



Smart Energy, Sustainable Future



Singapore – IEA
Regional Training Programme on
Connecting ASEAN:
Technical, Regulatory and Financial
Pathways for Cross-Border
Power Trade

29-30 May 2025
Orchard Hotel, Singapore



Context

The ASEAN region is making significant strides toward regional power integration, with the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) set for renewal in 2025 and recent announcements in 2024 to expand cross-border power trade and subsea interconnectors. While initiatives like the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP) demonstrate progress, challenges remain in mobilising investments, harmonising regulations, and managing project risks.

Building on the successful Singapore-IEA Regional Training Programme on Catalysing Regional Interconnectivity in ASEAN in June 2024, the Energy Market Authority (EMA) of Singapore and the International Energy Agency (IEA) are pleased to co-organise the **9th Singapore-IEA Regional Training Programme**, focusing on facilitating cross-border power transmission in ASEAN.

This training is designed around the questions that stakeholders should address when moving from an interconnector project concept to its implementation. It will emphasise:

- Developing technical and operational frameworks to support the expansion of interconnections, especially subsea cables.
- Overcoming regulatory and policy barriers to enable efficient cross-border electricity trade.
- Mobilising investments for interconnectors through innovative financing models and risk-sharing mechanisms.
- Learning from global best practices and ASEAN's early experiences with interconnection projects.

Objectives & target audience

The primary objective of the training is to facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing between energy policymakers, regulatory authorities and industry professionals from across ASEAN member states, fostering stronger collaboration on power sector connectivity and regional electricity trade.

Specifically, the training will provide in-depth insights into the technical, financial, and regulatory dimensions of interconnection projects, and equip participants with practical strategies for structuring and financing interconnectors. Case studies from ASEAN and beyond will be showcased, and networking among participants will be actively encouraged through group discussions.

Format

The training will span 1.5 days, with different thematic sessions featuring expert presentations, moderated panel discussions, Q&A and polling tools to engage participants interactively as well as breakout group discussions to encourage hands-on problem solving.

Agenda

Day 1	
8:30 – 9:00	<i>Arrival of participants and registration</i>
9:00 – 9:10	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Jonathan Goh, Director of External Relations, Singapore Energy Market Authority• Mr Pablo Hevia-Koch, Head of Renewables Integration and Secure Electricity unit, International Energy Agency
9:10 – 10:00	Introductory Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Reflections on past year’s achievements and priorities ahead to realise the ASEAN Power Grid’s vision</i> Dato’ Ir. Ts. Razib Dawood, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Energy• <i>Strengthening electricity security and renewables integration through regional interconnection</i> Mr Pablo Hevia-Koch, Head of Renewables Integration and Secure Electricity unit, International Energy Agency
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Group photo & Coffee break</i>
10:30 – 12:00	Session 1: Assessing The Technical Feasibility of Interconnection Projects <p><i>Session objective: explore best practices, technical challenges, and real-life applications of feasibility studies to support the planning and implementation of cross-border interconnection projects in ASEAN.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Best practices for feasibility studies under the ASEAN Power Grid</i> Mr Prihastya Wiratama, Project Manager of ASEAN Power Interconnection, ASEAN Centre for Energy• <i>Technical consideration of subsea interconnector projects in ASEAN</i> Ms Georgie Skipper, CEO Lucetia Group & Chief Strategic Adviser of Green Grid Initiative• <i>Denmark’s experience with subsea cables in the North Sea</i> Mr Peter Bentzen, Long-term Advisor on Integration of Renewable Energy, Indonesian-Danish Energy Partnership• <i>Considerations of overhead lines and subsea interconnectors</i> Ms Farah Hanani Shamsuddin, Senior Consultant, Asset Management, DNV Energy Systems

	Panel discussion and moderated Q&A with the audience
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Session 2: Building Consensus: Socio-Economic Benefits and Stakeholder Perspectives (group discussion)</p> <p><i>Session objective: give participants hands-on experience in identifying and evaluating the socio-economic benefits of an interconnector project, and to discuss approaches to fairly share the associated costs and gains across countries.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Socio-economic impacts of regional connectivity Mr Matt Wittenstein, Chief of Section, Energy Connectivity, UNESCAP • Break-out session: Evaluating and sharing the benefits of interconnector projects <i>Participants will gather in 3 groups for a group discussion guided around questions and case studies.</i>
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 17:00	<p>Session 3: Aligning Frameworks for Cross-Border Trade</p> <p><i>Session objective: examine the legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks needed to enable cross-border power trading in ASEAN, and explore practical steps for aligning national and regional approaches through case studies and sub-regional cooperation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing policy and regulatory gaps for cross-border transmission projects Ms Nadhilah Shani, Senior Research Analyst on Power, ASEAN Centre For Energy • Foundational elements towards the ASEAN Power Grid Mr Sascha Oppowa, Energy Project Director GIZ, Clean Affordable and Secure Energy for Southeast Asia (CASE) • Key legal considerations for cross-border power trading Ms Sandra Seah, Partner, Bird & Bird • Aligning national and regional regulation for cross-border power trading: the case of the LTMS project Ms Suraiya Nadzrah Ramli, Deputy Director, Capacity Planning and Development, Energy Commission Malaysia • Regulatory coordination for cost allocation of interconnectors: insights from Australia Mr Michael Brothers, Director – Reset Coordination and Strategy, Australian Energy Regulator <p>Q&A with the audience</p>
17:00 – 19:00	<i>Networking Reception</i>

Day 2

09:00 – 10:30	Session 4: Financing Frameworks for Interconnectors (part 1) <i>Session objective: build participants' knowledge of the various grid financing models used globally, identify those most relevant for adoption in ASEAN, and explore what would be required to make them successful in the region.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate finance principles to unlock green grids financing in Southeast Asia Ms Lucia Fuselli, Co-chair UNESCAP/GGI Green Grids Climate Finance Taskforce• Funding approaches for the ASEAN Power Grid Mr Len George, Principal Energy Specialist, Asian Development Bank• Private sector involvement in cross-border interconnectors Mr Raphael Chabrolle, Senior Vice-President, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation• International experience with financing models for interconnectors Mr Inchan Hwang, Consultant, International Energy Agency Panel discussion and moderated Q&A with the audience
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Session 5: Financing Frameworks for Interconnectors (part 2 – group discussion) Break-out session: structuring a bankable interconnector (ownership model, risk-sharing strategy, financing mechanisms) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Participants will gather in 3 groups for a group discussion guided around questions and case studies.</i>
12:35 – 12:45	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Tan Sue-Ern, Head of IEA Regional Cooperation Centre - Singapore• Ms Agnes Koh, Deputy Director of External Relations, Singapore Energy Market Authority
