

The 7th Japan-SAARC Symposium
On
Specific Strategies for Incorporating Energy Networking in the SAARC Region
March 13, 2014. New Delhi, India

Recommendations

The 7th Japan-SAARC symposium was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Government of Japan in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi. The themes of the different sessions were set in line with the title of the symposia “**Specific Strategies for Incorporating Energy-Networking in the SAARC Region**”.

Following recommendations were unanimously approved by the participant for consideration of SAARC and the Government of Japan:

1. Exploitation of Indigenous Energy Resources:

SAARC Member States need to develop indigenous energy resources to enhance the availability of energy supply to meet the demand. Japan and SAARC member should work together to:

- Encourage Japanese investors in cooperation with companies from SAARC Member State to develop energy resources in South Asia with support from JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation);
- Consider financial assistance to implement large energy projects, especially the cross border power transmission projects in South Asia;
- Provide latest efficient technologies to harness energy from conventional energy resources;
- Consider harnessing energy from renewable energy wherein Japan, being a global leader of renewable energy technologies, can play a catalytic role;
- Develop a concept paper on harmonized multinational energy transmission frameworks within the SAARC region which will facilitate member states to consider enter into bilateral or trilateral power transmission project more liberally.

2. In addition to indigenous resources SAARC region needs to access energy from the neighboring energy rich regions to the East, West and North of the region. This would involve building of inter and intra regional transmission interconnections and corridors.

A: Intra-regional Energy Networks:

Intra-regional energy transmission interconnections wherever they exist have to be strengthened and additional ones built. Japan can finance the preparation of SAARC Power Transmission Master Plan that will help to identify specific interconnection projects to facilitate free flow of electricity across the region.

B: Inter-regional Energy Networks:

Inter-regional energy transmission interconnections, such as, the TAPI, IPI, CASA interconnections have been languishing; inter-alia due to financial constraints. Japan should consider necessary financial support and encourage Japanese companies to participate in the discussions to support these and other such projects.

3. Based on the recommendation of the earlier Japan-SAARC Symposia, Japan and the SAARC Member States have initiated a study to identify key energy projects in South Asia that can be supported by Japan through JICA and JBIC. The draft action plan will become available by April 2014. SAARC and Japan may work closely to have it endorsed by the SAARC Summit for follow up action.
4. In the absence of a credible SAARC Energy Data Base, energy professionals, investors and stakeholders find it difficult to take decisions or carry out research. Japan directly or through its technical assistance scheme and the SAARC Member States should work together to develop “SAARC Energy Data Base”.