



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Green grids: connecting Asia

Thursday 28 – Saturday 30 March 2019 | WP1656

After several years of flatlining, 2017 saw global greenhouse gas emissions rising once again. Asia now accounts for more than half of global emissions, and two thirds of the year-on-year increase. Under the Paris Agreement, all countries in the region have committed to significant increases in renewable energy capacity as a key plank of their responses to climate change, yet insufficient electricity transmission capacity threatens to act as a bottleneck to greater integration of renewables, slowing the transition to clean energy. This meeting will convene energy ministries, legislators, investors, utilities and project developers with the aim of overcoming diplomatic obstacles, increasing cooperation and strengthening investor confidence in cross-border transmission projects.

Wilton Park and its partners will host this event in collaboration with the recently-launched Green Grid Initiative, an informal global leadership group comprising states, companies and legislators, convened by the Climate Parliament. As of September 2018, 29 energy or environment ministers had committed to taking part in the initiative, which was launched at a planning meeting hosted by Mexico's Minister of Energy in Mexico City in May 2018. In Asia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia have already joined, and South Korea also participated in the Mexico meeting. From China, the planning meeting was attended by the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO), an initiative of the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC). The UK was among several European countries represented at the Mexico launch. Its expertise in smart grids, interconnection and electricity market reform – along with a strong interest in the City of London in green investments – make it a natural partner for Asian countries exploring the prospects for regional grid integration and electricity trading.

This meeting seeks to build diplomatic and parliamentary support for – and strengthen investor confidence in – new “electricity highways” connecting centres of energy demand to the most abundant renewable energy resources.

In association with The Climate Parliament

(Speakers invited and themes proposed)

In association with:



Climate
Parliament



GREEN GRID
INITIATIVE



INTERNATIONAL
SOLAR
ALLIANCE



Energy and Economic Growth
Applied Research Programme

Thursday 28 March

1600-1700

Participants arrive. Tea and coffee on arrival

1700

Welcome and introduction

James Corré

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Colin Gourley

Infrastructure Advisor, Department for International Development (DFID), London

Simon Trace

Principal Consultant, Natural Resources and Energy, Oxford Policy Management, Oxford

1715-1800

1. The Green Grid Initiative: for a renewables-powered planet

This session will explore the scale of the task at hand, including the overall vision of the Green Grid Initiative, and the potential for rapid expansion of renewable energy if regional grids are built.

Paddy Padmanathan

President and CEO, ACWA Power, Riyadh

Nick Dunlop

Secretary-General, Climate Parliament, Brighton

1800-1900

2. Connecting Asia: the benefits and challenges of regional grids

What are the benefits of regional grids? How can increased regional grid interconnectivity help countries to harness and trade renewable energy? This session will discuss the concept of regional grids, as well as analysing the obstacles – political, financial and technical – that may stand in the way of greater regional interconnection.

Introducing the concept of a 'hotspot and hub' grid network that allows for the transfer of energy from 'hotspots' (areas with abundant renewable energy resources) via 'hubs' (locations that are most appropriate for the interconnection of transmission lines) to end-users across Asia. The potential will be explored for building new long-distance transmission, transport and communications links in an integrated way.

Shobhakar Dhakal

Professor of Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok

Liu Hongpeng

Director, Energy Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Friday 29 March

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1015

3. Lessons from the region: South Asia

Presentation and discussion of leading initiatives, including India's Green Energy Corridors, a best practice example for other ISA member countries.

Upendra Tripathy

Director General, International Solar Alliance, New Delhi

1015-1100**4. Lessons from the region: East Asia**

Presentation and discussion of leading initiatives, including the Northeast Asia Supergrid.

Yin Bo

Head, European Office, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organisation, Beijing

Mika Ohbayashi

Executive Director, Japan Renewable Energy Institute, Tokyo

1100-1145

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1145-1300**5. Regional routes for renewable energy connections: group discussions**

Discussions in these sub-regional breakout groups will focus on potential routes which could connect major consumption centres with sources of unlimited, cheap renewable energy.

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1500

Free time

1500-1600**6. Removing barriers**

What barriers are preventing the development of regional grids? How can they be overcome?

Jyoti Parikh

Executive Director, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), New Delhi

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1800**7. Group discussions continue**

Returning to sub-regional breakout groups, this session will apply the lessons on what barriers threaten the development of regional grid interconnections in different parts of Asia. Building on the previous roundtable discussion participants will consider ways in which these barriers can be surmounted.

1830

Reception followed by dinner

Saturday 30 March**0800-0900**

Breakfast and checkout

0915-1045**8. Financing the transition: mobilising at scale**

What are the current funding models of funding being used in Asia or elsewhere that could be applied to the expansion of grid interconnections in Asia? How can electricity highways in Asia be made attractive to private investors?

Kwawu Mensan Gaba

Global Lead for Power Systems, World Bank

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1125	9. Evaluation survey Completion of online survey
1125-1300	10. Working groups: how to move from talk to action? Discussions in smaller groups focused on ways to move towards construction of new transmission lines.
1300-1400	Lunch
1400-1530	11. Closing roundtable: where do we go from here? This session will identify practical next steps for joint action. It will focus on the following areas: business leadership; high-level working groups; building parliamentary support.
1530	Tea/Coffee
1600	Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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