



Connectivity and Trading in Power & Energy: A Regional and International Dimension

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A Regional and International Dimension



Syed Munir Khasru

Chairman

The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

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Foreword	ix
Acronyms	xiii

Thematic Area I: Energy Cooperation: The Case for South Asia

Why Energy is the Low Hanging Fruit for South Asian Integration Syed Munir Khasru	03
Petroleum Coke Use in India and South Asia: Recent Trends and Emerging Policy Options Deborah Gordon, and David Livingston	17
Best Practices for Bilateral and Regional Energy Cooperation Dr. Ravi Segal	31
Emerging Vistas in Cross-border Power Trading in the South Asian Region K Ramanathan	41
Developing Power Trading Market Jyoti Kumar Mehta, and Mridul Chadha	51
Cross Border Electricity Trade in South Asia Nitin Zamre, and Ashish Singla	63
Hunt for Deep-Sea Hydrocarbon: The South Asian Case Riasat Noor	77

Regional Energy Cooperation for Accelerating Cross Border Electricity Trade and Hydro Power Development in and between South Asia and Myanmar: Opportunities and Challenges Rajiv Ratna Panda	93
Development of Regional Electricity Markets S. K. Ray, Gaurav Jain, and Nikhil Tyagi	123
Towards a Cleaner Future through Greener Energy in Sri Lanka Pidiwili Gedara Chaminda Karunathilake, Perumpuli Arachchige Nimal Shantha, and Maithiliee Thayaparan	137
Cross Border Electricity Trade among South Asian Countries - Challenges and Solutions Rakesh Kumar Goyal	153

Thematic Area II:

Energy Cooperation: The International Dimension

Decentralized Renewable Energy: A Transformative Pathway to Sustainable Development David Rodgers, Dr. Ming Yang, and Milena Gonzalez Vasquez	169
Cross Border Power Trading: An Asian Perspective Vishal Mehta	183
Best Practices in Cross-Border Investments in Energy Sector – Lessons from ASEAN Experience Gautam Jindal, Hari Malamakkavu Padinjare Variam, and Tao Yujia (Jacqueline)	195

The Rationale for Market Liberalization, Regional Cooperation and Need for Long-Term Trading	213
Hans-Arild Bredesen, Wilhelm Söderström, and Matias Peltoniemi	
<hr/>	
Cross-Border Power Trading	231
Matthew Wittenstein	
<hr/>	
Cross-Border Electricity Trade in Greater Mekong Sub-region: Key Policy Issues, Challenges and Lessons Learned	243
Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi	
<hr/>	
ASEAN Power Grid (APG): Challenges and Benefits Learnt for Regional Power Cooperation	259
Muhammad Shidiq, Badariah Yosiyana, and Aloysius Damar Pranadi	

Foreword

Syed Munir Khasru

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The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)



South Asia, covering around 11.5% of Asia's total landmass with a population of around 2 billion has the potential to generate \$80 billion worth of intra-regional trade against the current \$28 billion. Cross-border strife, diplomatic bottleneck and lack of effective regional political leadership continue to stymie regional connectivity to the extent that it has become 20% cheaper for India to trade with Brazil than with its next-door neighbor Pakistan. The region however is teeming with potential. Enhanced trade through resolving bottlenecks and improving intra-state relation could raise intra-regional trade to \$100 billion in 5 years and open up landlocked regions like Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and North-East India.

Amidst the challenges, diplomatic impasse and intra-regional conflict, opportunity abounds in the area of intra-regional power and energy connectivity. South Asia still imports two-thirds of its hydrocarbon resources and can benefit immensely by diversifying its supply sources through enhanced regional energy cooperation. The policymakers and practitioners in the region are yet to have capitalize on the energy trading potential of the

region. Stimulating regional power exchanges will assist in providing access to untapped energy resources, making South Asia an energy secured region in the process. However, lack of adequate institutional initiative and development, proper regulations and standardization and lack of a regional framework, energy trading has not yet reached its full potential.

Against the background of these ground realities, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG) has brought about its 2nd edition on regional power and energy connectivity titled, **“Connectivity and Trading in Power & Energy: A Regional and International Dimension”**. The book, like the one before it, has articles from well-respected and seasoned experts, policymakers, practitioners and academicians in diverse areas of trade & connectivity in the power & energy sector. The pool of writers represents both national and global professionals and experts who have experience and knowledge on key areas like multilateral power trading and cooperation, technical and policymaking aspects of power trading and environmental & geopolitical impacts on energy sharing.

The book having contributions from experts on diverse issues pertaining to regional energy connectivity will significantly contribute in enhancing the knowledge on the key parameters of power & energy sector, particularly in cross-border energy connectivity. Pushing forward trade amidst steep intra-regional dynamics and challenges will require a multi-stakeholder approach and efforts on all fronts. Towards that end, this book intends to take a positive step by raising awareness through greater dissemination of knowledge and better understanding of the dynamics of regional power-trading and the potential South

Asia holds for it. Initiatives that will have direct and indirect effect in snowballing full-fledged intraregional power trading requires to be encouraged, sponsored and understood.

As part of our commitment to adhere to highest professional standards and academic excellence, IPAG welcomes comments and suggestions that will add positive value to further additions to the IPAG Knowledge Series to be published in the future.

Best wishes,

Syed Munir Khasru
Chairman, IPAG