

ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE (ACD) ENERGY ACTION PLAN

I. Introduction

Energy is one among the six pillars of cooperation in the ACD, several meetings have been held within the ACD framework to advance energy cooperation among its member states. The 3rd ACD Ministerial Meeting in Qing Dao, China, in June 2004, agreed on promoting energy cooperation as listed in the Qing Dao Initiative. This Initiative listed priority fields of cooperation, which include: exchanging of information and views; encouraging cooperation in energy technologies, exploration, exploitation, infrastructure; promoting conducive environment for investment; strengthening cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy; promoting human resource development and capacity building and food-water-energy nexus.

The current Energy Action Plan was reviewed by the ACD Energy Prime and Co-Prime Movers on the 20th of December 2016, during their meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and updated thereafter on the Energy Working Group that held its meeting on the 15th of January 2017, for further consideration. Finally, the plan will be presented to the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting happening on the 17th January 2017, in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

At the 1st ACD Energy Forum held in Bali in September 2005, the need to formulate an ACD Energy Action Plan was underscored to serve as a blue print for a collaborative approach in implementing energy programs and projects for the realization of enhanced regional security and sustainability of energy resources and technologies. The Doha Declaration of the ACD Ministerial Meeting in May 2006 welcomed the Initiative and reflected the sense of ACD members to accord *“priority in energy security, research and assessment in energy, energy infrastructure development and encouraging member countries to explore the possibility of re-investing revenues that accrue from the energy trade in the ACD Countries”*. On the other hand, the Manama Declaration, the outcome document of the Conference on Energy and Climate Change held in November 2008, emphasized the need to strengthen on efforts made by member states in promoting and strengthening of relations in Asia, in all primary areas of cooperation, and in particular in energy and climate change.

The growing awareness on the importance of investments in and utilization of all energy sources including new and renewable energy sources are further reasons for an effective cooperation in the energy field for the ACD. Therefore, the ACD Energy Action Plan is necessary to be an important document on energy cooperation among ACD member states.

Further to these declarations and recommendations from previous ACD ministerial meetings and other ACD energy related meetings is the outcome of the first ACD Summit held in Kuwait in October 2012. Acknowledging that energy security is a “regional and global challenge facing ACD member countries”, and that “sustainable energy is a key factor in achieving prosperity and economic growth in Asia”, the ACD member states agree to move forward its energy cooperation with the “review, finalization, and adoption of the ACD Energy Action Plan.”

II. Plan of Action

A. Areas of Cooperation

The Plan of Action should enable the ACD member states to build a cohesive cooperation forum that will ensure the institutionalization and materialization of energy cooperation in Asia. It should serve as framework in ensuring energy security and promoting energy accessibility and sustainability. It is intended to be implemented for a period of five (5) years reckoned from its adoption during the 12th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Manama, Bahrain in November 2013. It will essentially consist of four thematic core areas of cooperation in order to promote energy security, as follows:

1. Promotion, development and utilization of all indigenous energy resources and renewable energy technologies;
2. Enhancement of energy efficiency and conservation initiatives programs;
3. Encouragement of bilateral or multilateral cooperation and coordination towards the creation of electricity markets among groups of ACD countries;
4. Promotion of cooperation between Member States on climate change.

B. Implementation of Areas of Cooperation

In implementing four thematic core areas of cooperation in the region, it is proposed that ACD member states need to consider actions as follows:

1. Promoting information exchange and sharing of best practices on energy policies, plans and programs among the ACD Member States.
 - a. Encouraging states to exchange and share views on their domestic energy situations and the international energy market with a view to facilitating mutual benefits for both consumers and producers in Asia in various energy sources. Facilitating exchange of information and building capabilities in innovative development sphere and transfer of energy related technologies.
 - b. Sharing information on clean combustion, energy efficiency and conservation techniques and technologies.
2. Promoting investment in energy in ACD Member States by enacting and/or launching the necessary legislation and/or policies based on each domestic circumstances to incentivizes investment.
3. Enhancing capacity building of human resources on all aspects of energy exploration, development and utilization.

III. Source of Funding

Unless otherwise agreed, cost of activities under this action plan should be based on the contributions of ACD interested states on a voluntary basis and the assistance by third parties, including international organizations.

IV. Progress and Involvement

The ACD Members States may suggest and promote any other activities not listed in Annex I, making the Plan of Action a living document

ACD will work closely with other regional and international organizations in the energy sphere to maximize positive outcome and promote complementarity of work.

Member states will inform the Secretariat with the activities and the feedback on these activities.

The action Plan will be updated in the next meeting, if needed, in August 2017 planned to be held in Philippines, and if there is any change required, it will be submitted to the 16th Ministerial Meeting that will be held in Islamic Republic of Iran.

