Advancing Energy Trade in the Pan-Arab Region: Opportunities and Challenges

Moderator: Mohamed Salah Elsobki

Summary of Presentations:

Opportunities and Obstacles in Electricity and Gas Trade in the Arab World

H. E. Dr. Fareed Zedan, Former Electricity Regulator, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

1. When trading electricity, a time based rate should be taken into consideration, especially based on the cost of electric generation.
2. A regional harmonize code of transmission networks needed to developed in view of national codes.
3. A capacity build up at the national levels is very much needed in the region.
4. A plan needs to be developed for possible, near future, exchange of energy (both gas and electricity). Current exchange agreements can be used as a base.
5. Change the name of the Arab Electric Regulator Forum to The Arab Energy Regulators forum.

Creating Regional Momentum for Energy Trade

Dr. Paul Noumba Um, Regional Director, Infrastructure, World Bank Group

1. Economic development at national levels is crucial for developing strong energy interconnections on both the technical level as well as the financial levels.
2. Take into account the growing presence of renewable energies in the region.
3. Harmonizing re-structuring activities in the region.
4. Attract investments both at the national level as well as from the region and internationally.
Takeaways

1. It’s time to have some implementation ongoing, and build up on the existing current small size active interconnections.
2. Coordination between national and regional regulators as well as dispatching scenarios is very much needed.
3. The possible local and regional manufacturing of energy related equipment is needed on the generation, transmission and distribution levels for gas and electricity systems.
4. Build on the current political support to further develop energy interconnection and trade projects.
5. Support current subsidy reforms on national level to pave the way for easier regional trade.
6. Bridge the gaps on national levels as regarding market liberalization.
7. Tie energy and water issues on the regional level.
8. Develop energy regulatory entities on all national levels.
9. Use of smart grids will facilitate the energy interconnection projects.