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Concept Note

North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum (NEARPIC) 2024

Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid format: in-person/online)

21 August 2024

Background

Despite the challenging geopolitical landscape in Northeast Asia, the relevance of power interconnection initiatives remains critically important. The recent energy landscape highlights the growing need for sustainable, cross-border electricity networks to ensure energy security and promote green development. The Northeast Asia region, comprising China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation, is increasingly recognizing the potential benefits of an interconnected power grid. These benefits include enhanced energy efficiency, reduced reliance on fossil fuels, and increased integration of renewable energy sources.

The Regional Power Grid Connectivity in Northeast Asia, through "Green Power Corridor Roadmap", provides a comprehensive plan for developing cross-border transmission infrastructure, facilitating the trade of clean energy, and supporting regional sustainability goals. This roadmap, launched at the 2023 NEARPIC Forum, demonstrated that multilateral power interconnections could significantly advance national objectives for reducing carbon emissions while meeting the rising demand for electricity. Furthermore, despite geopolitical tensions, the NEARPIC Forum fostered collaboration among key stakeholders, including the Asian Development Bank, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization, and various national energy ministries.

NEARPIC 2024 will be organized by ESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand, held in a hybrid format, allowing for both in-person and online participation. NEARPIC 2024 will also be held back-to-back with the 11th meeting of Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels (EWG-SDG 7) and the 14th meeting of Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity (EWG-EC), which will be held on 19-20 August. These meetings will build synergies, sharing best practices and lessons learned across different subregions on regional power connectivity.

This year, NEARPIC will focus on technologies for increasing renewable energy development, such as subsea cables, critical minerals and Virtual Power Plants (VPPs), as key solutions for regional power cooperation. Subsea cables are critical for cross-border power transmission, offering efficient long-distance electricity transport with minimal losses, despite technical and regulatory challenges. VPPs

integrate small-scale power units into a cloud-based network, enhancing grid stability and renewable energy integration using advanced digital technologies.

The Forum will review progress on the Green Power Corridor, explore these emerging technologies, and discuss necessary institutional arrangements and policies. NEARPIC 2024 provides a crucial platform for advancing regional power cooperation, addressing energy demands, and achieving climate action goals.

Objectives

- **Review Progress and Build on the Green Power Corridor Road Map:** Assess the progress made since NEARPIC 2023 in implementing the Green Power Corridor Road Map and discuss necessary institutional arrangements to support the Road Map.
- **Explore technologies for increasing renewable energy development:** Highlight technologies for increasing renewable energy development such as subsea cables and Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) as key technologies for regional power cooperation, and examine their potential, challenges, and benefits.
- **Promote Sustainable Development and Regional Cooperation:** Highlight the benefits of power grid interconnections for sustainable development and energy transition under the SDGs and Paris Agreement and strengthen regional cooperation to meet rising energy demands and climate action goals.

Date and Venue

- Main Session & Steering Committee: 21 August 2024
- Location: UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand or Online

Tentative programme (Time zone: Bangkok, Thailand (UTC+7))

<u>Wednesday, 21 August</u>	
<u>08:30-09:00</u>	<u>Registration</u>
<u>09:00-9:40</u>	<u>Opening session</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Opening and welcome remarks</u> • <u>Introduction of the forum</u> <u>Keynote speech</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Group photo</u>
<u>9:40-10:40</u>	<u>Session 1: Updates from NEARPIC Steering Committee members and other stakeholders on power interconnection planning and operational issues in Northeast Asia</u>
<u>10:40-11:00</u>	<u>Break</u>

<u>11:00-12:00</u>	<u>(cont.) Session 1: Updates from NEARPIC Steering Committee members and other stakeholders on power interconnection planning and operational issues in Northeast Asia</u>
<u>12:00-13:00</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
<u>13:00-14:10</u>	<u>Session 2: Follow-Up on Green Power Corridor Roadmap for Northeast Asia</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Institutional arrangement • Metrics • Discussion
<u>14:10-15:40</u>	<u>Session 3: Technologies for Increasing Renewable Energy Development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsea cables • Critical minerals • Virtual Power Plants (VPPs)
<u>15:40-16:00</u>	<u>Wrap-up</u>
<u>16:00-16:15</u>	<u>Break</u>
<u>16:15-17:00</u>	<u>Steering Committee</u>

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