

Summary Assessment

Committee on Energy Third session 24-26 February 2021

I. Introduction

The third session of the Committee on Energy took place on 24-26 February 2021 as a virtual meeting due to ongoing COVID-19 related travel restrictions in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

An online questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was conducted.¹ The main purpose of the assessment is to support the secretariat's ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of the session.

The Committee session provided a platform to review the progress made towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 on sustainable energy, address regional and national policies and measures that have supported achieving targets of the Goal 7 on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency. It also reviewed the draft regional road map on power system connectivity: promoting cross-border electricity connectivity for Sustainable Development as requested by the Commission at its 76th session.

II. Attendance

The third session of the Committee on Energy was attended by 64 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (40 of 62) with 2 participants at the ministerial level. There were 143 registered participants from member and associate members, of whom 50 were female (35 per cent). A number of United Nations bodies, agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations participated. From these entities, there were 41 participants of whom 12 were female (29 per cent). Therefore, the total number of participants from both governments and other entities was 184 individuals and the total number of female participants was 66 (34 per cent).

III. Respondent's Profile

A total of 20 individual respondents from 16 member countries and 4 from UN specialized agency, intergovernmental and international organizations provided feedback to the questionnaire. Of these 20 respondents, 14 are male, 6 are female.

¹ The rating scale is 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

Respondent countries by subregional

SEA	SSWA
Philippines, Thailand	Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka
ENEA	Pacific
Japan	Tonga
NCA	Other
Armenia, Kazakhstan, Georgia	United Kingdom and one unspecified-country
UN, Intergovernmental and international organizations	
Pacific Community, Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre, China Electricity Council, IAEA	

IV. Relevance

Overall, respondents agreed that the agenda items reflected the present development trends and issues in the Asia-Pacific region; and that the issues discussed were useful for their government/organization. The respondents gave a slightly lower rating on discussing relevant gender issues as pertaining to the meeting objectives.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Ratings
The issues discussed reflected the present development trends/issues in the Asia-Pacific region.	Average: 4.3
The issues discussed were useful for my government/organization.	Average: 4.2
The meeting discussed relevant gender issues as pertaining to the meeting objectives.	Average: 3.45

V. Effectiveness

The respondents agreed that the meeting effectively enhanced their knowledge of the issues discussed; promoted regional cooperation, and cooperation and collaboration among participants;

the facilitators effectively engaged participants in discussions; enough time was available for discussion; and the meeting documents and presentations were of high quality, concise and clear.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Ratings
The meeting effectively enhanced my knowledge of the issues discussed	Average: 4
The meeting effectively promoted regional cooperation, and cooperation and collaboration among participants	Average: 4.2
The facilitators effectively engaged with participants in discussions	Average: 3.95
Enough time was available for discussion	Average: 4.15
The meeting documents and presentations were of high quality, concise & clear	Average: 4.1

VI. Efficiency

Generally, the respondents rated positively on the efficiency of the meeting, in particular, they highly agreed that the meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Ratings
I am satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangement of the meeting	Average: 4.45
The meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme	Average: 4.5
The communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the meeting were effective	Average: 4.2
The duration of the meeting was appropriate	Average: 4.5

VII. Performance of the virtual tool

Overall, the respondents were satisfied with the KUDO meeting platform.

Please rate your agreement of the following statements	Ratings
The virtual platform was easy to use	Average: 4.25
It was easy to use and accessible	Average: 4.15

I was able to hear others clearly (audio quality)	Average: 3.9
I was able to see other clearly (video quality)	Average: 3.9
Internet connectivity is satisfactory	Average: 3.7
The duration of the virtual meeting was appropriate	Average: 4.1
The screen sharing feature was effective	Average: 4.15
Interaction tools (raise hands, live polls, Q&A, etc.) were used effectively	Average: 3.8
I received sufficient guidance from ESCAP to use the virtual tool prior to the meeting	Average: 4.3
Adequate technical support from ESCAP was provided prior to and during the meeting	Average: 4.25

Additional comments were provided to improve ESCAP virtual meetings:

- No substitute for holding conventional mode of meeting. Nonetheless, we understand that this may be the mode under new normal and prevailing circumstances. For me, a robust and reliable internet connectivity issue remains the basic challenge in holding effective VCs. Otherwise, it has been insightful deliberations on a subject that is very important for my country and the people.
- There is need to reduce the time allocated to official government statements - it's time consuming and boring!!
- May add some discussants to assist moderator eg. during Q&A, More elaborated wrap up at the end of each session.
- Based on assessments and comparisons to choose a more simple and efficient tool for virtual meetings

VIII. Results achieved

The results achieved through this meeting indicated by respondents included:

- Broadening my understanding horizons on the subject matter; better understanding of efforts and initiatives being rendered in the Asia-pacific region; way forward in achieving collective goal - delivery of a resilient, sustainable and smart energy systems for common good!
- defined the current situation and planned future activities
- Enhance collaboration among countries and partners to achieve national energy targets.
- The current issues updated in member states. Various Insights from all speakers.
- Energy Connectivity concept to be discussed further among Pacific Countries member states
- The session provided an opportunity to learn about the developments in the energy sector in the region, as well as to discuss further steps to deepen cooperation.
- More regional cooperation in this field.
- Hope to know clearer ideas of most possible electricity needs to be traded between countries in future.

IX. Comments and suggestions

The respondents provided comments and suggestions for improvement of future sessions:

- Thank you for continued support and assistance.
- Material preparation in advance is highly recommended with ample time for audiences.
- Well wrap up with way forward after each session.
- More action-oriented discussion with input from grassroots level.
- Some documents or reports need to be sent beforehand in order to prepare comments.

X. Conclusion

Overall, delegations agreed that the third session of the Committee on Energy was well organized and fruitful. The session was generally relevant to promote regional and national policies and measures that have supported achieving targets of the Goal 7 on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The efficiency and effectiveness of the session also received positive feedback, in particular, the organization of the session was conducted in a timely manner and according to the programme. More attention could be paid to gender related issues.
