

Concept note

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

Inception Meeting for ESCAP – EFC Project “Promoting Sustainable Energy in the Asia and Pacific Region to Support the implementation of SDG7 and the Paris Agreement”

**14:00-17:15, Monday 7 October 2019
Venue: UN Conference Centre**



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Rationale and Background:

ESCAP and the Energy Foundation China (EFC) have embarked on a joint project to promote low carbon and green development across the Asia-Pacific region, with a focus on clean power. This is to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement targets for economic prosperity, sustainable energy, addressing air quality, and climate change in Asia and the Pacific. This Project has been initiated as the first of a series of phases of cooperation between the two organizations to assist countries progress the implementation of SDG7, with a focus on enhancing policy coordination, facilitating high-level policy dialogues and delivering knowledge products in Asia and the Pacific.

The participating organizations, in first phase of their cooperation, have targeted five focus areas in the first phase of cooperation:

1. Development of an SDG7 roadmap toolkit, the National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP) to assist developing countries of the region plan for the implementation of SDG7 and the Paris Agreement.
2. Regional cooperation and dialogue to help realize the energy transition in Asia-Pacific, including launching a network of Asia-Pacific energy think tanks.
3. Enhancing cooling energy efficiency in ASEAN countries - identifying gaps and opportunities in policies and standards for enhancing cooling energy efficiency through research and addressing these.
4. Systematic reviews of energy access to support evidence-based policy for attaining universal energy access - to understand the interaction between enhanced energy access and other sustainable development objectives.
5. Undertake a detailed expert review of clean energy for sustainable and low carbon cities, with recommendations for cities to put in place low carbon energy master plans.

These will be implemented during 2019 and 2020.

The inception meeting participants will be from government, civil society, the research community, think tanks, international organizations and the private sector.

Objectives:

The objectives of the inception meeting are to:

- Discuss the high level aims of the ESCAP-EFC collaboration and receive feedback from member country representatives and energy sector stakeholders on how to best guide the project towards its objectives;
- Identify existing knowledge resources and related activities on the topics to be investigated.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration to build on existing capacities and promote knowledge exchange.

Tentative Agenda:

- 14:00 - 14:10:** **Welcome and introduction**
Mr Hongpeng Liu, Director Energy Division
- 14:10 - 14:25:** **Promoting a transition to sustainable energy across the Asia-Pacific – the aims of EFC-ESCAP Cooperation**
Professor Ji Zou, President, EFC
- 14:30 – 15:00:** **Outline of the cooperation areas under Phase 1**
Michael Williamson, Energy Division
- 15:00 – 15:15:** **Participants Questions and Answers**
All participants
- 15:15 – 15:30:** **Coffee break**
- 15:30 – 17:15:** **Launch of the Asia-Pacific Network of Energy Think Tanks (APNETT)**
See separate Concept Note

Expected Outputs:

The inception meeting will help to:

- Disseminate the objectives of the ESCAP-EFC cooperation.
- Invite perspectives and feedback from member countries and energy stakeholders on the proposed activities.
- Identify existing or planned initiatives that can complement the project.