ESCAP-GTI Seminar on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia: Capacity Building for Effective Power Interconnection Cooperation (Online)
18 August 2022 (Thursday, 14:30 – 16:30, Beijing time)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

As the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, the power sector is at the center of attention of climate change mitigation. Technologies for decarbonization have been advanced from core technologies such as wind and solar to new clean energy technologies including green hydrogen, next generation batteries, thermal energy storage as well as carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies and UHVDC which is an important enabler for transmission of renewable energy from remote source locations to load centers.

In the Northeast Asia subregion, the vast potential for energy cooperation, in particular, power grid interconnection using renewable sources of energy, have been long discussed as a way to reduce carbon emissions with concrete proposals being made on possible routes. While many studies carried out over the years demonstrated technical and economic feasibility of different interconnection options, geopolitical challenges have hindered progress on cross-border power interconnections. In addition, the differences in soft connectivity issues including regulatory frameworks, operational environment and the lack of institutional support also act as barriers that need to be addressed in order to promote power interconnection and cooperation in the region.

In this regard, notwithstanding the geopolitical challenges which require political trust and commitment, capacity building to tackle existing soft connectivity issues mentioned above and to integrate new developments in clean energy technologies into the regional power grids is an important strategy for improving readiness for effective and sustainable cross-border power interconnections.

This seminar is organized to share among GTI member States, recent capacity building programmes in North-East Asia in support of regional power interconnections and discuss possible areas which need further capacity building support. The seminar will also discuss the latest developments on ESCAP’s project to develop a North-East Asia Green Power Corridor Roadmap.

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1 UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee (2021) “Emerging Climate Technologies in the Energy Supply Sector” (https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc_/StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/energysupplysector/c781afe68dac492482d285e2caef4e34/0899e50d84c644c082a9897b8f9f6953.pdf)
Participants

The Seminar, organized annually, is held in conjunction with GTI Energy Board meetings. Participants include GTI Energy Board members, stakeholders and experts involved in energy cooperation and power interconnection.

Organization

The Seminar will be held on a virtual platform using MS Teams with technical support provided by ESCAP ENEA Office and GTI Secretariat. The Seminar will be conducted in English.

Programme

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| 14:30 - 14:45 | **Opening Session**  
  
  • Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav (Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office)  
  • Mr. Andrey Smorodin (Director, GTI Secretariat)  
  • Chair of GTI Energy Board |
| 14:45 – 15:45 | **Session 1: Capacity building needs for effective power interconnection cooperation in North-East Asia**  
  
  Moderated by: GTI Secretariat  
  
  Ongoing capacity building programmes in Asia Pacific and East and North-East Asia, Ms. Randi Kristiansen, Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Division, ESCAP  
  
  Overview of GTI member country’s readiness for effective power interconnection cooperation followed by country presentations, Mr. Lei Xiaomeng, China Electricity Council  
  
  • China, Mr. Lei Xiaomeng, Project Lead Consultant  
  • Mongolia, Ms. Oyunchimeg Ch, Project National Consultant  
  • Republic of Korea, Mr. Jung Hwan Kim, Project National Consultant  
  • Russian Federation, Mr. Ruslan Gulidov, Project National Consultant  
  • Q&A |
| 15:45-16:20 | **Session 2: Progress on North-East Asia Green Power Corridor Roadmap**  
  
  Moderated by: ESCAP  
  
  • Progress on North-East Asia Green Power Corridor Roadmap, Maria Pastukhova |
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<td>16:20</td>
<td><strong>Closing Remarks</strong></td>
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<td>- Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav (Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office)</td>
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- Update on North-East Asia Green Power Corridor Modelling, SEI, presented by Ms. Randi Kristiansen, Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Division, ESCAP
- Comments from GTI member States
  - China
  - Mongolia
  - Republic of Korea
  - Russian Federation
- Q&A