

## **SUMMARY OF THE APEC ENERGY RESILIENCY TASK FORCE (ERTF13)**

17 October 2021

Ottawa, Canada (Virtual) (EWG 62)

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Energy Resiliency Task Force was held virtually on October 17, 2021, in Ottawa, Canada (GMT-4) from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The meeting was hosted by Canada, and co-chaired by Mr. Dan Ton, United States (U.S.) Department of Energy and Undersecretary Alexander Lopez, Philippines (PH) Department of Energy.

Undersecretary Lopez in his opening statement welcomed APEC members to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ERTF. He recalled ERTF12 Meeting particularly the new projects proposed by Japan and US for co-sponsorship of member economies and expressed once again the acceptance as co-sponsor to Japan's project entitled "APEC Energy Resiliency Enhancement Project". He asked for the consideration of APEC member economies to measure the different levels of energy resiliency through a criteria or index, further underscoring the importance of having a baseline and setting a benchmark for energy resiliency.

Reporting on developments since the last ERTF meeting, Dr. Cary Bloyd, U.S., noted the 18 weather and climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each across the U.S. and the deaths of 538 people. On the Philippines side, Undersecretary Lopez reported the series of weather disturbances in the country every second semester of the year, including three (3) tropical cyclones that affected several transmission and distribution facilities causing power interruption. He noted the significant improvement on the response of the Department of Energy but acknowledged the need to further update the emergency response and recovery plans with consideration of multiple hazards that may lead to compound disasters.

### **Completed Projects**

One (1) completed project was presented:

- APEC Sustainable Energy Center (APSEC) reported the results of the Chinese project "Research on the Role of Urban Planning for addressing Climate Change and Disasters" (EWG 09 2019S). Key findings result in a clear understanding of the respective roles of disaster resilience and sustainability. Of particular interest are the synergies between measures to improve sustainable energy and measures to improve disaster resilience. Expected follow-up actions will focus on improving the measurement and the monitoring of disaster resilience and sustainable development at city level. The final report is available on the APEC projects website.

### **Current Projects**

The status of five (5) ongoing projects was presented:

- APSEC presented the status of China's project "Research on means to overcome shortage of basic urban energy-climate data" (EWG 04 2021S), a self-funded project which aims to explore the feasibility of constructing an urban SDGs data base for APEC cities provisionally called "APEC Urban Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Tracker for Energy and Climate". This shall

contribute to filling the data shortage of SDG-relevant urban data including EWG 11 2018S and EWG09 2019S. Planned activities include discussing the definition of feasible data input data sets and the desired outputs visualization tools with APEC pilot cities.

- In addition, APSEC presented that status of China's project "Demonstration and Promotion of Energy Resilience tool based on Solar-Powered Emergency Shelter Solutions (SPESS 2) for Natural Disaster in APEC" (EWG 13 2019A). The workshop was conducted on 12 October 2021 virtually with 26 official nominees and renowned experts from 10 economies. The next stage work of the SPESS 2 is the submission of monitoring report, project report, circulation of final draft project report, and the submission of the final project report to EWG.
- U.S currently plans to hold a workshop in early 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2022 for the "APEC Workshop on Grid Resiliency Through Energy Storage (ES)" (EWG 02 2020A). This project supports a three-day workshop focusing on ES technologies applied for energy resiliency and economics.
- U.S. also reported the status of the "Role of Integrated Distribution System in Maximizing the use of Distributed Energy Resources and Resiliency in the APEC Region" (EWG 03 2020S). The draft final report was recently distributed to the EWG for comment and the project should be completed in November 2021.
- Japan reported on the progress of the project "Workshop on Energy Resiliency Principle" (EWG 07 2020A), which aims to conduct three (3) virtual workshops later this year to share importance on energy resiliency and to develop APEC Energy Resiliency Guidelines based on inputs gathered through the workshop.

### **New Projects**

The status of three (3) new projects were presented:

- APSEC presented a new project entitled "Data Driven Carbon Neutral Disaster Resilient Cities", proposed by China for Session 1, 2022. It is expected to start in August 2022 and be completed in December 2023. It aims to accelerate the movement towards carbon neutrality by increasing the number of APEC cities or communities with the capacity to collect and use key SDG relevant data, apply holistic integrated planning methods, and use a stakeholder dialogue.
- The U.S. has submitted a Project proposal for Session 1, 2021 entitled "Lessons Learned on Resiliency and uptake of variable energy resources from islanded grids that support APEC Clean Energy Goals." The full project proposal is currently being reviewed by the APEC Project Management Unit (PMU). If approved, the project is expected to run from November 2021 to December 2022
- Japan has proposed a new project for Session 2, 2021 on "APEC Energy Resiliency Enhancement." The project has been accepted in principle and the full project proposal has been submitted to APEC. The project is expected to run from January 2022 to January 2023.

## **Next Steps/Wrap Up**

The Chair noted that based on member comments, the ERTF Terms of Reference (TOR) had been revised and circulated to the EWG for approval. The Lead Shepherd Ari Benaissa noted that she had received guidance from Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) stating that unless all EWG subgroup TORs were submitted to SOM and approved by the end of this year, they would cease to exist. She expressed confidence that the TORs would be submitted on time as the EWG members understand the value of the expert groups and task forces.

APEC Energy Program Director noted that the APEC PMU project session 1 full proposal project evaluations had been delayed, but they expect to have them completed in the next two weeks.

The task force members thanked Canada for hosting the meeting. The co-chairs asked if there was any other business. There being none, the co-chairs closed the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Energy Resiliency Task Force. Meeting minutes will be distributed out of session and will be tabled for approval at ERTF14.