

**REPORT OF THE
Fifth MEETING OF BIMSTEC ENERGY SECTOR
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS / OFFICIALS
27 January 2005, Yangon, Union of Myanmar.**

INTRODUCTION

The Fifth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Energy Sector Committee of Experts/Officials was held on 27 January 2005 at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon, Union of Myanmar.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The List of delegates appears as ANNEX A.

The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Brig. Gen. Lun Thi, Minister for Energy. The full text of the Inaugural Speech appears as ANNEX B.

AGENDA ITEM 1 : Opening remarks by the Chairperson

- (1.1) The Meeting was chaired by Director General U Soe Myint of the Energy Planning Department, the leader of the Myanmar delegation. The meeting commenced with the presentation of Chairperson on the Energy Security and Energy Demand Growth in East Asia in general. The emphasis was made on the point that the energy security issue can be resolved with closer cooperation among the concerned countries.
- (1.2) The presentation appears as ANNEX C.

AGENDA ITEM 2 : Report on the 7th BIMSTEC Senior Officials meeting, the 6th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting and the 1st BIMSTEC Summit meeting

- (2.1) The Chairperson briefed the meeting on the outcomes of the 7th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting, the 6th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the 1st BIMSTEC Summit Meeting on the subjects pertaining to the energy cooperation program.
- (2.2) The meeting took note of the recent developments in the BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation Program and welcomed the BIMSTEC Energy Ministers' Meeting proposed at the First BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok.
- (2.3) The full text of the briefing appears as ANNEX D.

AGENDA ITEM 3 : Review of the Terms of Reference for the BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation Program

- (3.1) The Chairperson briefed the meeting on the TOR for the BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation Program. The meeting deliberated on the possible expansion of the Cooperation Program. In this connection, the meeting took note of the fact that Coal Energy would play an important role in some of the member countries including Myanmar (Current Status of Coal in Myanmar as presented by U Zaw Win appears as ANNEX E).

AGENDA ITEM 4 : Report of the lead country on the Status of the BIMSTEC Energy Cooperation Program

- (4.1) The status was reported by Myanmar as the lead country and the full text of the status report appears as ANNEX F.
- (4.2) The meeting took note of the report and agreed to include the outcome of the Tripartite Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar in the report to be submitted to SOM Meeting in Dhaka.

AGENDA ITEM 5 : Country Presentations by new member states

- (5.1) A country presentation on Bhutan was made by Mr. Karma Tshering and the full text of the presentation appears as ANNEX G.
- (5.2) Expressing confidence to be benefited from BIMSTEC Cooperation Program, Mr. Dilip Kumar Paudel of Nepal highlighted the hydropower potential in Nepal for which the Government of Nepal has formulated a liberal Hydropower Development Policy to attract Foreign Investment. The Nepalese delegate reported to the meeting that Nepal will send the Technical Teams to the next BIMSTEC Meeting for the comprehensive participation.

AGENDA ITEM 6 : Status of Energy Infrastructure Development Projects and Way Forward

- Trans-BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline Project

- (6.1) The status of the feasibility study of the Trans-BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline Project was presented by Mr. Wisnu Wongsomboon of Thailand and the full text of the status report appears as ANNEX H.

- (6.2) The meeting acknowledged that feasibility study made by Thailand is a good attempt and would be a good reference in the future regional gas interconnection.
- (6.3) U San Lwin of Myanmar reported to the meeting on the Petroleum Prospects in Myanmar Offshore and the full text of the discussion appears as ANNEX I.

✓ - **BIMSTEC Trans-Power Exchange and Development Project**

- (6.4) BIMST-EC Trans-power Exchange and Development Project Concept Paper was presented by Mr. Prutichai Chonglertvanichkul of Thailand and the full text of the presentation appears as ANNEX J.
- (6.5) U Tun Naing of Myanmar reported to the meeting on the BIMSTEC Cooperation in Trans-Power Exchange and Development Concept Paper and the full text of the discussion appears as ANNEX K. ✓
- (6.6) The meeting noted the rich hydro-power potential of the BIMSTEC member countries especially Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal. Meeting also observed that bi-lateral programs have been going on among some of the BIMSTEC member countries to develop the hydro-power resources and share with the neighboring countries.

AGENDA ITEM 7 : Status of Development of New and Renewable Energy Development Project.

- (7.1) Project Proposal for Utilizing the Biomass Gasifier System for Village Electrification and Water Pumping was presented by U Aye Kyaw of Myanmar proposing to implement Phase II of the Project. The Chair emphasized that this Project is a Renewable Energy Project which is implemented with the support of the Indian Government and is symbolic of the good cooperation among the BIMSTEC members.
- (7.2) The full text of the status report appears as ANNEX L.
- (7.3) U Aung Myint of Myanmar reported to the meeting on Renewable Energy Current Status in Myanmar and the full text of the discussion appears as in ANNEX M.
- (7.4) Ms. Akanksha Chaurey of India reported to the meeting on status of Implementation of the Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy Projects in the BIMST-EC Region and the full text of the discussion appears as ANNEX N. The meeting took note of the fact that there have been some delays in realizing the Projects which are still on the pipeline.
- (7.4) The meeting also took note of the benefit that would be shared among the member countries, from the ongoing Project "Strengthening Education Infrastructure and Improving Access to Education through the use of Renewable Energy Technologies".

The Chair also reported to the meeting that the funding for this Project would be contributed by New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) of Japan.

AGENDA ITEM 8 : Future Directions and other matters

(8.1) The meeting agreed that the following actions need to be done to materialize the decisions of the meeting: -

- i) the report on the status of BIMSTEC Energy Sector Cooperation Program would be incorporated with the outcome of the Tripartite Energy Ministers' Meeting of 12-13 January 2005, Yangon and would be submitted to SOM Meeting in Dhaka.
- ii) TOR reflecting the discussions at the meeting appears as in ANNEX O.
- iii) The Energy Sector Cooperation Program will be expanded to include: -
 - a) Biofuel§ .
 - b) Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Technologies.
 - c) Coal Energy.
 - d) Studies for Energy Accessibility to the rural population.
- iv) Thailand to expand its feasibility study for Trans-BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline to include Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- v) Thailand to coordinate a Task Force to initiate the BIMSTEC Trans-Power Exchange and Development Project starting with preparations of TOR for the Task Force and MOU to be signed among the member countries. Thailand will nominate a focal point to whom each member country will submit the names of 2 participants in the Task Force.
- vi) India to organize a Task Force meeting to review the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programs on the pipeline and to suggest to the next Experts/Officials Meeting on how to proceed in this matter.
- vii) Each member country to make use of the offer by India of 15 scholarships and sponsorship of Sri Lanka of 2 scholarships for training in the relevant energy fields and others.
- viii) Each member country to establish a Technical Support Facility/Focal Point to oversee and accommodate the efficient cooperation mechanism in Energy Sector.
- ix) Each member country to support the establishment of Energy Data Base in the BIMSTEC Energy Information Centre located at <http://www.bimstec-energy.org.mm>.

- x) The Chairperson / current lead country to report to the SOM Meeting, Dhaka of the offer of India and Sri Lanka to take over as lead country.

AGENDA ITEM 9 : Adoption of the report

The Report was adopted by the Meeting.