

REGIONAL POWER TRADE COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RPTCC)

The Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC) is the high-level body established by the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Regional Power Trade (IGA) (signed in November 2002), to actively coordinate the successful implementation of regional trade and to represent the countries involved in regional power trade.

Per Article 4 of the IGA, the first interim RPTCC is composed of national representatives to the current Electric Power Forum. The RPTCC shall report to the GMS Ministerial Level Conference and the respective national governments through the Ministers for electricity or electricity policy as appropriate. The RPTCC shall have independence in management of its operations for purpose of achieving its main objectives.

The Role of the RPTCC. The first task of the RPTCC shall be to determine more precisely the first steps to establish and implement of regional trade arrangements, which they shall submit to the GMS countries (as Parties to IGA) for endorsement. This should include a plan to accomplish the following:

- i) Provide to the Parties a final draft of the Regional Power Trade Operating Agreement (PTOA) which will specify the rules of regional power trade;
- ii) Provide to the Parties a recommendation for the overall policy and day-to-day management of regional power trade, including the necessary bodies for coordination;
- iii) Establish the short, medium and longer term initiatives which need to be pursued on a priority basis in order to achieve the objectives of regional power trade within a specified timetable; and
- iv) Identify necessary steps for implementation of regional trade, including means for financing.

The RPTCC has established the **Focal Group (FG)** in January 2006 to coordinate the implementation of the RPTCC activities in each GMS country. The FG was the first institution created for the implementation of the Regional Power Trade Operating Agreement (PTOA).

The RPTCC has established the **Planning Working Group (PWG)** in June 2006, which is the first sub-group created to carry out priority activities of the RPTCC, such as determining training requirements, and setting pricing rules and technical standards.

Subregional Electric Power Forum: Terms of Reference

Initiation

The Electric Power Forum (EPF) was initiated under the GMS Economic Cooperation Program to serve as an advisory body on subregional power projects and issues. The EPF reports to the Ministerial Conference and the respective governments of treaties or protocols.

Rationale

The establishment of the Subregional Electric Power Forum responds to the need for a forum that will identify and pursue opportunities for subregional cooperation in the field of electrical energy among the GMS countries. The EPF facilitates the implementation of priority subregional power projects. It also addresses issues affecting both hardware and software aspects of the subregional power systems, thereby promoting favorable conditions for subregional cooperation in power system development.

Main Objectives

The EPF has the following main objectives:

- Act as a cooperative link among government agencies and related institutions, such as power utilities that are directly involved in power supply and power system development in the subregion;
- Act as a promotional and advisory organization for the development of efficient electric power systems in the subregion;
- Identify and promote opportunities for mutually beneficial subregional cooperation projects in the power sector;
- Promote financing of priority projects related to the development of subregional power systems by the governments and power utilities concerned, donor agencies, and the private sector;
- Provide a venue for addressing software issues, such as planning tools and pricing principles related to subregional cooperation in power projects, and organize seminars and workshops to discuss studies dealing with these issues;
- Provide and disseminate information to participating countries, and communicate and cooperate with regional and international organizations involved in the energy sector; and
- Facilitate training and other human resource development initiatives to support the development of power systems.

Membership

Each GMS country is represented by two persons in the EPF core group. One is a senior official from the government organization dealing with policy and planning in the power sector, and the other is a top-level officer of a key power utility.

Chairperson and Venue

The position of Chairperson rotates among participating countries and is linked to the venue of the EPF meeting. The Chairperson provides the necessary logistical support for EPF activities.

Electric Power Forum Meetings Held

- Tenth Meeting, 19 November 2003, Guangzhou, PRC
- Ninth Meeting, 11 October 2002, Yangon, Myanmar
- Eighth Meeting, 14-15 December 2001, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Seventh Meeting, 6 December 2000, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Sixth Meeting, 28-29 October 1999, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Fifth Meeting, 11-12 December 1998, Bangkok, Thailand
- Fourth Meeting, 29-31 October 1997, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Third Meeting, 12-13 December 1996, Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China
- Second Meeting, 12-13 December 1995, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Inception Meeting, 24-25 April 1995, Yangon, Myanmar