

Concept Note

**10th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD),
7-8 October 2019, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
From Targets to Action**

Asia-Pacific Network of Energy Think Tanks (APNETT)

**15:30 – 17:15, Monday 7 October 2019
Venue: UN Conference Centre**



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Rationale and Background:

The Asia-Pacific Network of Energy Think Tanks (APNETT) has been proposed by ESCAP to link the diverse multidisciplinary energy expertise across region. APNETT will convene academic institutions, think tanks, universities and not-for-profit entities to facilitate exchange on energy topics and develop collaborative research on energy issues identified by ESCAP's Secretariat and its member States through intergovernmental processes.

This session forms the launch of APNETT, which can play a significant role to address emerging energy knowledge gaps and build expertise, particularly in the field of sustainable energy development.

ESCAP will establish APNETT and serve as its focal point. It will develop terms of reference that will govern its operation, for distribution prior and to be agreed upon by members in a separate session at the forum.

Members will focus on research issues and barriers to achieving sustainable energy development including SDG7.

The Network will serve to:

- a) deliver collaborative research, drawing on contributions from relevant institutes in APNETT, feeding into ESCAP's regional publications on energy;
- b) undertake peer reviews of energy research in support of the ESCAP work program on energy;
- c) support capacity development in the form of research tools, databases and assistance to institutes in need; and
- d) exchange information across the network and disseminate learnings to policymakers.

Objectives:

The objective of this session is to launch and introduce APNETT to the wider forum audience. This is an opportunity for forum attendees to learn about the group and ESCAP's intentions in its establishment.

Although the network will not have held its inception meeting (where the Terms of Reference will be agreed and initial discussions held towards defining a work plan), the session will provide a chance for high-profile APNETT members to present their views on the principal research questions facing the region that can be considered for investigation. As an interactive session, it will also provide an opportunity to canvas views from the Forum audience on contemporary challenges facing the energy transition in the Asia Pacific region.

Tentative Agenda:

The following indicative timing is proposed for the session agenda:

- 15:30—15:40 Welcome, scene setting and introduction,
 - QR code and smartphone poll setup (ESCAP)
 - Icebreaker audience poll – what is the #1 barrier you see for decarbonising energy in the Asia Pacific?
- 15:40 – 15:45 Introduction of the APNETT members (all)
- 15:45—16:00 Keynote Address
 - Mr. Xuan Wu, Secretary General, GEIDCO, China (theme: Asia Power Grid)
 - Ms. Hina Aslan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan (theme: the Asia-Pacific energy transition and the research challenges ahead)
 - Ms. Xu Qinhua, Renmin University of China
- 16:00—16:45
 - Panel discussion of APNETT members
 - Audience poll –what are the big energy research frontiers for the Asia Pacific? (Audience poll on screen).
 - Audience Q&A
- 16:45- 17:00 How can APNETT draw together regional expertise to realise the energy aspirations of the Asia-Pacific? – facilitated discussion on the draft Terms of Reference
- 17:00—17:15 Conclusion (ESCAP)



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Expected outputs:

The meeting will formally launch APNETT. The energy research landscape will be explored by APNETT members and feedback from the audience will provide important context and guidance to some of the principal research priorities.