

**REPORT OF THE
THIRD MEETING OF BIMST-EC ENERGY SECTOR
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS / OFFICIALS
28 - 29 January 2002, Yangon, Union of Myanmar.**

INTRODUCTION

The Third Meeting of BIMST-EC Energy Sector Committee of Experts / Officials was held from 28 - 29 January 2002 at Hotel Sofitel Plaza in Yangon, Union of Myanmar.

The Meeting was attended by delegates from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The Meeting was opened by H.E. Brig. Gen. Lun Thi, Minister for Energy.

AGENDA ITEM 1 : Opening remarks by the Chairperson

The meeting was chaired by Director General U Soe Myint of Energy Planning Department, leader of the Myanmar delegation. The meeting commenced at 10:00 hrs with the Chairperson's opening remarks.

AGENDA ITEM 2 : Consideration and Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda with some amendments.

AGENDA ITEM 3 : Discussion on the drafting of the TOR for Energy Sector Committee

The Meeting finalized the Terms of Reference for the Energy Sector Committee.

It was agreed that the final version be sent to the Working Group in Bangkok for further submission to Ministerial Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 : Presentation by Thailand on "Status of implementation of the Development of Energy Infrastructure (Natural Gas) project in the BIMST-EC region".

The presentation was made by Mr. Suphon Tubtimcharoon of Thailand.

Member countries were requested to furnish information to coordinating country Thailand for the new work programme as proposed by Thailand. All delegates agreed to send the said information to Thailand by 2nd week of February 2002.

The revised Time Schedule is presented with the starting point for Year 1 set at 1st April 2002. The Schedule envisages that the Feasibility Study report be submitted by the Task Force at the end of August 2003.

Issues concerning the Home-Page creation and Energy Policy / Legal Issues, will be discussed at the next meeting of the Task Force.

It was agreed to reconfirm the focal point for the Task Force for Energy Infrastructure Development (Natural Gas) Project as soon as possible after consulting with relevant agencies from each member country.

Myanmar reported to the Meeting the recent development in the exploration of new gas reserves in the western part of Myanmar Offshore Region. Myanmar stressed that this development would eventually lead to realization of a Trans Border Gas Pipeline in the region.

AGENDA ITEM 5 : Presentation by India on the "Suggested format for collecting, compilation and consolidation of Energy Information and data for BIMST-EC member countries".

The presentation was made by Mr. Rakesh Kacker from India.

India's data templates were shown as a study case. Other countries were requested to furnish information to the extent possible, by 1st May 2002.

AGENDA ITEM 6 : Presentation by Myanmar on the "Status of the Establishment of the Energy Information Center".

The presentation was made by U Htin Aung from Myanmar.

New computing facilities have been installed with higher data handling capacity. A small team will be formed and assigned for operations of the Information Centre in near future.

AGENDA ITEM 7 : Presentation by the coordinating country India on "Status of implementation of the Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy project in the BIMST-EC region"

The presentation was made by Ms. Akanksha Chaurey of India.

It was agreed to hold the Training Programme in New Delhi on 21-27 March, 2002. The programme will cover the entire range of renewables, focussing on barriers to penetration, policy and other required interventions. Formal invitation to member countries would be sent on 31st January 2002. Other member countries were requested to send the list of participants by 15th February, 2002 to coordinating country India. It was agreed that the scope of the training programme would be as approved by the Task Force. In view of the

suggestions made by U Aung Myint of Renewable Energy Association of Myanmar, an NGO, it was agreed to place more emphasis on the application side.

Regarding the demonstration project on biomass gasifier, Myanmar will submit an amended proposal for a gasifier for tobacco drying. The submission will be made by end of February 2002.

It was agreed that in view of their experience, Sri Lanka and Thailand will collaborate for the implementation of Solar Home System project. Sri Lanka would initiate the activities.

Regarding the Research Institutions Network, the nodal points identified are the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry for Myanmar, Department of Energy Development and Promotion for Thailand and Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) for India. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will confirm their nodal points later.

It was agreed in principle to develop a project for the Improvement of Education Infrastructure, using renewables. This project can be collectively implemented by all member countries. India would prepare a preproposal document, giving also a format for provision of information. This would be sent to the member countries by 28th February 2002.

AGENDA ITEM 8 : Review, discussion and amendments (if any) on the TOR's for the Task Force for Development of Energy Infrastructure (Natural Gas) and Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy Projects

It was agreed that for the time being the TOR's for the Task Force for Energy Infrastructure (Natural Gas) Development Project and Development of New and Renewable Sources of Energy Project are not required to be amended.

AGENDA ITEM 9 : Discussion of specific plans and directions for further implementation of the identified projects.

The further work programme and plans of action were discussed. Details have been incorporated in the respective agenda items above.

AGENDA ITEM 10 : Finalization and Adoption of the Report of the Meeting

The Report was adopted by the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11 : Closing Ceremony with concluding remarks by the BIMST-EC Energy Sector Cooperation Program National Committee Chairman

The Meeting was successfully concluded with the closing remarks by H.E. U Tin Tun, Deputy Minister for Energy.