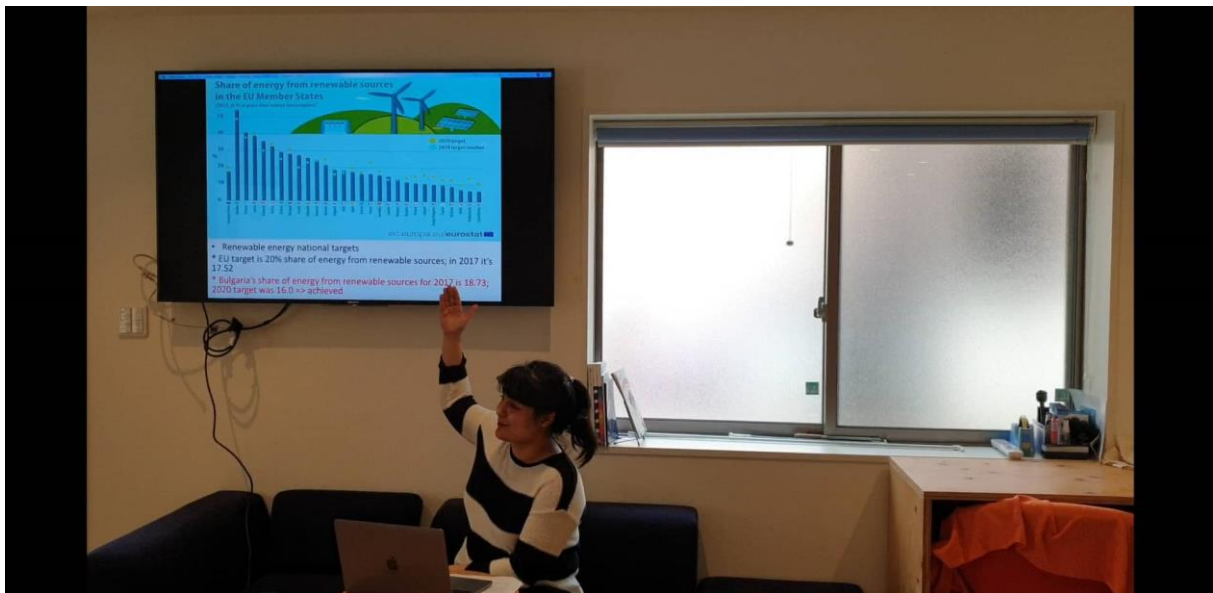




## Key tasks undertaken at ISEP

### Personal tasks

As ISEP interns are usually highly encouraged to develop their own personal projects in connection to energy and energy policies, I thought this would be a great opportunity to not only learn more about energy trends and policies in my own country, but also European Union ones in general, too. For this reason, I did research on Bulgaria's energy transition trends, as well as the European Union ones in regard to the current Climate Change situation and the demand for more ambitious policies. As a consequence, I made a presentation about the EU's NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), as well as Bulgaria's specific targets in connection to the Paris Agreement goals. The results of my research were presented in front of fellow interns and staff, as well as at an intern recruitment event at ISEP, but also in front of Sophia University students as part of a guest lecture organized by Professor Inoue from the Environmental Studies Faculty.



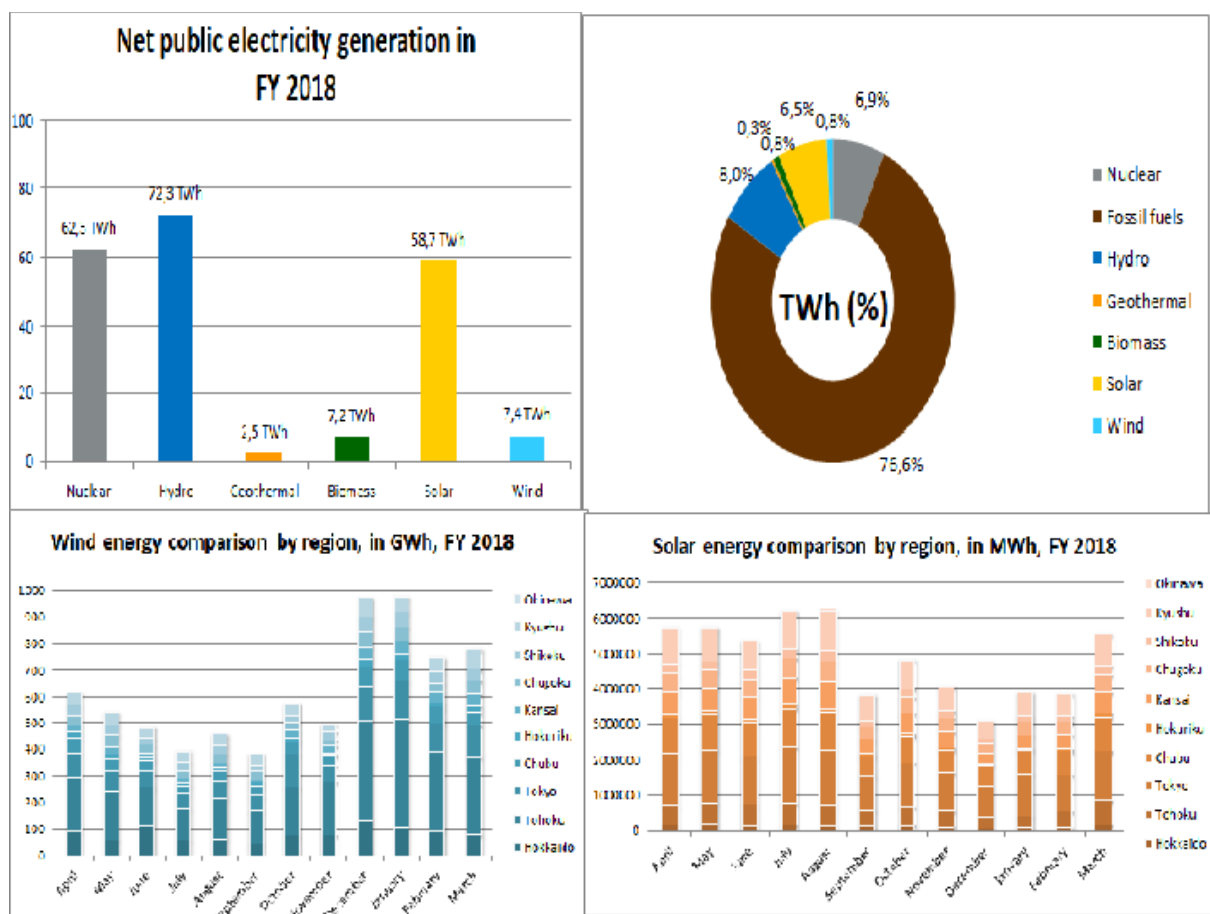
Later on, I did research on other personal project topics such as what policies renewable energy leaders across the world implement, their decarbonization strategies, as well as trends surrounding them, and other countries of particular interest (mainly China, India and Japan), but also dam effects on ecosystems and Environmental Impact Assessment regulations in the UK, Bulgaria and Japan.

