

Expert Group on New and Renewable Energy Technologies Asia Pacific Economic Co-Operation Energy Working Group

Terms of Reference

The APEC Expert Group on New and Renewable Energy Technologies (EGNRET) has been established by - and reports to - the APEC Energy Working Group (EWG). The mission of the EGNRET is to facilitate an increase in the use of new and renewable energy technologies in the APEC region. The activities of the EGNRET will be directed towards meeting the energy challenges identified by APEC Leaders and Energy Ministers. In addition, the EGNRET will develop and implement projects that contribute to the EWG's objectives and strategic initiatives. The projects will be implemented primarily through the following Initiatives:

- APEC 21st Century Renewable Energy Development Initiative;
- Energy Smart Communities Initiative (ESCI);
- APEC Smart Grid Initiative (ASGI).

This purpose of these APEC Energy Minister endorsed initiatives is to advance the use of renewable energy to promote sustainable economic development and growth within the APEC region. The initiatives addresses the principal objectives of the APEC EWG by fostering a common understanding of regional renewable energy technology issues, facilitating trade and investment in new and renewable energy technologies and services, and reducing the environmental impact of the energy sector through applications of new and renewable energy technologies.

In addressing these objectives, the Expert Group may be involved in the following types of activities, depending on the level of available funding and member-economies' priorities relating to renewable-energy development:

- developing effective policy recommendations for addressing impediments to the increased use of renewable energy technologies and for including renewable energy in domestic energy plans;
- implementing renewable energy resource assessments to facilitate a thorough understanding of the availability of adequate resources in APEC-member economies;
- promoting the commercialization of renewable energy technologies in such a way as to make them economically viable in a wide range of applications;

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- establishing procedures and mechanisms for the routine exchange of pertinent information among member economies, focusing especially on officials responsible for decisions on energy supplies and operators and maintainers of renewable energy systems;
 - identifying and mobilizing, as appropriate, industry, financial institutions, and government sources of financing, technical assistance and education programs by making these sources more aware of the benefits of renewable energy applications and the issues associated therewith;
 - recommending and organizing activities to promote renewable-energy technology co-operation, so as to utilize existing technical expertise in APEC-member economies;
 - promoting the development of the renewable-energy technological and services infrastructure to provide a basis for an effective, quality system of installation and maintenance;
 - promoting the development of renewable energy technologies for specific applications that demonstrate the effectiveness of using these technologies to achieve specific economic or social goals of APEC-member economies;
 - engaging in renewable-energy technology-assessment and related activities to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of renewable-energy applications;
 - developing the human resource base to improve the analytical, technical, operational and policy capacity within member economies in the area of renewable-energy development;
 - facilitating improved reliability and stability in the provision of energy supply to meet demand;
 - Conducting researches related to reduction of energy intensity in APEC region.

In carrying out the above tasks, the Expert Group is to be guided by the following strategies:

- to foster technology transfer and renewable energy based local and regional industrial development;
- to engage industry, financial institutions, government officials, and NGOs, as appropriate;
- to improve the level of information exchange between member economies on existing initiatives to address market barriers;
- to assess the potential for replicating successful initiatives to breakdown market barriers;
- to identify and pioneer new initiatives to breakdown market barriers;
- to establish links with - and use of - existing technology-information data bases and clearing houses;

- to encourage the development and use of energy planning tools that include renewable energy.

The Terms of Reference of EGNRET will be reviewed every two years.

The leadership of the Group will be by a Chair and Vice-Chair, both elected for a two-year term of office. An EGNRET secretariat will be established to assist the Chair in organizing EGNRET meetings and provides administrative support to the EGNRET. The secretary will be nominated by the Chair, and endorsed by EGNRET Representatives to hold the EGNRET secretariat. In the event that the Chair cannot attend a specific Expert Group meeting, then the Vice-Chair will serve as Chair for that meeting. The host economy will do its best to assist with the conduct of Expert Group meetings, including the provision of support/secretarial staff.