

China's Electric Power Sector Transformation Webinar (30 September 2020)

The rise of low-cost wind and solar power, deployment of distributed energy resources (DER) and increasing digitalisation are accelerating change in the power sector. China is currently undertaking an energy revolution for a “clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy system”, for which to become reality, a substantial and well-planned power sector transformation is one of the priorities.

For further strengthening the cooperation with Chinese stakeholders and providing international input into China's power sector transformation progress, the IEA co-hosted the **China's Electric Power Sector Transformation Webinar** on 30th September, jointly with the China Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute (EPPEI), the Royal Danish Embassy in Beijing and Danish Energy Agency (DEA). The webinar was supported by China National Energy Administration (NEA), the French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Commission.

The webinar convened more than 100 participants from governmental institutions, state-owned enterprises, academic and research institutions, embassies and international organisations, private enterprises and industry associations. The webinar was opened by Mr. Yang Yang, the Director of the Department of Electric Power at NEA; Ms. Helle Meinertz, Deputy Head of Mission at the Danish Embassy and; Dr. An Fengquan, Senior Advisor at the IEA.

The webinar provided some insights into the China's electric power sector transition in the near-, medium- and long-term focusing on policy options and technological innovation that are crucial to facilitate the transitions. Speakers from China Renewable Energy Centre (CNREC), State Grid Energy Research Institute (SGERI), IEA, EPPEI, DEA and EA Energy Analyses discussed the following key issues:

- renewable energy trend and roadmap in China and implications for the 14th Five-Year Plan;
- the role of interconnections and market trading options to facilitate the transition;
- possible pathways towards flexible power systems and key flexible resources to accommodate the transition including market reform directions; and
- International experiences on flexibility measures that would be valuable in the context of the transition in China.

The moderated panel discussion has generated interest from the audience that led to a number of questions on the issues relating to market reforms, emerging technologies, flexibility options, policy orientation, etc., making the webinar dynamic and interactive. The issues covered in the webinar are highly relevant to policy and mechanism that can expedite the progress of China's power sector transformation.

China-focused analysis, capacity building and coordination have been IEA's priority. As an intergovernmental organisation covering the full-spectrum of energy issues, the IEA has been deeply involved in China's power system transformation under the guidance of the Three-Year Work Plan signed with NEA, which identifies areas for bilateral collaboration, such as China Power System Transformation report published by IEA in 2019. As a follow up, the IEA is looking to organise another webinar later this year on the topics related to the role and contribution of emerging technologies in the power sector including battery storage, digitalization, green hydrogen and distributed energy resources.

The agenda of the webinar and presentations can be found on <https://www.iea.org/events/china-s-electric-power-sector-transformation>.



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