

North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum 2019

24 October 2019

E Hall (Room #6), COEX, Seoul, Republic of Korea

- **ORGANIZED BY:** UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (ESCAP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), and Asia Development Bank (ADB)
- **SUPPORTED BY:** Korea Energy Agency (KEA)

Background

North-East Asian (NEA) countries have significant potentials for harnessing complementarities in energy resource endowment as well as in energy production and consumption. Especially, an interconnected power system across a large geographic region and multiple countries would provide more reliable and cleaner energy and help resolve intermittency of power generations from renewable sources, thereby supporting energy transition and energy security in North-East Asia and contributing to combating air pollution and climate change.

To better understand and capture the potential benefits, there have been several studies conducted in North-East Asia, and many found that power interconnection in North-East Asia is physically and economically feasible. In this regard, there were suggestions to establish a multistakeholder platform and intergovernmental framework that facilitates power interconnections and cooperation, accelerating project development. As a result, the “North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation (NEARPIC) Forum” was held from 2016, as a multistakeholder platform to share knowledge, promote collaboration, support multilateral agreements and raise awareness. At its third meeting in 2018, the NEARPIC Forum was launched as a regular platform with the adoption of terms of reference.

In recent years, there have been notable progress on power interconnection in North-East Asia including the Strategy for Northeast Asia Power System Interconnection (NAPSI) project of ADB, reports of Asia International Grid Connection Study Group, and joint studies of power corporations in the subregion. There has been political support by the leaders of the North-East Asian countries as well such as the proposal of the Mongolian President on urgent and prompt commencement of the “North-East Asian Super Grid” project at the 4th Eastern Economic Forum in 2018.

Against this background, the NEARPIC Forum 2019 is being organized to share progress made, coordinate planned activities, and discuss ways forward in support of the proposal of Mongolia on strengthening subregional cooperation for power interconnection.

Objectives

The NEARPIC Forum 2019 aims:

- To review progress made and discuss planned activities related to power interconnection in North-East Asia;
- To share (i) recent progress in feasibility studies including ADB-NAPSI project outcomes and (ii) international and regional experiences on power interconnection; and
- To discuss how to support intergovernmental cooperation and arrangement.

Participants

- Members of NEARPIC Steering Committee (13 institutes)
- 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 2019 will be organized on 24 October at COEX, Seoul, Republic of Korea during the KIREC Seoul 2019.
- 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.

Provisional agenda

- Opening
- Session 1: Review of progress & planned activities on cooperation for power interconnection
- Session 2: ADB-NAPSI project outcomes and recommendations (jointly with ADB)
- Session 3: Ways forward: in support of intergovernmental cooperation and arrangement
- Closing
- Steering Committee meeting (closed)

For any inquires or more information, please contact us at kim54@un.org or lee62@un.org.