Chapter 1 : Introduction

1. **Background of Wind Energy Harvesting**

Although for thousand years of utilization of windy energy for basic applications like windmills and water pumps, utilization of wind for energy harvest never preferred because of its fluctuating and unknown nature. Like many developments in technology, modern wind energy utilization by means of wind turbines started 40 years ago due to search for alternative energy sources except oil, whose deficiency and high prices were a global crisis issue. Besides, air pollution and other environmental problems made it indispensable to search for clean and renewable energy sources such as wind. At first times of development, countries excluding Denmark tried to produce these wind turbines by experiences used in aerospace technology which has very high power ratings of MWs. After the understanding of the fact that produced turbines were bulky and inefficient in terms of reasonable cost of energy and required different technology than aeroplanes motors, all governments started follow Denmarks' path. Denmark started the wind turbine technology by developing small wind turbines first and encouraged the individiuals and small companies.These first turbines were operating at fixed speed and their structure was very simple. This concept was called later as “Danish concept” and became a milestone for modern wind turbines. Today, more than 40 per cent of Denmark’s energy supply comes from wind power and the plan is to reach 50 per cent by 2020, as set out in the 2012 Energy Act.Total wind energy capacity in Denmark was 4,890 MW by the end of 2014, 3,620 MW onshore and 1,271 MW offshore[8]. Denmark has some of most important wind energy manufacturers worldwide such as [Vestas](https://www.vestas.com/) and [Bonus Energy A/S-lately was acquired by Siemens](http://www.energy.siemens.com/hq/en/renewable-energy/wind-power/).

Global annual installed wind capacity between 2001-2016 and global cumulative installed wind capacity between same period is given in Figures 1 and 2, respectively. As it can be seen from graphs, wind energy harvesting has an increasing trend.

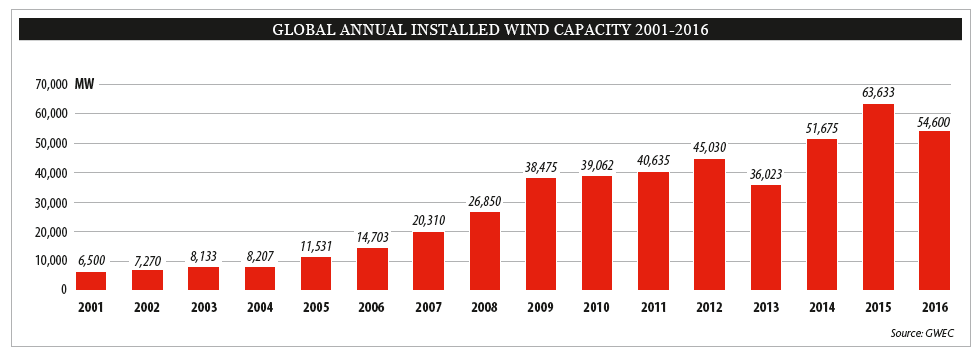


Figure 1. Global annual installed wind capacity 2001-2016 (GWEC report-2016)

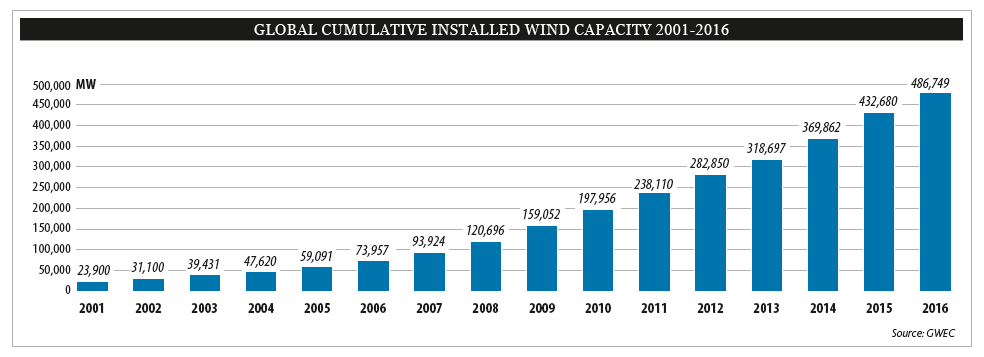


Figure 2. Global cumulative installed wind capacity 2001-2016 (GWEC report-2016)

According to annual market update report of GWEC, it’s expected to reach 791 GW of global cumulative wind energy capacity by 2020, although it’s estimated that annual capacity growth rate will be stabilize around five percent level. Detailed market forecast of GWEC for 2016-2020 is given in Figure 3.

