ENERGY RESILIENCY TASK FORCE
TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION

Objective

The Energy Resiliency Task Force, herein referred to as the "ERTF," was established upon the instructions of the Energy Ministers during the 12th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Ministers' Meeting (EMM12) held in Cebu, Philippines on 13 October 2015.

Its objective is to implement the Energy Ministers' instructions and to seek to advance APEC's goals as outlined in APEC's other guiding documents – the Putrajaya Vision 2040, the Aotearoa Plan of Action and APEC Leaders and Ministerial Statements to promote energy resiliency in the APEC region anchored on the four strategic priority sub-themes identified in the Cebu Declaration, the outcome document of the EMM 12, to wit:

1) Climate-proofing energy infrastructures;

2) Providing an avenue for cutting-edge energy efficient technologies;

3) Advocating community-based clean energy use in energy poverty-stricken areas; and,

4) Improving energy-related trade and investment in APEC.

Energy resiliency, as defined in the Cebu Declaration, is the ability and quality of energy infrastructure and facilities to withstand extreme natural and man-made disasters and other climate change impacts, to recover and return to normal conditions in a timely and efficient manner and to build back better.

The cooperation can be achieved, on a voluntary and non-binding basis, including, inter alia, through the broad exchange of information on best practices, lessons learned, technology solutions, policy and regulatory frameworks, technical assistance, and research and development to promote energy resilient infrastructure and associated facilities in the midst of the continuing challenges from natural and man-made calamities.

Scope

The Task Force will facilitate the discussion and exchange of information in support of energy resiliency to the following:

- Policies, regulations and laws;
- Risk-based resiliency standards;

- Energy research and modelling for resiliency;
- Resiliency investment and disaster risk financing and insurance (DRFI) mechanisms;
- Human capital development through education, training and workshops;
- Innovations/technology development of energy resilient infrastructures;
- Emergency preparedness and contingency plans; and
- Cybersecurity and Cyber Resilience.

Activities for Cooperation

To implement the above listed scope, the Task Force will facilitate development of projects to undertake the following cooperative activities, and where appropriate, in collaboration with other energy Experts' Groups and relevant fora of APEC such as the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) and the Senior Disaster Management Officials Forum (SDMOF):

- Vulnerability assessment of the energy infrastructure and facilities to impacts of natural calamities and disasters (to include those caused by cybersecurity), such as in the oil and gas chain, renewable energy, power sector (powerhouse, cooling towers, switch yards, transmission, distribution lines, sub-stations), among others;
- Impact assessment of energy-water nexus issues further challenged by climate change and natural disasters;
- Impact assessment of energy supply and service disruption to the economy;
- Identification and impact assessment of natural and/or man-made disasters to other sectors (e.g. access roads and bridges, information and communication facilities, fuel distribution) that may in turn affect energy services;
- Identification of risk-based resiliency standards (both natural disasters and man-made);
- Development of resiliency investment and DRFI mechanisms;
- Conduct of energy modelling for disaster-based assumptions;
- Identification of climate adaptation solutions to address energy resilience;
- Development of disaster response strategies and protocols;
- Information exchange;
- Capacity building / training;
- Organization of symposia, conferences and seminars;
- Provisions of relevant technical assistance and services;
- Coordination with other Experts' Groups to keep track of global developments on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and technology innovation; and
- Conduct of peer reviews, regional workshop and emergency preparedness exercise by the host Member Economy.

In achieving the scope, objectives and activities outlined above, the Task Force may also draw on the expertise of the Asia Pacific Energy Research Center (APERC), the APEC Sustainable Energy Center (APSEC) and other APEC collaborative partners and relevant international and regional organizations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and its Singapore Regional Cooperation Centre, the World Energy Council (WEC), the Pacific Disaster Center, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, among others. The Task Force will collaborate with these bodies on a broad range of activities such as technical cooperation and training assistance, to be defined at a later date.

Composition and Frequency of Meetings

The Task Force will be comprised of relevant authorities and experts from and nominated by the APEC Members Economies. In addition, collaborative partners and observers may be invited to the meetings and activities as subject matter experts.

The Task Force will meet regularly, at least twice a year on the margins of EWG meetings, as deemed necessary and/or in special circumstances as may be directed by the Energy Ministers.

Quorum

Quorum for ERTF Meetings constitutes attendees from 14 economies.

Recommendations can be made if quorum and consensus are reached. If the quorum is not reached, the meeting may continue, but recommendations must be put to the full membership for consideration. Should the ERTF fail to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings, it will be referred to Senior Officials for a decision on whether it should continue to exist.

Member Economy Coordinator

The Task Force will be Co-Chaired by the Philippines and China, as agreed during the 69th Energy Working Group Meeting.

Institutional Mechanism

The Task Force will provide implementation reports and updates to the EWG and the EMM, through the Lead Shepherd. Endorsement decisions of the Task Force will be subject to the EWG's approval.

Secretariat Support

As Co-Chairs, the Philippines and China will establish their respective secretariat pools.

Conformity with Domestic Law

Discussion or exchange of information will be in conformity with, the laws and regulations of respective Member Economies.

Confidentially and Domestic Security

A Member Economy is not obliged to participate in any discussion or exchange of information which the Member Economy may consider to be confidential or of domestic security concern.

Reporting

The ERTF will report to the EWG, at minimum, annually

Adherence to APEC Guidelines, Policies and Procedures

All APEC branded products, actions, project proposals and events must be endorsed in advance by EWG. The ERTF will operate in full compliance with APEC rules, and established practices, including APEC Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with non-members, APEC Sponsorship Guidelines where appropriate, the APEC Branding Manual, and APEC Logo Guidelines.

All outputs of ERTF must be made available in English for public use.

ERTF cannot establish new study centers, websites, platforms, substructures or other institutions without the approval from the EWG and SCE.

https://www.apec.org/about-us/about-apec/policies-and-procedures\

Review Mechanism/Sunset Clause

This Terms of Reference (TOR) document will be open to a biennial review so as to remain up to date and relevant to the evolving needs of APEC Member Economies.

The ERTF has a term of two years beginning from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026. At the expiration of this and any subsequent term, the mandate of the ERTF and its TOR shall be reviewed (by ERTF and EWG members) and subsequently by the SCE and a recommendation on renewal as well as an updated terms of reference will be put to the Senior Officials for approval. The ERTF will cease to exist upon the expiration of these Terms of Reference unless renewal is explicitly approved by the SCE.

The EWG will conduct a voluntary review on the ERTF's mandate and operations if necessary or required by EWG members.