



# Conference on Energizing North East

5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, Shillong, Meghalaya

*Organized by:*

**INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## **CONCEPT NOTE & PROPOSAL**



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## Background

### Power Scenario in North East India

The North east region holds a great potential in the form of natural resources, including hydro resources and hydrocarbons. While Arunachal Pradesh is hydro power house, Assam is home to the earliest hydrocarbon discovery in India. The region is also known for its potent and rich large quantities of low ash coal resources, limestone and dolomite deposits.

Recently, in order to feed the surplus power from the North East to other parts of India, the state-run Power Grid Corporation of India Limited has erected 800-kv capacity and 1,728 km long High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line from Biswanath Chariali in Assam to Agra in UP at an investment of Rs. 12,000 crore. Amongst the available resources, the hydro power generation can be pegged as the key driver for the growth of the energy sector of the region. In view of the prospects, the Power Ministry has finalized a policy for the revival of 40 hydro power projects of 11,639 MW and has also provided support of Rs. 16,709 crores., plus has declared all large and small hydro projects as renewable energy projects. Government of India as been making substantial investments under the "Power for All" initiative and MoPNG's Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for NE India.

However, more needs to be done in terms of developmental reforms in the power sector and in the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors of hydrocarbon value chain. Further the need for stakeholders for effective policy development cannot be overemphasized.

Through this Conclave, we aim to provide a platform for these stakeholders to engage, to uphold the potential, to tackle the bottlenecks in development as well as propose potential strategies to rise above the challenges.

## Available potential in the Region

Having various perennial rivers and water bodies, the region has great power generation potential, especially hydropower in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya. The total hydropower potential of the region is estimated at over 58,971 MW. The spillover benefits for the region can be channelized for the development of infrastructure such as roads and railways, communications and electricity supply to remote hilly areas, resulting in better quality of life.

A number of incentives are also available for power development of the region. For example, under the Mega Power Policy of the Central Government, the qualifying threshold capacity of 350MW for setting up hydropower plants in the region and for availing the special benefits thereof is lucrative compared to the capacity for rest of the country, which is 500 MW.

North east has substantial potential for renewable energy from solar power units (particularly in Assam), biogas and small and micro hydropower projects.



**SOLAR** : as per solar resource potential estimated by Ministry, NE as a total have a potential of setting up 62 GW of solar PV. While current installed capacity is less than 50 MW, MNRE has put forward a target of 1.2 GW by FY22 (as against national target of 100GW).



**WIND** : No resource potential has been estimated for wind.



**HYDRO** : The NE Region is endowed with significant hydro potential (of 63GW) of which only 1.7 GW is currently operational and 4.5 GW is under various stages of construction.

Ministry of Power has finalized a policy for reviving 40 hydro power projects of 11,639 MW, provide support of INR 16,709 crore and declare all large and small hydro projects as renewable energy.

### Key Challenges in North East

- (1) **Resettlement and rehabilitation issues** : The land acquisition situation is difficult due to inaccurate and incomplete data of land ownership. There is a need for sustainable resettlement options to be conceptualized by central and state governments.
- (2) **Environmental Concerns** : Because of unlike biodiversity in the NE Region, getting clearances from MoEF has become a challenge in the recent past. There is a need for State Govt and Ministry of Power to check and justify genuine cases so that faster clearances may be obtained from MoEF.
- (3) **Riparian Issues** : Most of the river systems in North east are transnational and hence full potential of the river streams cannot be utilized due to inadequate agreements, and disputes regarding water sharing. The Central Government along with state governments may put in place a mechanism to resolve outstanding border and share allocation issues.
- (4) **Transmission and Distribution** : Due to dispersed demand in the region, the per-unit cost of transmission in the NE Region is higher compared to other parts of the country. Further, difficult terrain, hostile weather coupled with lack of qualified manpower results in inadequate development of Transmission & Distribution (T&D) System, adversely affecting the reliability of power supply in the region. The Central Government may provide centrally sponsored schemes for interstate and intrastate transmission and distribution projects.
- (5) **Physical Infrastructure** : Power projects generally requires massive infrastructure backing, especially roads, railways and airways which needs to be developed in the Region.

## The Proposal

*In order to brainstorm on the above issues, challenges and opportunities, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has conceptualized the Conference on ENERGIZING NORTH EAST in September 2017 at Shillong, Meghalaya so that a concrete Roadmap and Way forward for the benefit of the Region may be developed.*

### **WHY Northeast**

North Eastern India has states, such as Assam and Tripura, which are rich in petroleum resources. Arunachal Pradesh has a hydro-power potential of 50,000 MW according to India's Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Meghalaya has coal and uranium resources, while Mizoram has rich biomass. Sikkim and other North Eastern states also have hydro-potential. Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh have rich solar potential.

