



ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU), Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany, & Universidad de las Américas Puebla (UDLAP) in partnership with the German Solar Academy Network (GSAN)

are organising the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

Solar Energy Capacity Programme (SECAP)

24 - 29 August 2026 in Puebla, Mexico

followed by the participation in the

Intersolar Mexico 2026

together with the trade fairs The Green Expo and Aquatech Mexico

31 August - 03 September 2026 in Mexico City, Mexico

Background

The proposed seminar and the visit to the conference Intersolar Mexico 2026 (ISM) are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the programme **SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development for Germany Alumni from the Global South** (www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects). The international DAAD Alumni Seminar “SOLAR ENERGY CAPACITY PROGRAMME – SECAP” is organised and hosted by the Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany & Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Mexico in partnership with the German Solar Academy Network.

The training seminar targets **Germany Alumni** from developing countries (DAC country nationals) from Latin America (including Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean) who studied, carried out research or worked in Germany for at least 3 months and are presently living and working in their home countries.

The prospective participants should be professionally involved in various areas of Solar Energy and Renewable Energy Systems, and/or working for academic, educational or development organisations, NGO's, donor agencies, private enterprises. They should also be potential multipliers in a position to spread the acquired knowledge and experience and/or take decisions on implementation of new technologies and innovations.

The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Objectives and Tentative Training Seminar Programme

The **overall objective** of the project is to provide selected participants with technical skills and know how on business practice in the solar-PV field (Photovoltaics, Solar Electricity), as well as networking opportunities. Please see below the **specific learning objectives** of the SECAP training seminar.

At the end of the training seminar, participants will

- acquire technical knowledge about solar-PV – practical installation and safety measures
- get to know fundamental renewable energy global best practices.
- learn about AI applications in Solar PV
- develop PV project development and communication strategies
- gain industry and applied research exposure and networking opportunities

In order to reach these overall objectives, participants will learn to

- distinguish between different PV system types and their suitable applications and the basic principles of solar-PV systems and their key components
- identify different policy instruments for the widespread deployment of renewable energy technologies notably, solar-PV systems
- recognize essential safety protocols for working with solar-PV systems, safe and effective PV system installation, quality checks, troubleshooting
- explore potential AI-based solutions for solar-PV applications (monitoring and maintenance)
- effectively communicate and present basic solar-PV project proposals to stakeholders

The training seminar aims to initiate an active participatory learning process. It uses a mixture of

- interactive online presentations and case-based learning approach through through prepared training materials
- team work and participatory engagement of the trainees to conceptualize new knowledge
- awareness creation, with focus on alumni research work, research collaborations and real industry projects
- Group icebreaker sessions and presentation during onsite training phase
- active discussion and teambuilding sessions
- workshops including case studies on solar-PV applications and exercises
- Practical experience through industry site visitation and industry dialogue

The main objective for the participation at the Intersolar Mexico 2026 is to explore mutual opportunities between industry and organizations represented at the fair, and participants with their background of decision-making in solar-PV systems in their respective countries, regions and organizations.

The final training seminar programme (online preparation phase and onsite in Puebla/Mexico) will be published once all applications have been reviewed.

Social events: In addition to the content-related sessions of the training seminar and the visits to the trade fairs, the project programme also includes social and informal events, such as a group dinner and a welcome reception. This aims to further promote intercultural exchange and social networking among the alumni participants.

It is necessary to participate in the whole programme: training seminar, trade fair and social programme.

Travel dates

23 August 2026	Arrival in Puebla
24 - 29 August 2026	Seminar in UDLAP, Puebla
30 August 2026	Travel to Mexico City
31 August – 3 September 2026	Intersolar Mexico 2026, The Green Expo, Aquatec Mexico
04 September 2026	Departure from Mexico City

It is essential that you participate from the first day of the online training seminar and the in-person training in Puebla to the last day after the trade fair. Any exceptions must be communicated to the DAAD before your travel to the project.

Eligibility Criteria for Participation

This project (training seminar and trade fair participation) targets alumni of German universities / research institutions

- who are German university alumni of countries listed on the [OECD DAC list](#) from Latin America (including Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean),
 - who are currently living and working in their home country / in a DAC-listed country, and
 - who carried out research or studied in Germany for **at least 3 months**
- OR**
- who were funded within the framework of
 - the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme
 - the Centres of African Excellence
 - the SDG Graduate Schools
 - the Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development – exceed
 - the Global Centres for Climate and Environment as well as for Health and Pandemic Prevention

Participant's Profile

You should have

- 1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of renewable energy systems, decarbonization of industry processes, environmental and resource management, sustainability and digitalization, and other intersectoral related fields
- 2) **professional experience and personal interest** in one of the following areas: research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders,
- 3) the requirements to **act as a potential change agent (multiplier)** who will present the training seminar results in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation,
- 4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held in **English**.

