

Expert Working Group Meeting on Energy Connectivity

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Five Major Challenges in promoting Cross Border Electricity Connectivity

- ❖ Political willingness, conducive environment as well as notion of energy security,
- ❖ Capital intensive cross border inter-connection infrastructure and funding modality,
- ❖ Establishment of Legal and Institutional framework; Grid Code harmonization and dispute resolution mechanism,
- ❖ Non-discriminatory open access in transmission infrastructures for multinational connectivity,
- ❖ Energy availability.

Concrete Examples and Good practices in addressing the challenges

- ❖ Power Trade Agreement (PTA) with India in 2014. Establishment of PTA implementation mechanism through Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Joint Working Group (JWG),
- ❖ SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity) has been signed by the SAARC member countries in 2014. However, it is yet to be ratified by few SAARC member countries,
- ❖ Final Stage of signing of MoU on Cooperation in Power Sector with Bangladesh. MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection is finalized by all the member states and is ready for signing in the forthcoming (3rd) BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting,
- ❖ 400 kV (A/C) Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur (first cross border) TL line between Nepal and India has been completed and is operational. Preparation is under way for the Second 400 kV (A/C) Butwal-Gorakhpur cross border TL.

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Role of regional cooperation in addressing the challenges.

- Enabling political and policy environment for energy connectivity and regional energy trade,
 - Multilateral Framework Agreement for transition from bilateral to sub-regional and regional power trade,
 - Establishment of regulatory framework for Open Access and Grid Code harmonization,
 - Help create funds and funding mechanism for infrastructure, and
 - Technical cooperation and capacity building.
- What should be the main building blocks in developing the regional roadmap?
- Willingness and commitment amongst member countries,
 - Energy shall not be given strategic importance,
 - Fostering the concept of energy interdependency,
 - Building on the success of bilateral cooperation to move towards sub-regional and regional cooperation,
 - Setting up instruments and mechanism for regional cooperation, and
 - Considering energy as a global resource and realizing a need to use it sustainably.

THANK YOU

