

Minutes of First IETP Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Time: 4 pm to 6 pm

Venue: Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, New Delhi

Attendees:

- Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF):
 - Mr. Krishan Dhawan
 - Mr. Chinmaya Acharya
 - Ms. Disha Agarwal
 - Mr. Vivek Sen
 - Mr. Siddharth Chatpalliwar
 - Ms. Elisha George
- Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP):
 - Dr. Anshu Bharadwaj
 - Mr. Thirumalai NC
 - Ms. Poornima Kumar
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC):
 - Ms. Marylaure Crettaz, Head, Swiss Cooperation Office India, Embassy of Switzerland
 - Dr. Anand Shukla, Senior Thematic Advisor at SDC, Embassy of Switzerland

Core Group members present:

- Mr. S. K. Soonee, Advisor, Power System Operation Corporation Limited
- Mr. Pankaj Batra, Former Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority
- Mr. Amit Kapur, represented by Mr. Vishnu P. Sudarsan, J. Sagar Associates
- Dr. Geeta Gouri, Former Member, Competition Commission of India
- Dr. R. R. Sonde, Thermax (Skype)
- Prof. Geetam Tiwari, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (Skype)
- Dr. Indradip Mitra, representing Dr. Winfried Damm, GiZ

Core Group members who were unable to join:

- Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water
- Mr. Shalabh Tandon, Regional Head of Operations, International Finance Corporation
- Dr. Satish Kumar, President and Executive Director, Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy
- Prof. Ayodhya Tiwari, ETH Zurich
- Mr. Anirban Ghosh, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mahindra Group

Meeting Proceedings:

- The meeting commenced with a brief overview of the initiative by Mr. Krishan Dhawan, followed by a round of introductions. Following this, Ms. Marylaure Crettaz Corredor briefed the group on

SDC's focus areas, and ongoing initiatives regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation. She mentioned that IETP is an important initiative from an energy policy perspective.

- Mr. Thirumalai NC then introduced IETP Core Group members who could not join the meeting. Next, Dr Anshu Bharadwaj made a brief presentation outlining the aims and objectives of the IETP. He discussed:
 - o The need to bypass the high CO₂/GDP trajectory that most countries have followed in the process of development. India's already low CO₂/GDP alongside its NDC targets offers great potential to consciously do so.
 - o The possibility of India following non-linear transformation pathways for decarbonization such that it can avoid the Kuznets curve peak
 - o Worldwide examples of triggers and enablers leading to energy transformations in the past; urging the group to explore how India might contribute to taking action with reference to the IPCC's recent 1.5°C report.
 - o IETP's value proposition, expectations of the core group, possible focus areas, and proposed structure of the Platform.

Chinmaya Acharya of SSEF added that while most groups look at “**how** to do” issues, the IETP could look at “**what** to do” issues. This means identifying, say, five big bets that India should place today to transform its energy sector.

- A detailed discussion took place among the core group members regarding possible transformations that the IETP could focus on and approaches it could undertake.
 - o The following areas of research were highlighted:
 - The future of hydrogen and its end-use applications, particularly for process heating and other non-electricity requirements in industries
 - Transport sector interventions (demand side) – creating policies and processes that reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase public engagement
 - Need for pricing externalities and linking with sustainable financing¹
 - The future of utilities and need for institutional engineering
 - Accelerating decentralized distributed generation – going down to the household level
 - Importance of cross border energy trade
 - Need for creating dynamic roadmaps instead of static ones
 - Managing energy consumption by buildings/residential sector
 - Feminist approach interventions
 - Improving data availability, management and analysis, including the use of probabilistic models
 - Assessment of changing load curves

¹ Related studies:

- <http://www.cstep.in/publications/reports/304>
- <https://shaktifoundation.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Benefit-cost-analysis-of-emission-standards-for-coal-based-thermal-power-plants-in-India-1.pdf>

- Alternative models and market mechanisms (regarding promoting electric mobility and deploying charging stations)
- Other key strategic points/questions that came up during discussion were:
 - How can the IETP link its work with relevant people and make sure its work is noticed
 - While electricity will be an important aspect of the IETP's work, other sectors such as industries, transport, and general processes need to be examined
 - There are areas/subjects which need to be analysed well. There is merit in multiplicity as well. Appropriate research questions and approaches will need to be identified within this group
 - The IESS might prove a good starting point to identify long term opportunities
 - It is important to recognize that data currently does not get sufficient attention. Data and institutional arrangements surrounding it ought to be examined.
- The meeting concluded with co-chairs suggesting that the basic question of how to achieve India's developmental objectives alongside deep decarbonisation should be kept in mind. The group agreed that staying informed about different governmental agencies' plans in this area, and involving them (at an appropriate stage), would be critical to the Platform's long-term success.

Action points and next steps:

The draft charter for the IETP was shared with the core group members present. The soft copy will be circulated with the proceedings. It was decided that inputs on the draft charter will be solicited during the next meeting

Regarding the research areas suggested during the meeting (and others that may arise), offline discussions and an online preference test might help to expedite decision-making before the IETP's next meeting

The Secretariat will create an online folder to begin collating ideas and documents and ease the discussion process

The group agreed that the next meeting of the IETP should be held sooner than on a quarterly basis, preferably in the month of February. Options for meeting dates will be sent out soon.