

North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum 2022

14 December 2022, 13:00 – 16:00 GMT+9
Virtual

Background

The global economy and particularly energy markets faced enormous challenges in 2022 with the combination of various factors resulting in record energy prices, fuel shortages and a slowdown in global economic recovery. The energy crisis, in turn, contributed to inflation rates unseen for decades and exacerbated poverty of the most vulnerable sectors of the population still struggling to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Many countries have responded to the energy crisis by putting a ceiling on consumer energy prices and subsidizing suppliers. However, with the governments' fiscal space shrinking in the aftermath of the unprecedented expansion during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, this offers only temporary relief, as does releasing emergency oil stocks which the IEA members carried out earlier in the year.

In this regard, increasing the share of renewable energy is a cleaner and more sustainable solution in the longer-term, and given the distribution of demand and supply centers of renewable energy in North-East Asia, power grid interconnections integrating various renewable energy sources would provide a win-win strategy for all countries.

However, there are a number of significant obstacles hindering progress of North-East Asia energy cooperation including lack of trust, a common vision and strong institutional frameworks to support cooperation. Over the years, there have been attempts to institutionalize energy cooperation in North-East Asia. Among these, the “Intergovernmental Collaborative Mechanism on Energy Cooperation in Northeast Asia (ECNEA)” launched in 2005 was the most formal cooperation mechanism with DPRK, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation as members. ECNEA even established a Senior Officials Committee and Working Groups with secretariat support provided by ESCAP.

Despite these efforts, actualizing and operationalizing energy cooperation in North-East Asia has stalled for a long period of time and under the current climate, political commitment by member States will require considerable build-up from all fronts. As such, strengthening of bilateral agreements, regular networking through various platforms, capacity building to enhance readiness and awareness, as well as evidence-based analysis are some ways to continue engaging key stakeholders and build momentum towards concrete results.

Against this background, the NEARPIC Forum 2022 is being organized to, among other objectives, discuss the interim results of an ongoing project of ESCAP to develop a roadmap for connecting North-East Asia power grids using renewable sources of energy based on feasible interconnection scenarios.

Also, the Forum will discuss various networking platforms on energy cooperation in North-East Asia in order to find areas of synergies and enhance the impact and effectiveness of these platforms.

Lastly, the Forum will share updates from the NEARPIC Steering Committee members and stakeholders.

Objectives

The NEARPIC Forum 2022 aims to:

- Discuss the interim results of ESCAP's project on the North-East Asia Green Power Corridor Roadmap
- Discuss various platforms on North-East Asia energy cooperation and the key objectives and challenges of these platforms as well as strategies to enhance their impact and effectiveness
- Share updates on regional power interconnection initiatives and projects of NEARPIC members and stakeholders

Participants

- Members of NEARPIC Steering Committee
- Government officials in the North-East Asian countries
- National institutes, energy companies and other public-sector stakeholders
- International organizations and financial institutions
- Academia and think tanks

Organization

- The NEARPIC Forum 2022 will be organized on 14 December (Wednesday) and held virtually from 13:00 to 16:00 (GMT+9) using MS Teams
- All discussions of the Forum will be conducted in English
- Presentations will be delivered by representatives, resource persons and experts upon the session focus, followed by discussions

*For any inquires or more information, please contact us at **Tel: +82-32-458-6600; Email : escap-sroenea-registry@un.org**.*

Tentative Programme

14 December 2022 (Wednesday)

Opening Session

13:00–13:05

Opening and welcome remarks by

- Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head, East and North-East Asia Office, ESCAP
 - Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, ESCAP
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Session 1: North-East Asia Green Power Corridor Roadmap and Perspectives

Moderator: Mr. Matthew Wittenstein, Chief, Energy Division, ESCAP

13:05–14:20

- Project overview on Green Power Corridor Roadmap, Mr. Matthew Wittenstein, Chief, Energy Division, ESCAP
- Green Power Corridor Modelling, Ms. Charlotte Wagner, Stockholm Environment Institute
- Green Power Corridor Roadmap, Ms. Maria Pastukhova, Project Consultant
- Perspectives on the North-East Asia Green Power Corridor (Governments and Experts)
 - China
 - Mongolia
 - Republic of Korea
 - Russian Federation

Q&A & Discussion

Session 2: Strengthening platforms for power interconnections in North-East Asia

Moderator: Mr. Lei Xiaomeng, Senior Advisor, China Electricity Council

14:20 – 15:20

Presenters:

- Mr. Graham Pugh, Senior Fellow, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)
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- Ms. Anna Lobanova, ESCAP
 - Mr. Woongtae Chung, Director, Center for International Energy Cooperation, Korea Energy Economics Institute, *Northeast Asia Energy Forum*
 - Mr. Khurelbat Banzragch, Senior Advisor, Mongolian Renewables Industries Association, *International New Energy Summit*
 - Ms. Enkhbayar Shagdar, Senior Research Fellow, The Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA)

Q&A & Discussion

Session 3: Updates on plans and activities from NEARPIC Steering Committee members and stakeholders

Moderator: Ms. Yejin Ha, Programme Officer, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office

Presenters:

15:20–15:55

- Mr. Jin Chen, GEIDCO
- Ms. Shannon Cowlin, ADB
- Mr. Seiichiro Kimura, REI

Closing Remarks

15:55 – 16:00

Mr. Matthew Wittenstein, Chief, Energy Division, ESCAP