Entities, such as electricity distribution companies, companies using captive power or accessing power from 3rd party sources are also obligated to meet Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) mandated by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions ensuring the growth of the Renewable Energy Sector and the business opportunities that comes along with it.

### **Renewable Energy Opportunities:**

The North Eastern States have vast solar potential with average solar insolation in the range of 5 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> for more than 300 sunshine days. The state governments have identified land for planned Solar Parks with a capacity of 250 MW in the North Eastern States. There is a massive thrust to expedite projects in the North East to overcome power shortages and increase prosperity. Investment of ₹980 million has been earmarked for upgrading power systems in eight North Eastern States – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The state governments of the region intend to make use of this positive environment in the solar market. In line with the central

government of India's intention for substantially harnessing the solar potential in the region, the respective state governments are expected to meet their obligations and provide competitive, reliable power supply to their consumers and ensure a sustainable energy mix in the long run.

## **Broad objectives of the Conference :**

- **State-wise potential of north-eastern states:** Opportunities for fresh investment
- **Fuel Issues:** Ensuring certainty of availability and quality of coal/gas for thermal power plants
- **Reforms in distribution:** Reducing AT&C Losses; working towards 24x7 supply, quality of power and consumer choice; Future of Distribution Franchisees, and the Smart Grid
- **Grid of the Future:** General Network Access (GNA), Expansion & strengthening of transmission, PPP in transmission, Grid Management, Energy Storage, Green Energy Corridor
- **Renewable Energy:** Policy & regulatory framework in states, Funding Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) under DDUGJY, 24/7 rural power through micro-grids

## **Conference Topics**

Inaugural Session:

**'Power for All':** Availability, Accessibility and Affordability in the region  
State – wise potential of north---eastern states: Opportunities for fresh investment  
Overcoming challenges in Land Acquisition for development of power projects

### **Session I : Fuel : Focus on Coal & Gas**

Future roadmap of coal availability from indigenous sources  
Logistics challenges: Charting progress of critical railway lines for coal evacuation  
Coal import and its impact on power prices  
Coal washing & power generation from washery rejects  
Commercial viability of using methane gas from coal mining (Coal bed---methane)  
Technological innovations in coal mining & role of private sector in bringing efficiency  
Future availability of gas for projects in the region

### **Session II : Hydro Power and associated infrastructure**

- Overcoming Challenges in the Sustainable Development of the Hydro Sector
- Development of hydropower keeping water and environment sustainability in mind
- Project development under Section 62 versus Section 63 of EA 2003
- Critical infrastructure for hydro projects, special focus on NE states
- Creating a market for hydropower by incentivizing HPO, Cross---Border trade
- Transmission issues in evacuation of hydro power; promotion of cross border trade

### **Session III : Renewable Energy & Pathways to Emission Reductions & Sustainability**

- Roadmap for increasing share of renewable in energy mix
- Attracting Investments for RE: Funding & ROI for new RE projects
- Status of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) compliance
- Meeting targets through rooftop solar; Mandatory net metering?
- Challenges in Decentralised Distributed generation (DDG), Rural Mini---Grids
- Deployment of Energy Storage schemes (Pump & Battery storage)
- Promotion of Energy Efficiency schemes in the region
- Energy Cost Saving Opportunities in Energy Intensive Industries

## **Who Should Participate:**

- Government Agencies involved in the Power Sector

- PSUs involved in Power Generation
- Private Power Generating Companies
- Oil, Gas, Coal, companies
- Infrastructure Development Companies
- Non Conventional Power companies
- Financial Organizations
- Independent Power Producers
- Solar Power Producers
- Wind Power Producers
- OEM Suppliers/Manufacturers
- Power Transmission Utilities
- Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)
- Power Traders
- Banks/ Financial Institutes/ Project Financing Agencies
- EPC Service Providers
- Consultants /Research Firms/ Research Institutes
- Government Agencies
- Scientist from Department of Energy, Tezpur University
- Union Power Minister/Union Power Secretary
- Project Developers
- NGOs



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Acknowledgement of support in announcements		✓	✓	✓	✓
Special reserved seating in the Sponsor's Block		✓	✓	--	--
Opportunity to nominate complimentary delegates to attend		10	7	5	3

Session Sponsorship: Two and Half Lakh Only

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