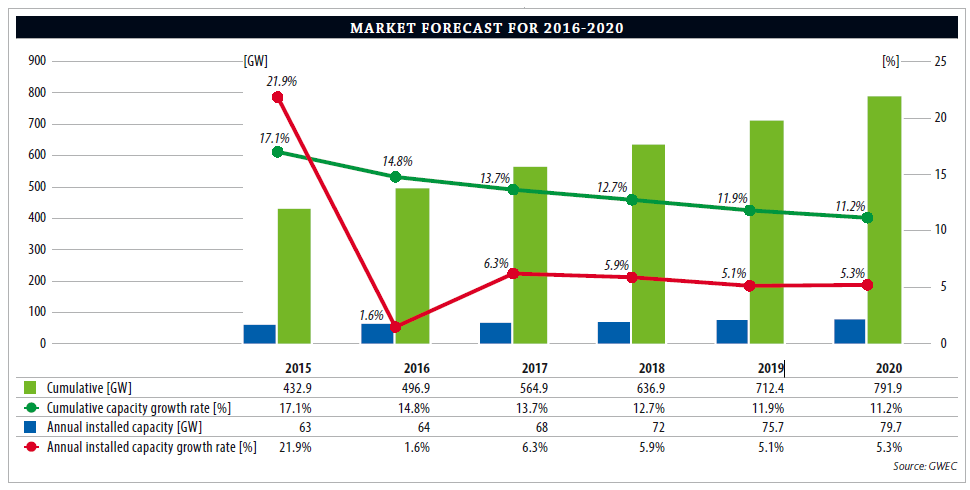


Figure 3. Global wind energy market forecast (GWEC report-2015)

Increase in utilization of wind energy in Turkey is very similar to global trends.Wind power supplied about 6% Turkey’s electricity consumption in 2015 [7]. Turkey has nearly stable increase rate of installation rate of wind power plants for past 5 years. Figure 4 below shows the variation of cumulative installations for wind power plants in Turkey. Figure 5 shows the global statistics of top 10 new installed capacity between January-December 2016. According to Turkish Wind Power Association, it’s expected to reach total installed capacity of 10 GW, under the current regulatory framework. Turkey’s wind resources are estimated at more than 48 GW from areas with over 7 m/s wind speed at 50 meters height[7]. According to Renewable Energy Law, newly installed power plants are encouraged financially to come into operation by long-term(10 years) constant feed-in tariffs and additional bonus of up to USD 3.7 cent/kWh for using locally manufactured wind power plant parts[7]. It can be concluded from wind power capacity installation performance in the last decade, Turkey shows some promise to become in top 5 countries of wind energy capacity in next years.

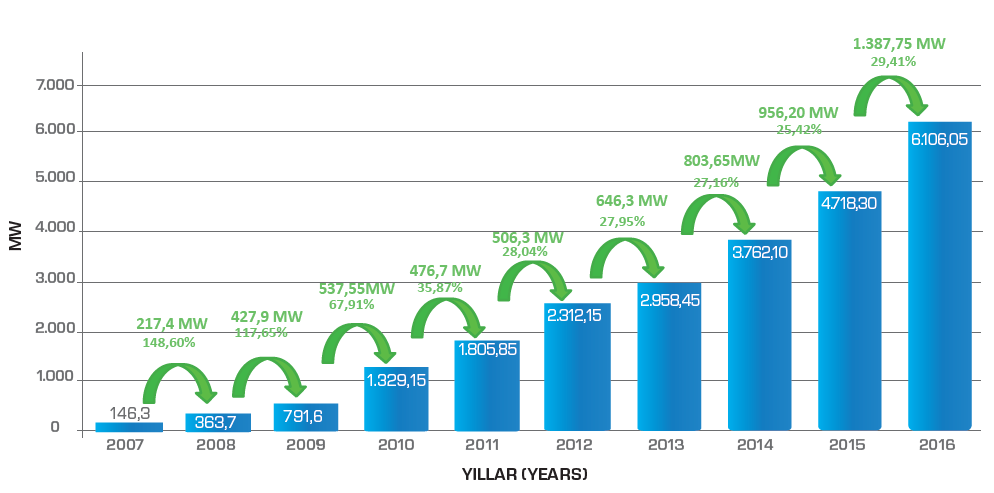


Figure 4. Cumulative installations for wind power plants in Turkey (TUREB-Turkish Wind Energy Statistics Report/January 2017)