ANNEX I: LIST OF PROPOSED AND POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Action Area 1: Promoting information exchange and sharing of best practices on energy policies, plans and programs among the ACD Member States

Planned

| No. | Activities | Timeline | ACD Member States | Status |
|-----|--|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | ACD Energy Forum | Every 3 years | | |
| 2 | Review of other Regional Energy Cooperation in Asia | | Turkey | TBC by the host |
| 3 | A workshop on "Role of Renewables in Enhancing the Food, Water, Energy Nexus in ACD Member States". It will be organized on the sidelines of IRENA's 13th Council. | May 2017 | UAE | To be committed in 2017 |
| 4 | Best Practices of Micro-hydro Power Plant for Rural Electrification | 2017 | Indonesia | Date and venue TBC by the host |
| 5 | International Exhibition Expo 2017 "Future Energy" | 10 Jun – 10 Sept 2017 | Astana Kazakhstan | |
| 6 | Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) under the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum. ACD members will be invited to the forum which will provide a platform for countries to engage in discussions and information exchange on CCS technologies. | First week of May 2017 | UAE | |
| 7 | Webinar on clean and renewable energy in Asian Countries in the food, water and energy nexues | 2017 | UAE | TBC |
| 8 | ACD Energy conference on energy security and sustainability | 2017 | Philippines | Details to be given by the host |
| 10 | Joint Research, Development and Demonstration of Energy Technologies | | India | TBC by the host |
| 11 | Training Courses in Various Renewable Energy Technologies Through Different Institutions | | India | TBC by the host |
| 12 | ACD related activity back-to-back with the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable | Nov 2017 | Thailand/UAE | TBC by the host |
| 13 | Best practices of energy efficiency and conservation programs | | Bhutan | TBC by the host |
| 14 | Creating an enabling, transformative policy and facilitative regulatory regime for member states to develop and promote cross border energy trade | | Bhutan | TBC by the host |

| No. | Activities | Timeline | ACD Member States | Status |
|-----|--|----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 15 | Energy resources optimization through development of hydropower as the main (a vital or primary) viable renewable energy source for low carbon growth or low emission development strategy | | Bhutan | TBC by the host |

Action Area 3: Promoting an investor-friendly environment in ACD Member States to attract private sector participation on development of energy projects and regional energy infrastructure networks.

Planned:

| No. | Activity | Timeline | ACD Member States | Status |
|-----|---|----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Dialogue among Energy Consumers and Producers | | | |
| 2 | Exchange of experiences on best practices in [the energy sector] | | | |
| 3 | Business Forum on Renewable Energy Development | 2013 | India | To be confirmed by the host |
| 4 | Public/Private partnerships in energy sector development. | | Proposed by Bangladesh | |
| 5 | Cross Border Energy Trade | | Proposed by Bangladesh | |
| 6 | Promoting regional and sub-regional energy development and co-operation | | Bhutan | To be confirmed by the host |
| 7 | Developing Public Private Partnership for energy security and diversification of energy sources | | Bhutan | To be confirmed by the host |

Action Area 4: Enhancing capacity building of human resources on all aspects of energy exploration, development and utilization.

Planned:

| No. | Activities | Timeline | ACD Member States | Status |
|-----|--|----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Trainings and visits of its geothermal energy experts | | | |
| 2 | Training program on oil, gas [and mining] | | | |
| 3 | Training Program on Energy Management and Forecasting | | | |
| 4 | Training on Bio-Energy | | Bahrain | To be confirmed by the host |
| 5 | Training Program on Setting Tariffs for Renewable Energy Technologies/Projects | | Bhutan | To be confirmed by the host |

| No. | Activities | Timeline | ACD Member States | Status |
|-----|--|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6 | Workshop on Coal Mining and Utilization and Clean Coal Technology | | India | To be confirmed by the host |
| 7 | [Training program on new generation coal based power generation.] | | Proposed by Bangladesh | |
| 8 | [Training program on energy efficiency and conservation.] | | Proposed by Bangladesh | |
| 9 | Sharing of best practices, experiences and emerging new technologies in energy management systems to reduce transmission and distribution losses | | Bhutan | To be confirmed by the host |
| 10 | Training on utilization of hydrogen fuel cells | | Bhutan | To be confirmed by the host |
| 11 | Establishment of testing lab for electrical appliances | | Bhutan | To be confirmed by the host |
| 12 | Training program on Industrial and residential coal and gas Combined Heat & Power Technologies | | Proposed by Afghanistan | |
| 13 | Establishing scholarship program for young energy professionals of ACD countries. (Master & doctorate programs on Energy related studies. | | Proposed by Afghanistan | |
| 14 | Establishing joint academic programs on energy and water related studies in ACD countries. | | Proposed by Afghanistan | |