Eligibility for repeated attendances at SDG Alumni Projects:

Participations in SDG Alumni Projects are limited to a maximum of 2 participations within 4 years. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation. This rule does not apply for attendance on a completely digital SDG Alumni Project (formerly: Alumni Special Project).

Cost coverage

The **university** covers the following costs for the training seminar in Puebla:

- international return ticket to and from Benito Juárez International Airport (MEX) in Mexico City (lowest possible economy class airfare)
- train tickets (2nd class)/shuttle bus: Benito Juárez International Airport (MEX) in Mexico City to Puebla
- travel health insurance (up to 35,00 EUR)
- visa costs (for alumni requiring visa to travel to Mexico – up to 35,00 EUR)
- accommodation and partial living expenses during the stay in Puebla
- transport on excursions
- transport from Puebla to Mexico City for the Intersolar Mexico trade fair

The **DAAD** covers the following costs during your stay in Mexico City:

- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the trade fair stay in Mexico City
- Daily transport from the hotel to the trade fair and back (private bus or public transport)
- Entrance fees for the trade fair Intersolar Mexico 2026 as well as The Green Expo and Aquatech Mexico
- Transport and entrance fees on excursions

Please note: If you are receiving financial support from the DAAD or any other funding organisation at the time of this SDG Alumni Project stay (training seminar week and conference/trade fair visit), you are obliged to state this in full (in the application form). A funding within the framework of this project may be reduced in order to avoid double funding.

Please note: All other costs, such as transportation costs from your hometown to your airport of departure/arrival and travel costs for visa application, **must be covered by yourself**.

Please keep in mind that **living expenses are only covered partly** during your stays in Puebla and Mexico City.

Extensions of stays

Extensions of stays before the training seminar or after the SDG Alumni Project are possible for a maximum of 5 working days. In case you want to extend your stay, you are required to submit a comparison of flight ticket prices before the start of your travel. The cost will be covered by the university as communicated above. Should your actual travel dates differ due to the extension, you will be responsible for paying any price difference compared to the ticket costs on the official arrival and return dates. All additional travel expenses, accommodation, subsistence costs, and other expenses incurred during your extension are to be borne by yourself.

Please note that if your extension exceeds 5 working days, both your outbound and return flight must be fully financed by yourself. The university and the DAAD will, however, continue to cover

accommodation and partial living expenses during the seminar week, as well as your participation in the trade fair.

For any period of extension, you must arrange your own accommodation and ensure valid health insurance coverage for the additional days. Please also bear in mind that your host university and the DAAD will book accommodation for you during the official seminar and trade fair period. If, for any reason, you are unable to participate in the program from the first seminar day to the last day of the trade fair, you must inform both your host university and the DAAD as soon as possible to avoid potential cancellation costs.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and professional benefit for your participation. You should illustrate how you are planning to apply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

All applications have to be submitted no later than **22 March 2026 (23.59 CET)**.

Applications must include the following documents in one single PDF file:

- the completed **application form**,
- a **motivation statement**, outlining your motivation for participation and your particular interest in the topic, a brief description of your present duties/position/responsibilities, what this seminar will bring to your professional and/or personal development, and how you can be a multiplier of the knowledge gained in the seminar upon your return to your home country,
- a concise two-page CV with current and past professional profiles, publications, references, and educational backgrounds,
- an abstract (max. 400 words) on the “challenges of solar-PV systems development and deployment in Latin America” (font type “Arial” 11pt, 1.5 line spacing)
- a **relevant documentation of alumni status*** (e.g. your master’s degree certificate),
- an **overview** of seminars, workshops or conferences attended in Germany after finishing your studies in Germany.

***Please note: The single PDF file should be named: “Last name_First name_Country” (e.g., Ezeamama_Anayo_Germany) and must be sent via email to anayoazubuike.ezeamama@b-tu.de and josel.vazquez@udlap.mx and raab@pv-pa.com**

Please note: non-completeness of personal data mentioned in the online application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

With your application, you agree that your data will be stored by the Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) Cottbus-Senftenberg, UDLAP, shared with the DAAD and that you may appear in pictures that may be published in association with the seminar in Puebla or your participation in the trade fair InterSolar Mexico 2026.

With your application, you commit to participating in the whole programme (seminar in Puebla, the trade fairs in Mexico City and any mandatory social events).

After review by the local organising committee in Cottbus and the DAAD, all applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process in **April 2026**. Shortlisted applicants will be required by the selection committee to attend a short online interview.



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Contact Details

For further questions, please contact

Dr. Anayo Azubuike Ezeamama (anayoazubuike.ezeamama@b-tu.de) - Coordinator of the Alumni Training Seminar.

Website: www.b-tu.de

We are looking forward to your application!

Cottbus, 27 February 2026



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