Intern tasks

Throughout my 6-month internship, I engaged in many tasks related to not only ISEP’s projects concerning energy (ex. doing research on policies, presentations), but also purely technical ones such as assisting in the organization of events and helping with the Institute’s activities such as writing and translating articles.

-Assistance with energy issues research related tasks

The very first project I worked on was analyzing the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar energy systems ISE’s report about Net Public Electricity Generation in Germany in 2018, especially the graphs showing electricity generation sources and consequently making similar ones in regard to Japan’s electricity generation sources in 2018. Later on, I made a similar illustrated report about Japan’s electricity generation in FY 2018.



Other research I’ve done includes topics such as the German KNE’s (Kompetenzzentrum fuer Naturschutz und Energiewende - Competence Centre for Nature Conservation and Energy Transition) activities, waste cost management of solar panels in France and Germany. Later on, I looked into legislation of EU Member States in regard to FIT tariffs and developing solar panel projects, as well as the end-of-life procedure for PVPs, recycling them and how such methods could be replicated in Japan.

A very informative research task I took part in was the city-level renewable energy policies one in regard to helping Yamashita-san elaborate a cohesive renewable energy strategy for Takarazuka city situated in Hyōgo prefecture.

- Assistance with other ISEP activities

As ISEP often organizes staff events or ones open to the public, I got to assist with the organization of several symposiums and workshops. One of them was a staff meeting where professors were invited to present on Japan's, Korea's and Taiwan's energy policies, which was later turned into a public event, including a Q&A at the end. I got to assist with the set-up, as well as participate in an intern booth, where I and fellow interns talked with event participants, answered their questions about ISEP and its activities, our internships and motivated them to further support us. Another such example are the often happening presentations of ISEP at the National Diet or the Ministry of Environment. Other times, especially following such events, I've had to either translate, proof-read articles or even write articles to be uploaded on ISEP's website.

A common and very interesting task I enjoyed engaging in was going to energy exhibitions, where it's possible to see some of the newest technologies and devices in relation to energy production and efficiency, but also conferences organized by other energy institutes and ISEP partners, where speakers – researchers, professors, politicians, scientists, company and NGO executives from all over the world participate, presenting on the latest energy policies, strategies, schemes and innovative ways, which can be used to tackle issues connected to energy transition and climate change. Another example are the Q&A meetings with ISEP researchers and staff, as well as visiting researchers, as it is interesting to come to know of their experience and opinions, as well as the information they give in regard to Japan's current energy situations, but also their sphere of expertise, as it can often prove useful in one's own research. I've also assisted in the organization of intern meetings, where some interns present the results of their research to the rest of the interns and staff. During such meetings ex-interns might come, where at the end, during the general discussion, everyone shares their experience, opinion, thoughts, etc.

I was also involved in the organization of an event dedicated to potential interns, but also in a way presenting ISEP's activities, why and how an internship at ISEP is a valuable experience for everyone and not just people interested in the sphere of energy, sustainability and climate.

One of the most educational and hands-on experience I got at ISEP, was the trip to Fukushima prefecture, where I learned more about community power and people's experience after the nuclear disaster there. The trip was organized by fellow interns, through a crowdfunding project.

## Conclusion

My internship at ISEP has proven to be exactly what I thought it would and more - a place where I could not only get the valuable experience of working in the sphere of energy, but also continue developing my knowledge on different types of topics in this specific domain. From a personal standpoint, the congenial atmosphere at the Institute, the readiness to help and further support and motivate from both Yamashita-san and the rest of ISEP's staff in regard to both internship-related matters and personal ones truly made me feel welcome and inspired there.

I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the events and conferences ISEP organized. ISEP has also helped me expand my network in terms of important professional and personal connections alike, for which I will be forever grateful. I cannot recommend enough how enriching an internship at ISEP is on both a professional and a personal level.

