

RECOMMENDATIONS OF JAPAN–SAARC SYMPOSIUM ON ENERGY AND CONNECTIVITY HELD AT ISLAMABAD ON JUNE 10–11, 2008

The participants of the Japan–SAARC Symposium on Energy and Connectivity held on June 10–11, 2008 recommend that:

1. With greater sense of urgency, recognizing the tremendous energy resource potential of this region and vital role of energy in economic, social, human development and poverty reduction, Japan and SAARC Member States expedite energy cooperation in SAARC region through active participation of Japan and SAARC Member States;
2. SAARC Member States for this purpose should continue to make use of the technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources for capacity building, technology transfer, energy efficiency and specific project formulation. SAARC Member States should mutually share information on their own progress, technical know-how, identify their needs, barriers and possible solutions;
3. Japan and SAARC Member States continue dialogue for possible means and cooperate where appropriate to improve regional connectivity in energy sector in the SAARC region through expansion of energy infrastructure, development of both conventional and non-conventional energy resources and technologies. Efforts should be made for fostering private and public partnership, R&D, and cooperation with academics, civil society and the media. To this end, the consideration must be made on economic and social cost-benefit analysis keeping in mind the specificities of each State;
4. Priority areas of energy cooperation in the SAARC region may include: energy infrastructure development, regional trade of energy, sharing of hydroelectric resources and demand side management including sharing and promoting efficient and cleaner energy technologies, promotion of renewable sources of energy and human resources development;
5. The parties engaged in the current projects for constructions of gas pipelines connecting one or more SAARC countries to external energy sources in the region urgently address outstanding issues related to such projects delaying the finalization of these projects;
6. Japan and SAARC Member States make efforts to promote public awareness on the need for regional energy cooperation including fields such as energy access and affordability, energy conservation and ways to improve energy efficiency and SAARC

Member States welcome Japan to share its experience and technology in energy conservation;

7. Programs and activities of SAARC Energy Centre for advancing energy cooperation in the SAARC region should be strongly supported through provision of human, financial, infrastructural, technical and material resources; and

8. SAARC Member States consider establishing an inter-governmental framework for implementing the agreed program of action in energy cooperation. SAARC Member States may also consider possibility of joining the Energy Charter Treaty to promote regional energy cooperation.