



# First Pan-Arab Energy Trade Conference

Day One • Wednesday, November 6, 2019

## Session 4 | International Experience in Developing Cross-Border Electricity Markets

Global experience is most revealing in the sense that there is no evidence to suggest that any of the existing or developing regional integration schemes got the model right at the initial stage of integration. It is nevertheless clear that learning from other people's mistakes enables policy makers to avoid wasting time and resources. The more successful schemes are the ones that pursue an adaptive approach and adjust their course when needed, and that remain persistent in dealing with challenges, both foreseen and unforeseen. In this session, officials will share experiences in their respective electricity power pools throughout the stages of setting up and operating their markets, with emphasis on lessons learned (successes and failures), what could have been done better, and the relevance of the experience to the Arab region.

### Panel Discussion

- Dr. Nasser Al-Shahrani, Deputy CEO, GCC Interconnection Authority.
- Dr. José Ignacio Pérez Arriaga, MIT Energy Initiative and Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, USA.
- Mr. Alberto Pototschnig, Director, ACER (EU).
- Mr. Ahmed Taba Lehbib, Technical Advisor to President of SEMAF (part of OMVS)
- Mr. Ashley Brown, Executive Director, Harvard Electricity Policy Group, USA

**Moderator: Eng. Youssef Al-Janahi, Team Leader, PAEM Study**

### Panelists



**Eng. Youssef Al-Janahi,**  
Team Leader, PAEM Study

Eng. Yousuf Janahi holds a BSc degree in Electrical Engineering (University of Arizona, USA) since 1985 and a Business & Public Administration Diploma (Institute of Administration, Qatar) since 1990. He is currently Advisor to the Qatar General Corporation for Elect. & Water (KAHRAMAA) President, for Business Development. He was an establishing Member of the Board of Directors of the GCC Interconnection Authority 2003-2014, and currently a member of GCC Interconnection advisory and regulatory committee. He was a member of GCC CIGRE Board of Directors (1987-2014) & the Secretary General for 25 years. He is a member and ex-member in several national and international committees.

Yousuf is actively involved in the feasibility studies and development of legal and institutional frame work for Pan Arab Electricity market & as well as involved in GCC Water Grid Feasibility Study Yousuf has considerable experience in the power and water sector in Qatar, having served with the former Ministry of Electricity and Water since 1985. He

has dealt with planning matters and the organisation of the preparation of Master Plans in particular. He was closely involved with establishing strategic direction and strategy implementation & corporate performance management for KAHRAMAA as well as development of Qatar national vision and strategy for energy and infrastructure sectors. His experience also includes power system expansion planning & projects, and more recently since 2000 -2014 lead power and water purchase & bulk sales projects, as well as tariffs determinations, assets valuation, and privatization.

Dr. Nasser Al-Shahrani is presently working as Chief Operations Officer in the GCC Interconnection Authority, and has more than 20 years experience in power system operations and planning.

He received his B.Sc. in Electrical Power Engineering from King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals – KSA in 1996. He has received his MBA in Business Administration from University of Bahrain-Bahrain in 2001 and received his Doctorate in Business Administration from Swiss Business school in 2018.

He is active member of Cigre. He is also member of Cigre SC C5 and member of GCC Operations Committee. He is the Technical Working Group Leader for the Arab interconnection study and the Chairman of the Interconnection Transmission Code Review Panel.

He has authored more than 20 papers in several regional and international Conferences, mostly in the field of system operations and market operations of power systems.



**Dr. Nasser Al-Shahrani,**  
Deputy CEO,  
GCC Interconnection Authority

Dr. José Ignacio holds MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering from MIT, and Electrical Engineer from Comillas University in Madrid, Spain. Since 2008 visiting professor at the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research (MIT, Boston, USA).

