

**UN ESCAP Seventy-eighth session of the Commission – Side event**  
**Regionally Interconnected Green Grids to Support Energy Transition in Asia-Pacific**

**25 May 2022, 12.45-13.45 (Hybrid, with virtual participation via MS Teams)**

**Overview**

Cross-border power system integration can bring a number of benefits, including lower energy costs, increased energy security, and increased integration of renewable energy resources. In several countries in the Asia-Pacific region, however, lack of sufficient grid investments are a key bottleneck to the development and integration of renewable energy, and could severely hamper the energy transition efforts in the region.

Many initiatives in the region and more generally are seeking to increase power grid integration in support of sustainable development. For example, in South East Asia, the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) would integrate the power systems of the ten ASEAN Member States. The South Asia Regional Initiative on Energy Integration (SARI/EI) seeks to enable more power system integration and power trade among the countries in that region. And, launched at COP 26, the Green Grids Initiative – One Sun, One World, One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) brings together networks of regulators, system operators, international development finance institutions and technical institutions who can all help towards accelerating the roll-out of green grids infrastructure.

This event will focus on how increased cross-border power system interconnectivity, linked to the deployment of renewable energy resources, can accelerate the energy transition in Asia and the Pacific. Participants will discuss key issues in enabling increased sustainable energy connectivity, including increased capacity of regulators, utilities and other stakeholders; technical and analytical tools to enable the integration of higher shares of renewable energy; and financing grid infrastructure.

**Agenda**

Opening remarks	Welcome remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Joanna Benn</b>, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to UNESCAP, British Embassy Bangkok</li><li>• <b>Juniper Neill</b>, Deputy Mission Director, USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia</li></ul>	12:45 – 12:55
Moderated discussion	Moderated by <b>Matthew Wittenstein</b> , Chief of Section, Energy Connectivity, UN ESCAP  Overview of the GGI-OSOWOG <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Marcus Stewart</b>, Head of GGI-OSOWOG Secretariat</li></ul> Enhancing regulator capacity: Regulator Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jane Dennett-Thorpe</b>, Deputy Director for the Net Zero Transition, Ofgem</li></ul>	12:55 – 13:40

	<p>Driving power utility innovation: Global Power System Transformation (G-PST) Consortium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beni Suryadi</b>, Manager, Power, Fossil Fuel, Alternative energy, and Storage, ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)</li> </ul> <p>USAID's Southeast Asia Smart Power Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scott Bartos</b>, Regional Energy Advisor, USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA)</li> </ul> <p>Financing climate friendly transmission infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monica Gullberg</b>, Senior Renewable Energy Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)</li> </ul>	
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