

CONCEPT NOTE: 2014 Policy Dialogue on Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

26-28 November 2014 | Bangkok, Thailand

Background

At the 2013 Asian and Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, attending member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted a Ministerial Declaration and regional Plan of Action on Regional Cooperation for Enhanced Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy in Asia and the Pacific. These outcome documents established the 2014-2018 regional agenda. In August 2014, all ESCAP member States adopted Resolution 70/9 “Implementation of the outcomes of the first Asian and Pacific Energy Forum” at the 70th Commission Session.

Through the APEF outcomes and resolution, member States have requested the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to play a facilitative and supportive role during the implementation of the Plan of Action. To that end, ESCAP Secretariat holds an annual Policy Dialogue in collaboration with member States and development partners. This dialogue aims to ensure country-driven processes in identifying common challenges and solutions in support of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration and regional Plan of Action.

Annual Policy Dialogue

ESCAP Secretariat organizes the Policy Dialogue to promote ongoing dialogue and actions towards the implementation of APEF outcomes. The annual meetings are organized to facilitate the dissemination of information, the exchange of best practices and the identification of potential regional policy initiatives that can be developed under the APEF framework. The annual Policy Dialogue is also where focus areas for the next annual APEF Regional Energy Trends Report and Policy Dialogue are determined, and where direct feedback and inputs are provided for the APEF Energy Data and Information Portal. The annual Policy Dialogue therefore merges the three pillars of the APEF Implementation Support Mechanism to facilitate a continuously strengthened process leading up to APEF 2018.

Building upon the mandate and the 2013 Policy Dialogue proceedings, the secretariat will organize the 2014 Policy Dialogue with the following objectives:

1. Increase understanding and strengthen linkages between the implementation of the APEF Plan of Action and initiatives of member States, regional organizations and global initiatives.
2. Review the secretariat’s practical efforts towards meeting the mandate provided by member states in the following areas:

APEF VISION

Asia and the Pacific where:

- **Sustainable energy for all is a reality**
- **Enhanced energy security is present from regional to household levels**
- **An energy future of equity, diversification and access to all is secured**
- **The share of cleaner energies in the overall energy mix is increased**

- a. Development of the APEF Implementation Support Mechanism, which was discussed and supported at the 2013 Policy Dialogue (*see attachment, "Overview: APEF Implementation Support Mechanism" for more information*);
 - b. Development of the APEF Energy Data & Policy Information Portal;
 - c. Drafting of the Regional Energy Trends Report based on the focus areas identified during the 2013 Policy Dialogue – 1) Integration of Renewable Energy in Electricity Systems, and 2) Application of Clean Coal Technologies.
3. Exchange views on policy options and regional cooperation frameworks to accelerate the implementation of APEF Plan of Action, in particular in the two areas analyzed in the Regional Trends Report.
 4. Identify the focus area for next year policy dialogue;
 5. Discuss how to fully establish and utilize the APEF Implementation Support Mechanism, including the establishment of a framework to support member States in the development of policies as solutions to specific energy challenges.

Participation Guidelines

Detailed participation guidelines will be forwarded following receipt of nominations. However, it should be noted that participants will be requested to contribute to the Policy Dialogue through:

- a) The preparation of a short presentation on national activities and policies related to the implementation of the outcomes of the first APEF;
- b) Feedback and inputs on the draft Regional Energy Trends Report;
- c) Feedback on the APEF Energy Data & Policy Information Portal;
- d) Discussion of policy recommendations in the two focus areas of 1) Integration of Renewable Energy in Electricity Systems, and 2) Application of Clean Coal Technologies.

Regarding items b) and c), the draft Regional Energy Trends Report and a link to the beta version of the APEF Energy Data & Policy Information Portal will be circulated prior to the Policy Dialogue to enable participants to prepare their feedback and inputs.

For questions about the programme and/your participation, please contact the Secretariat at apef@unescap.org or escap-esdd-ers@un.org.

Mandate to the Secretariat

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

44. Request the Executive Secretary:

...

(c) To facilitate the dissemination of information, the exchange of best practices and the development and implementation of all energy related initiatives and projects aimed at enhancing energy access and energy security, diversifying energy sources and promoting the sustainable use of energy in the region;

...

(e) To promote networking and information-sharing among national and subregional organizations in order to implement the present Declaration and the Plan of Action;

(f) To advance and periodically review, in close consultation with members and associate members, the progress made in the implementation of the present Declaration and the Plan of Action and to report thereon to the Commission on a regular basis.

PLAN OF ACTION

IV. Review and assessment mechanism
ESCAP will undertake a periodic review of the progress made in the implementation of the plan of action based on information provided by members and associate members on a voluntary basis, as well as by collaborating

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