

Concept Note

October 2012

North-East Asia Subregional Consultation Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum 2013

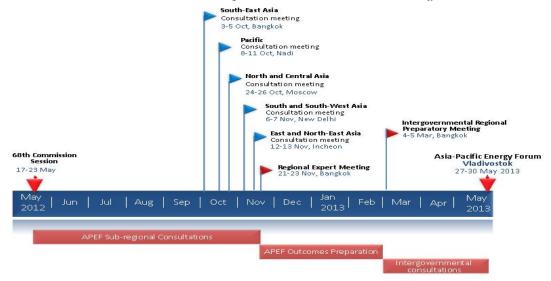
12-13 November 2012, Incheon, Republic of Korea

1. Background and Context

The North-East Asia Subregional Consultation Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) 2013 will be jointly organized by UNESCAP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea on 12-13 November 2012 in Incheon, Republic of Korea as a part of the preparatory process for the APEF 2013 to be held on 27-30 May 2013 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation.

At its sixty-seventh session held in Bangkok, on 19-25 May 2011, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted its resolution 67/2, which requested the Secretariat to convene the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum (APEF) in 2013. The Forum will be held at Ministerial level, and it will discuss the progress made by countries in the Asia-Pacific in addressing energy security challenges at the regional, national and households level, while promoting regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy. The Forum aims to facilitate a continuous dialogue between the member States by adopting a Ministerial Declaration and a Regional Action Plan which will outline the regional vision for cooperation on energy security and the sustainable use of energy.

In order to gather the regional perspectives on the energy security challenges and opportunities, UNESCAP will conduct a consultation process in each of the five subregions within Asia-Pacific.



Preparatory process towards the Asia-Pacific Energy Forum

These consultations aim to engage government officials, energy experts and resource persons from each subregion with the aim obtaining their views on current energy security issues and perspectives. The outcomes of each consultation meeting will be reported on the occasion of an Expert Group Meeting at regional level that will be held in Bangkok in November 2012.

2. North-East Asia Energy Background

Over the past decades, strong economic growth in North-East Asia (NEA) comprising of China, DPR Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation has increased the demand of fossil fuels and energy related services.

NEA is a region of disparities in terms of demographic, economic and energy-related indicators. NEA is host to almost on quarter of the world's population, being home to one of the world's most populous country, China, while also accommodating a relatively small country, Mongolia, with a population of just 2.7 million.

From a global perspective, the economies of North-East Asia represent 24% of the world's total. According to IMF statistics, China and Japan have the second and third largest economies in the world, respectively. In 2010, the GDP per capita (expressed in 2005 PPP dollars) from World Bank estimates, shows an uneven pattern between countries in the region, ranging from \$7,550 in China, to \$30,041 and \$34,330 in the Republic of Korea and Japan, respectively. In 2007, across North-East Asia there were over 200 million people living in poverty, i.e. living with less than \$1.25 a day (in USD 2005 PPP).

Given the size and the economic differences between the countries in North-East Asia, there are different energy production and consumption patterns. China, Japan and the Republic of Korea are net importers of fossil fuels, mainly coal and oil, while the Russian Federation is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of oil and gas.

In 2010, three countries from the region were amongst the top-ten energy consumers list: China was ranked the world's largest energy consumers, with a consumption of 2493 Mtoe, Japan was the fifth (488 Mtoe consumed), while the Republic of Korea was ranked tenth (249 Mtoe of energy consumed in 2010).

Fossil fuels remain the major energy source in the region, and the three largest economies – China, Japan and the Republic of Korea – denote a high level of energy dependency, mostly in the supply of oil. This is a situation that may accelerate the competition among these countries to secure the supply of fossil-fuel resources.

Between 1990 and 2008, the energy intensity in NEA (measured in kg of oil equivalent per 1,000 GDP in 2005 PPP USD) decreased from 276 to 218. This figure indicates an improvement in the use of energy per unit of output produced in the region, but when compared with the world average in the same period (the energy intensity decreased from 245 to 189), it can be elicited that there is scope for further improvements.

The North-East Asia region is the largest energy consumer and has the largest share of greenhouse gases emissions in the world. As the region is home to some of the fastest growing economies, there are major challenges to energy security and sustainable economic development that need to be addressed. Among them, the following:

- What are the strategies pursued by Governments in the region to secure and diversify energy sources to fuel their markets?
- What is the improvement potential for energy efficiency in the region?
- What measures can be taken in order to minimize the environmental strain in the extraction and consumption of natural resources, namely fossil fuels?
- What is the potential for harnessing renewable energy resources in the region?
- How is the cooperation framework at a subregional level addressing the energy security of the North-East Asia region?

These are just some of the questions that are expected to be addressed in the course of the subregional consultation process.

3. Provisional Programme

Monday, 12 November	
8:30 - 9:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	Opening Session
	Welcome and opening address
	Introduction to goals and objectives of the meeting, UNESCAP
09:30-11:00	Session 1: Major challenges to energy security and the sustainable use of energy
	o Overview of subregional challenges, by a subregional consultant
	o Presentations, by national experts
	This session will discuss subregional and national challenges to enhancing energy security and the sustainable use of energy, and national strategies and approaches in addressing the challenges.
11:00-11:30	Tea break
11:30-12:30	Session 1: Cnt'd
	The participants, including national delegates, energy experts and resource persons will exchange views on national policies and discuss how subregional countries can cooperate to address common issues.
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	Session 2: Opportunities for enhancing energy security and the sustainable use of energy
	o Overview of subregional opportunities for enhancing energy security, by a subregional consultant
	o Presentations on energy security, by resource persons
	o Comments and inputs, by national experts
	The session is expected to discuss how to reduce economic, social and environmental impacts from the current way of energy use and expand the adoption of renewable

	energy sources in North-East Asia.
15:30- 16:00	Tea break
16:00 - 18:00	Session 3: Possible modalities for enhanced subregional cooperation on energy security and the sustainable use of energy
	 Overview of required political commitments and proposed action, by a subregional consultant
	o Presentations on possible modalities, by resource persons
	o Comments and inputs, by national experts
	The participants will exchange ideas on possible enhanced cooperation framework at a subregional level addressing the energy security in North-East Asia, especially in light of major global commitments and processes, including Rio+20 Conference outcomes and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.
Tuesday, 13 November	
Tuesday, 13 N	lovember
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Session 4: Consolidating subregional inputs for APEF 2013 - opportunities for enhancing regional cooperation
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09:00 - 10:30	Session 4: Consolidating subregional inputs for APEF 2013 - opportunities for enhancing regional cooperation Based on the deliberations of the first three sessions of the meeting, the participants are expected to outline major subregional messages to be included in the draft Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Plan and discuss how they expect APEF 2013 contribute to promoting regional cooperation on energy security in Asia-Pacific.

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