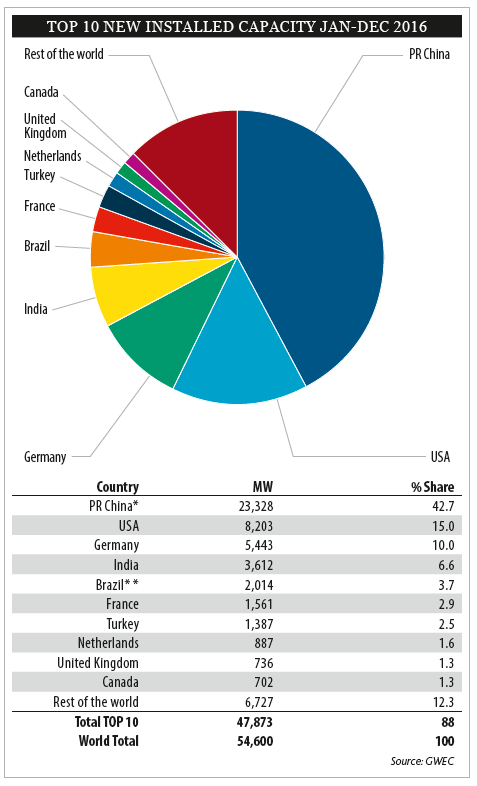


Figure 5. Top 10 new installed WPP(Wind Power Plant) capacity between January-December 2016 (GWEC report-2016)

Wind turbine design is an important issue for renewable energy. Especially for the last decade its technology is substantially matured with variable speed applications. Although there are physical and aerodynamical limitations due to natural causes of wind phenomenon, different arrangements of wind turbine generator systems are invented to maximized the captured energy. By this improved technologies both in power electronics and generators, manifacturing and installation costs are reduced. Therefore, wind energy harvesting concept started to penetrate the global markets. According to [2] the global installed utility scale wind power was 197 GW at the end of 2010 (an increase of 24.1%) while the global market for small wind turbines (SWTs) grew by only 4%. Evolution of wind turbine size and power electronics can be seen in Figure 4.

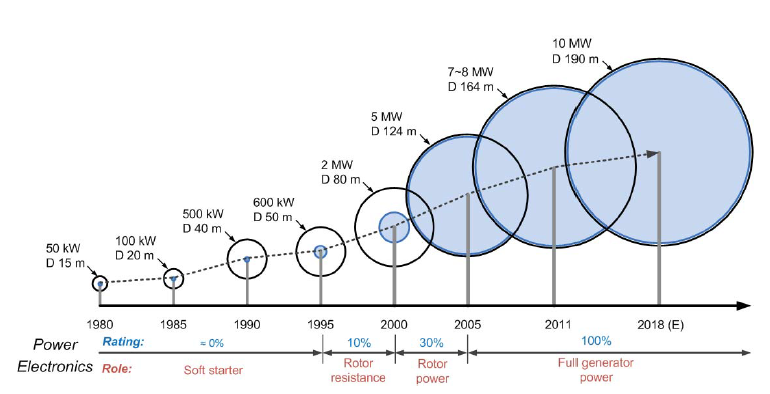


Figure 4. Evolution of wind turbines[4]

When designing and investing a wind power stations,3 main properties which are necessary to validate are given as follows:

