

REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ENERGY SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

AGENDA

DAY ONE **THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014**

18:30 – 19:00 **Registration with Tea/Coffee**

19:00 – 20:30 **Political Economy Dimensions of Trans boundary Energy Cooperation**

As the countries in South Asia move towards greater development, the energy needs are also certain to go up exponentially and energy security is therefore, bound to be a priority for most countries. Many countries in the region do not have sufficient resources to meet their energy needs and thus, rely on imports which additionally need to be affordable in order to sustain the economic growth. This session will focus on the current energy scenario in the countries and the critical role of policymakers in strengthening regional energy trade.

Welcome Address

- Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, Jaipur, India
- Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International, Jaipur, India

Presentation

- Mike Toman, Lead Economist, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., United States of America

Keynote Address

- Dasho Karma Tsering Namgyal, Consul General, Royal Bhutan Consulate in Kolkata, India
- Chandra Kumar Ghimire, Consul General, Consulate General of Nepal, Kolkata, India
- Mohammed Omar Faruque, First Secretary, Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh, Kolkata, India
- Jayant Prasad, Former Ambassador of India to Nepal, New Delhi, India

Vote of Thanks

- Keya Ghosh, Director, CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre, Kolkata, India

20:30 – 22:00 **Reception & Dinner**

DAY TWO FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2014

09:00 – 09:30 Registration with Tea/ Coffee

09:30 – 11:00 Plenary I – Existing Initiatives and Policies

The countries in the region are endowed with varied energy resources; however, these are inequitably distributed, not proportionate to their demand patterns and not sufficiently exploited and developed. Currently this trade is majorly limited to electricity imports to India from Bhutan and Nepal and the recently started export of electricity from India to Bangladesh. This session will focus on the current energy trade scenario among these countries with the key concern areas highlighted below –

- *The status of energy trade initiatives*
- *Existing Institutions, Policies, Regulations and their Impact on regional energy trade*
- *Benefits of regional energy trade; Case studies from other countries*
- *Way Forward; Steps to enhance regional energy trade*

Chair

- Rajat Nag, Former Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank, New Delhi, India

Presentation

- Nitya Nanda, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, India

Designated Discussants

- Rajan Dhakal, Deputy Manager, Nepal Electricity Authority, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Rajiv Ratna Panda, Senior Project Manager, Integrated Research for Action and Development, New Delhi, India
- Aditi Mukherji, Theme Leader, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Amulya Charan, Independent Advisor, Energy, Infrastructure and Finance, Pune, India

11:00 – 11:15 Tea/ Coffee and Networking

11:15 – 12:30

Panel Discussion

Following the arguments made in the presentation, panelists will deliberate on the issues with respect to ground realities in their respective country/ region and conceptualize the way ahead to enhance energy trade.

Chair

- Pramod Deo, Former Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, India

Panelists

- Anoop Singh, Associate Professor, IIT Kanpur, India
- S. P. Gon Chaudhuri, President, NB Institute for Rural Technology, Kolkata, India
- Mollah Amzad Hossain, Editor, Energy & Power, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Monali Hazra, Regional Coordinator, South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration, USAID, New Delhi, India

12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 15:00

Plenary II: Potential Future Initiatives

Currently the energy trade between the countries is not extensive and given the existing scenario energy trade in the region would be a logical way forward to overcome the shortages. However, this potential remains largely untapped due to certain political, economic and security concerns in these countries. This session will focus on the potential initiatives, projects in the pipeline and the future of energy trade in the region–

- *The energy trade projects in the pipeline and their impact on the energy scenario*
- *Constraints faced in the progression of the energy trade projects*
- *Political, economic, technical and regulatory reforms required to enhance the scope of energy trade*
- *Barriers to improving industry investments and way forward to increase their involvement*

Chair

- Mahendra P Lama, Pro Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, India

Presentation

- Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan, Assistant Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India

Designated Discussants

- Pramod Deo, Former Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, India
- Sher Singh Bhat, Director, Power Trading Department, Nepal Electricity Authority, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Prabir Neogi, Chief Executive, The Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation, Kolkata, India
- Mashfique Ibne Akbar, Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, Bangladesh

15:00 – 15:15 Tea/ Coffee and Networking

15:15 – 16:30

Panel Discussion

Following the arguments made in the presentation, panelists will deliberate on the issues with respect to the future of the projects in the pipeline as well as the future of energy trade in the region – the catalysts and deterrents.

Chair

- Prasad Ranjan Ray, Former Chairman, West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission, Kolkata, India

Panelists

- Fouzul Kabir Khan, Chairman & CEO, Keystone Business Support Company Ltd., Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Prititosh Roy, Former Member, West Bengal Electricity Regulation Commission, Kolkata, India
- Smriti Dahal, Senior Programme Officer, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Prakash Ghimire, Senior Advisor, SNV Bhutan, Thimpu, Bhutan
- Shruti Sharma, India Project Coordinator, International Institute for Sustainable Development, New Delhi, India

16:30 – 17:00 Closing & Vote of Thanks

- Udai S. Mehta, Director, CUTS International, Jaipur, India