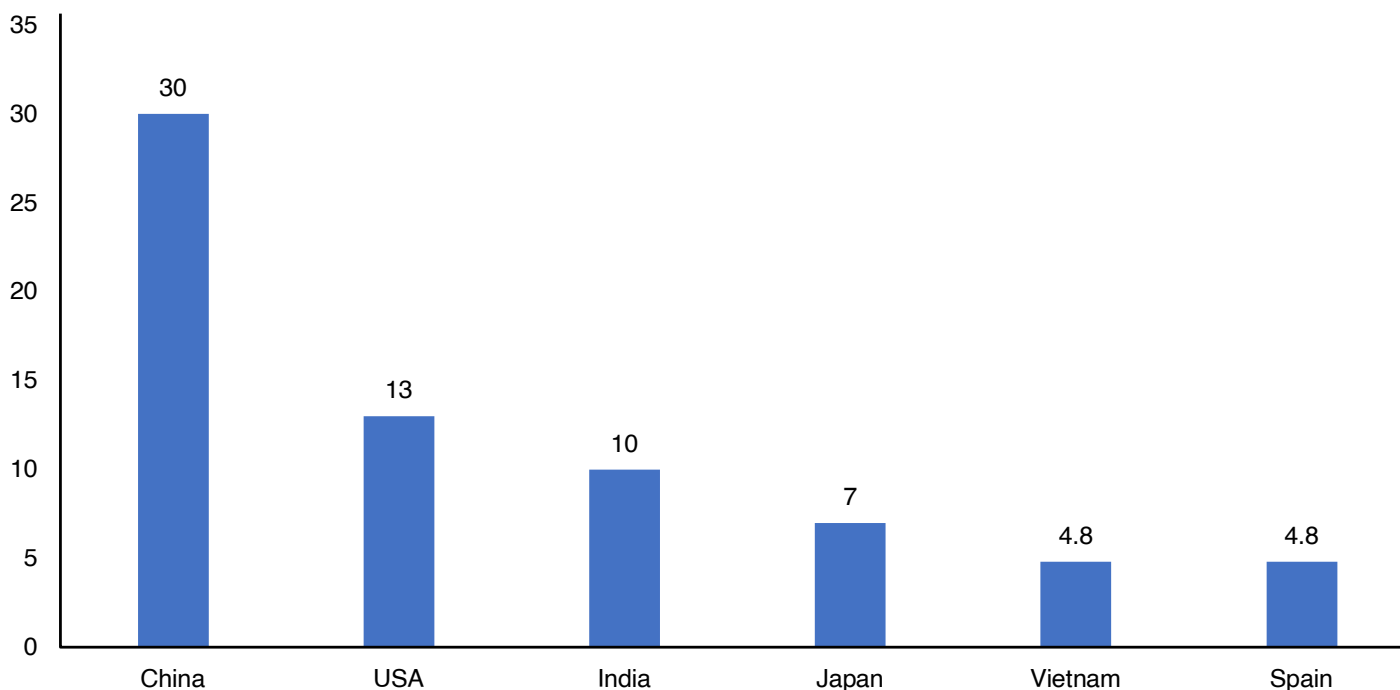


Source: REN21.

- Dozens of governments around the world have supported, and still support, renewable energy technology deployment, including solar photovoltaics (PV). This has been driven by their ambitions to be energy independent, meet carbon emissions reduction targets, and contribute to their domestic economies through industry creation.
- At the end of 2019, the total global capacity of PV installations was 627 gigawatts (GW). There was enough operational capacity to meet around 2.8% of global electricity generation.
- In 2019, global PV capacity increased by approximately 115 GW. More than a quarter of this new capacity (30 GW) was installed in China. On average, China added some 2.5 GW every month, or 83 megawatts (MW) per day.
- As expected, the United States and India were the second and third largest installers of solar PV in 2019, having installed 13 GW and 10 GW, respectively. Vietnam is new to the solar PV group, installing an impressive 4.8 GW of solar capacity in 2019.

- In Saudi Arabia, the 300 MW solar PV plant in Sakaka (in the north of Saudi Arabia) came online toward the end of 2019, bringing the total solar PV capacity in the Kingdom to around 390 MW. Tenders for several GW of capacity are currently underway.
- Two solar PV projects, considered to be among the biggest in the world, came online in 2019 in the Middle East: the Benban plant in Egypt, with a capacity of 1.8 GW, and the Noor/Sweihan plant in the United Arab Emirates, with a capacity of 1.2 GW.

Figure 2. Top countries in PV installed capacity in 2019 (GW).



Source: REN21.

Access related machine-readable datasets [here](#) and [here](#).

References:

- REN21 (2020), Renewables Global Status Report 2020, REN21, Paris, France.
- IRENA (2019), Renewable Capacity Statistics 2019, IRENA, Abdu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- IRENA (2019), Renewable Energy Market Analysis – GCC 2019, IRENA, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

[View this Data Insight online with interactive charts](#)

Author: Amro Elshurafa