SUMMARY OF THE
17TH MEETING OF THE APEC ENERGY RESILIENCY TASK FORCE (ERTF17)

27 November 2023
Energy Complex Building B, Ministry of Energy, Bangkok Thailand

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WELCOME / INTRODUCTION

The **17th Meeting of the Energy Resiliency Task Force (ERTF17)** was held on 27 November 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Energy of Thailand and co-chaired by Assistant Director William G. Quinto of the Philippine Department of Energy (DOE) and Mr. Ron Cherry of the United States (U.S.) DOE. It was attended by 60 participants from 15 member economies and representatives from the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre (APERC), APSEC, APEC and EWG Secretariat and the Lead Shepherd.

The Co-Chairs welcomed the APEC member economies and thanked Thailand for hosting the ERTF17. The PH Co-Chair emphasized that the work of the task force holds the potential of not only safeguarding the energy systems against unforeseen disruptions but also the opportunity to propel the region into an era of readiness to attain a sustainable and reliable energy for generations to come. He further added that the members' collective knowledge and dedication would be a building foundation for resilient energy systems that could withstand the test of time and adversity. The US Co-Chair on the other hand, stressed the significance of engaging more APEC member economies to share learnings and best practices to advance energy resiliency initiatives.

The PH Co-Chair adopted the ERTF17 Agenda after hearing no comments from the APEC participants. Likewise, the PH Co-Chair approved the ERTF16 minutes but provided minor revision under the 5th paragraph, 4th line, specifically replacing "2ed" with "2023".

Below are the discussions transpired per agenda item (*in bold and all-caps font*)

APEC ENERGY RESILIENCY RESPONSE SINCE ERTF16

The US Co-Chair invited members to present their respective energy resiliency responses since ERTF16. There being none, the US initiated to present their own energy resiliency initiatives and shared that there have been 25 confirmed weather/climate disaster events with losses exceeding $1 billion each which affected the United States. These events included drought, flooding, severe storm. Tropical cyclone, wildfire, and winter storm events which resulted to around 464 casualties and significantly impacted the US economy. The US also shared a map denoting the approximate location of the billion-dollar worth of casualties and damages brought about by the disasters.

On the other hand, the Philippines reported the updates on the energy resiliency initiatives conducted by the Department of Energy since ERTF16. The said initiatives which are centered on the Energy Resiliency Policy of the DOE adopted in 2018 included the formulation of energy resiliency roadmap and conduct of energy resiliency forum, pilot testing of the energy resiliency scorecard for electric utilities and tabletop exercise for the "Big One". The Energy Resiliency Roadmap will outline the Philippines' goals and priorities relevant to energy resiliency and will serve as a framework to guide the country towards a more secure, sustainable, reliable, and resilient energy future.

COMPLETED APEC ENERGY RESILIENCY PROJECTS

There were no completed energy resiliency related projects tabled during the Meeting.

CURRENT ENERGY RESILIENCY PROJECT UPDATES

A total of six (6) ongoing energy resiliency projects were reported during the meeting. Four (4) of these were headed by China, one (1) by Japan, and one (1) by the USA. The current initiatives are the following:

a. Data driven carbon neutral disaster resilient cities (APEC EWG 04 2022A) – China

Aim at accelerating the development towards carbon neutrality by increasing the number of APEC cities or municipalities having the capacity to collect relevant data and use a multi-stakeholder dialogue to become carbon neutral and energy inclusive. It was co-sponsored by Australia, Chile, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. In August 2023. The Training of the Trainers were conducted while the multistakeholder dialogue is planned to be conducted in February 2024.

b. Research on energy strategies driving cities through the low-carbon transition (EWG 01 2023S) - China

Endorsed on 09 March 2023, the project aims at empowering APEC cities to develop renewable energy and become carbon neutral. Philippines has been chosen as a case example for the analysis of Credit Risk Guarantee. In March 2023, a workshop on Financing Models for Collecting Carbon Neutrality Data was conducted which gathered representatives from APEC cities and a wide range of international carbon data collecting and reporting organizations.

c. Demonstration and Promotion of Energy Resilience tool based on Solar-Powered Emergency Shelter Solutions (SPESS) for Natural Disasters in APEC (EWG 02 2022S) - China

This project which was initially approved as an APEC-funded project and later converted to a self-financed APEC project aims to provide information on the potential applications and technologies related to solar powered emergency shelter (SPESS) in APEC region. It is a continuation and improvement of EWG 22/2015A – Developing Solar-Powered Emergency Shelter Solutions as an Energy Resilience Tool for Natural Disaster Relief in APEC Community.

d. Practical Experience and Prospect of Energy Access in APEC Region (EWG 05 2022S) - China

The project which started in January 2022 and is set to be completed in June 2024 is currently doing information, collection, and analysis work.

e. APEC Energy Resiliency Enhancement Project (EWG 09 2021A) – Japan

The project aims to enhance the ability to secure stable energy supply by effectively dealing with disasters through the following three activities based on the follow-up actions of the Energy Resiliency Principle Project:

- Conduct research work including identifying, collecting, and assessing indicators to evaluate energy resiliency in APEC economies.
- Develop an APEC Energy Resilience Sectoral Guidelines for Energy Infrastructure Companies.
- Conduct a workshop for capacity building on energy resiliency through dissemination of the principle. An APEC Workshop on Energy Resiliency Enhancement was held on 9 - 10 November 2023 in San Francisco, USA.

The Project was granted an extension until May 2024 as it was delayed due to the contracting process and the unexpected change in the contractor's organization.

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f. Microgrids for a Just Energy Transition (EWG 04 2023S) – US

The project which started in October 2023 and is expected to be completed in January 2024 focused on microgrids aimed to support the Putrajaya Vision 2040 & Aotearoa Plan of Action

by driving sustainable, inclusive growth and long-term energy and economic resiliency. A half-day workshop to build capacity in APEC economies to leverage microgrids and related technologies towards a just energy transition was conducted in October 2023 ahead of the Joint Meeting of APEC 61st Expert Group on Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EGEEC61) and 29th Expert Group on New and Renewable Energy Technologies (EGNRET59).

NEW / PLANNED ENERGY RESILIENCY RELATED PROJECT PROPOSAL

The US presented its new project entitled, “Driving Trade & Investment for DC Power Systems and Microgrid Frameworks Through Public Policy Alignment (2023 Session 2 new project proposal)” which was approved in principle and to be implemented starting November 2023 up to June 2025. It being co-sponsored by Chile, Hong Kong China, Philippines, Chinese Taipei, and Viet Nam with expected project cost amounting to 186,000 USD. This project seeks to build the capacity of APEC members and promote energy security and low-carbon energy systems by fostering harmonization of regulatory and conformity assessment approaches for DC power and microgrid systems.

APERC shared its observation that microgrids concept of technology seemed to be in a plug and play mode, thus suggested that it should include concept of integrated resource planning as well as building capacities.

NEXT STEPS / WRAP UP

The APEC Secretariat encouraged the members to submit ERTF project proposals and mentioned that they will soon announce the schedule and timeline for the submission of proposals.

The EWG Lead Shepherd conveyed its commendation to the co-chairpersons for sharing their respective energy resiliency updates and for the member economies to continue to be actively engaged in the task force by providing updates and proposing new projects.

In his closing remarks, the US Chair stressed that the APEC region is very vulnerable to disasters, thus highlighted the importance of having additional activities under ERTF which will encourage more member economies to participate or get involved. The PH Chair on the other hand, closes the Workshop with reiteration of support on the recommendations of the APEC Secretariat, the EWG Lead Shepherd and the ERTF17 Co-chair and thanked everyone for their participation.

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