Professor and Director of the BP Chair on Sustainable Development at Comillas University, Madrid, Spain, and founder and director for 11 years of its Institute for Research in Technology (IIT). Commissioner at the Spanish Electricity Regulatory Commission (1995-2000). Independent Member of the Single Electricity Market Committee of Ireland (2007-2012). Life member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Engineering and Fellow and Life Member of IEEE. Member of the Board of Appeal of the Agency for the Coordination of Energy Regulators (ACER) in the EU.



**Dr. José Ignacio Pérez  
Arriaga,**  
MIT Energy Initiative and  
Center for Energy and  
Environmental Policy  
Research, USA

Director of Training at the Florence School of Regulation in the European University Institute (Florence, Italy). Review editor of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Consultant and lecturer in more than 30 countries. Author and editor of several books, more than 200 papers, principal investigator in more than 90 projects and supervisor of 35 doctoral theses and more than 100 master theses. His current areas of research are future trends in energy regulation, regulation and planning of electricity access, regional markets and operation and planning of power systems with a strong presence of renewable generation and other decentralized resources.



**Mr. Alberto Pototschnig,**  
Director, ACER (EU)

Mr. Alberto Pototschnig, an economist and econometrician by training, is the first Director of the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, established pursuant to Regulation (EC) no. 713/2009.

Before joining the Agency, he was a Partner in Mercados EMI, an international consultancy specialising in the energy sector, where he served as CEO and Deputy Chairman.

He previously served as Director of Electricity Regulation in the Italian Energy Regulatory Authority (AEEG), as the first CEO of the Italian Electricity Market Operator and as adviser to the Italian Government. Since 2004, he has been an adviser at the Florence School of Regulation, where he regularly teaches on energy regulation.



**Mr. Ahmed Taba Lehbib,**  
Technical Advisor to President of SEMAF  
(part of OMVS)

Mr. Lehbib is the senior technical advisor to the CEO of SEMAF, the company responsible for operating and maintaining the electrical network constructed by Mali, Mauritania and Senegal to utilize the electric energy generated by Manantali Hydro dam project, and transmitted to load centers in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal over 225 kV transmission lines

Throughout his career, Mr. Lehbib held several key technical positions. Namely, during the period (2002 – 2014), he was the key technical person in ESKOM, the company that was responsible, during that period, for operating and maintaining the Manantali dam project transmission lines, while during the period (2014 – 2018), Mr. Lehbib was responsible for operating the Control Center that monitored and operated the generation and transmission facilities of the project.



**Mr. Bandiougou Diop**

Mr. Bandiougou DIOP, from Mali, is a financial specialist. He supervised accounting departments, participated in cost analyses and financial management, particularly pricing, budgeting, and auditing. He also participated in the implementation of OHADA, a program that aims at harmonizing Business Laws in Africa.

Mr. Diop worked in several energy and electricity companies in activities related to billing, debt recovery, and cash management, such as SEMAF-SA, Eskom Energie Mantali, and ECOSOMA. He also advised the CTPI (Comité Technique Permanent de l'Interconnexion) and of the CDI (Comité Directeur de l'Interconnexion).

Mr. Diop is proficient in French and three African languages (Soniké, Wolof, and Bamanan), and masters some English.



**Mr. Ashley Brown,**  
Executive Director,  
Harvard Electricity Policy Group, USA

Mr. Ashley Brown is the Executive Director of the Harvard Electricity Policy Group (HEPG), a program of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. HEPG provides a forum for the discussion and analysis of electricity issues in the United States.

Mr. Brown has served as an advisor on infrastructure regulatory issues to governments such as Brazil, Tanzania, India, Ukraine, Russia, Philippines, Zambia, Namibia, Argentina, Costa Rica and Hungary.

From 1983-1993, he served as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, appointed twice by Governor Richard F. Celeste. Prior to his appointment, he was the coordinator and counsel for the Montgomery County [Ohio] Fair Housing Center, managing attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Dayton, Inc. and legal advisor to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, also in Dayton.

Mr. Brown has specialized in litigation in federal and state courts and before administrative bodies. He has taught in public schools and universities, frequently lectures at universities and conferences throughout the world, and publishes articles on subjects of interest to American and foreign electricity sectors.

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