* Low cost
* long-lasting
* Low service requirement

These are called L3 conditions[1]. If we go in detail of this conditions, from engineering point of view, lightweight ,low cost, low speed, high torque and variable speed operation should be taken into account during design stage of wind power plant(WPP) [9]. Wind turbine generators dominating the markets nowadays have 300-800 kW power output capacity in average.But the challenges and trends are toward to 1 MW per turbine thanks to promising concepts such as direct-drive[3]. Higher overall efficiency, lower noise, reliability, light weight and reduced maintanence costs are the main advantages of direct drive concept. Direct drive solutions offer simpler and more efficient structures for drivetrain of wind turbines, therefore smaller nacelle can be obtained. Addition to this, using modern rare-earth permanent magnets such as NdFeB, higher energy densities become reachable and more powerful novel generators can be manufactured.One disadvantage of direct drive concept is that they have larger diameters than conventional geared wind turbines in order to provide same output power in low speeds. In this study, direct drive axial flux permanent magnet topology is chosen to design among other topologies. Generators with permanent magnets will be covered more detailed in next chapter.

Cost per swept area is more valid factor than cost per rated power when evaluating a wind turbine by manufacturers [2]. However, cost per rated power term is used in technical designs and investment planning.

Wind turbines can be categorized in two types according to their axis position:

* Horizontal axis wind turbines (HAWT)
* Vertical axis wind turbines (VAWT)

As the name refers, in horizontal axis wind turbines axis of rotation of the shaft is parallel with ground, ie. Horizontal while in vertical axis wind turbines shaft axis is perpendicular to ground. Horizontal axis wind turbines are dominant in market due to its robust structure and high overall efficiency. Vertical axis turbines are generally used in small wind applications in levels of kWs. In vertical axis wind turbines angle of strike of the air is inherently varies with the rotation and it’s hard to capture energy especially under unbalanced wind flow conditions, while pitch and yaw control of the turbine can be succesfully implemented in horizantal axis turbines. In general, the efficiency of small wind turbines is low compared with large wind turbines[2]. There are no standards about what wind speed manufacturers should give the output power of their turbine (rated power). Therefore, there are some differences between the manufacturer's plate values and actual measured values.

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*Horizontal axis wind turbine Vertical axis wind turbine*

Another important issue is the speed control of these turbine blades in terms of aerodynamic means. At this point two main control techniques are exist: stall control and pitch control . Generally in stall controlled technique, turbine blades are fixed aerodynamic structure and these turbines need high peak torque to limit turbine speed while in pitch control technique, blades angle can be changed during operation of turbine i.e angle of attack of air can be adjusted therefore these turbines do not need overtorque for limit the speed [5].

Main parts of the wind turbine consist of turbine blades and shaft, gearbox and generator. In conventional applications gearbox is connected between turbine shaft and generator and used for increasing the low speed of turbine blades to high speed of generator. In direct drive drive wind turbines, generator directly connected to main shaft of the turbine and operate at low speeds. Geared and direct drive schematics of wind turbines are shown in Figure 7.

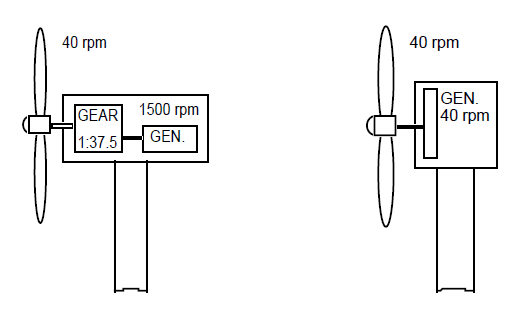


Figure 7. Conventional geared (left) and direct drive wind turbines [6]

1. **Problem Statement and Research Objective**

As the wind energy conversion systems become more capable player of the global energy sector and installed capacities of the WECs increased every year, reliability for these systems becomes important issue. Especially with the increased power rates of these turbines, size and volumes are also increase and modularity becomes vital.

In this thesis work, a Direct Drive Axial Flux Permanent Magnet wind turbine generator is chosen and designed because of its high torque density and volume advantage. Gearless drive train is chosen especially for increase overall efficiency and reduce maintanence costs. Proposed generator also has a modular structure, thus reliability and high efficiency is desired even in a fault-state. When increasing importance of “reliability”, “modularity” and “fault-tolerance” taken into account, proposed generator system and its comparison with existed commercial counterparts will contribute significantly in the wind energy harvesting technologies.

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