

Terms of Reference

Task Force for BIMSTEC Trans-power Exchange and Development Project

1. INTRODUCTION

The 5th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Energy Sector Committee of Experts/Officials convened in Yangon, the Union of Myanmar on 27th January 2005 resolved to establish a Task Force for BIMSTEC Trans-power Exchange and Development Project (BTED) composed of representatives from the BIMSTEC member countries and Thailand was appointed as the Coordinating Country. The Task Force will initiate the BIMSTEC Trans-power Exchange and Development Project starting with (i) the preparation of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for grid interconnections among the member countries to cooperate in sharing energy resources development for power generation and enhance the power interconnection and trade in this region and (ii) formulation of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Master Plan Study (BIMS) in order to provide indicative technically and economically viable interconnection projects across the BIMSTEC region. The composition of the Task Force is given in Annex - 1.

2. MEMBER COUNTRIES

BTED shall cover all the seven BIMSTEC member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

3. OBJECTIVE

3.1 To prepare the draft MOU for the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection to cooperate in sharing of energy resources development for power generation, and power interconnection and trade.

- 3.2 To formulate the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Master Plan Study (BIMS) that will facilitate economic generation and transmission of electricity, enhance security of power systems and provide opportunities for energy trading among BIMSTEC member countries.
- 3.3 To consider grid interconnection issues which inter-alia include flow of electricity on non-discriminatory basis taking cognizance of capacity availability in respective national grids. Further, consider steps to harmonize technical, planning and operational standards of national grids for removing barriers to grid interconnection
- 3.4 To exchange information and experiences in power system and utilities management.

4. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- 4.1 The Task Force shall meet as appropriate but at least twice a year to deliberate on all Task Force works.
- 4.2 Prepare MOU for grid interconnection by 2006.
- 4.3 Formulate the BIMSTEC Interconnection Master Plan Study (BIMS) to ultimately enable flow of electricity across the BIMSTEC region.
- 4.4 Exchange information about the activities of power interconnection and trade in the BIMSTEC Region and other regions, development of technology in transmission system, common planning criteria, problems on planning and construction such as acquisition of right of way, etc.
- 4.5 Study other benefits of power interconnections besides the exchange of electricity, such as the application of optical ground wire (OPGW) for communication, etc.
- 4.6 Exchange information and problem solving experiences in planning work such as high short circuit level, stability, frequency excursion, voltage collapse, etc.
- 4.7 Other activities recommended by BIMSTEC Energy Sector Committee of Experts/Officials.

5. FUNDING

The manpower and expenses incurred by the participating member countries shall be considered as contribution to the Task Force. Expenditures for meeting facilities and other activities of the Task Force shall be covered by the host country. External assistance for the task force activities might be sought through appropriate channel.