

A New Force for Global Energy Efficiency

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At a recent meeting in Paris, a group of 13 founding countries took a major step towards agreement on the terms of association of a high-level international body to facilitate energy efficiency. Discussions had been underway since early 2007 regarding the creation of this International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), which brings together many of the world's major economies, along with the European Union. Once it is operational, the Partnership promises to be the first fully international high-level energy efficiency forum of its sort.



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The origins of the IPEEC initiative date back to the Heiligendamm G8 Summit in June 2007. At that summit the G8 acknowledged a European Union proposal for an international initiative on energy efficiency, tabled in March 2007. They agreed to explore – together with the International Energy Agency – the most effective means to promote energy efficiency internationally. A year later, on 8 June 2008, at the Energy Ministerial Meeting hosted by Japan in Aomori, within the frame of the 2008 G8 Presidency, the G8 countries, China, India, South Korea and the European Union decided to establish the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation. Brazil and Mexico subsequently joined discussions on the terms of association. At a preparatory meeting held at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris on December 16th, the founding parties agreed on the broad outlines of the new partnership, including an invitation to the IEA to host the IPEEC Secretariat. At the subsequent London Energy Ministers meeting on December 18th a [Joint Statement of the IPEEC](#) was issued.

The Partnership will offer its members a flexible forum for high-level policy discussion, regular strategic cooperation and exchanges focused exclusively on energy efficiency. The intention is that IPEEC will add value to existing structures and agreements that promote energy efficiency. Its purpose is to facilitate action which promises high energy efficiency gains and improvements, and in areas of interest to the participating countries where they see added value for themselves and choose to take action on a voluntary basis. Although the countries and economies mentioned are still engaged in finalising the terms of association, the Partnership will be open, when operational, to participation of all countries. It is expected that many other nations will choose to join. The

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Partnership is set to become the first fully international high-level forum where the world's leading economies can meet to discuss energy efficiency cooperation.

The activities envisaged include supporting ongoing work of the participating countries and relevant organisations. There will be exchange of information on best practices, policies and measures and developing public-private partnerships in key energy-consuming sectors, but also on a cross-sectoral basis. Specifically, it is foreseen that work may be undertaken in the areas described in the box below.

The fourth IPEEC preparatory meeting is to be held in Washington D.C. in February 2009, when it is hoped that most of the remaining issues will be resolved regarding the terms of association.

Some of IPEEC's Proposed Areas of Work

- Compiling best practices.
- Collecting data and energy efficiency indicators.
- Exchanging information on measures to improve sectoral and cross-sectoral energy efficiency, including:
 - standards, codes, norms and labels for buildings, energy-using products and services;
 - methodologies for energy measurement, auditing and verification procedures, certification protocols and other tools to achieve optimal energy efficiency performance over the lifetime of buildings, industrial processes, relevant products, appliances and equipment;
 - enabling environments and tools for the financing of energy efficiency measures, and establishing principles for encouraging investments in energy efficiency;
 - public procurement policies for encouraging uptake of energy-efficient products, services and technologies;
 - programmes that help public institutions to become more efficient in purchasing and operations relating to buildings, vehicles, products and services;
 - activities to increase the awareness of consumers and stakeholders through dissemination of clear, credible, accessible information on energy efficiency, with a view to enabling well-informed decisions;
 - best practice guidelines for evaluating the effectiveness of energy efficiency policies and measures;
 - public-private cooperation to advance energy-efficient technology research, development, commercialisation and deployment to accelerate deployment, diffusion and transfer of such technologies; and
 - actions to accelerate dissemination and transfer of best practices and efficient technologies and capacity-building in developing countries.
- Developing public-private partnerships for improving energy efficiency in and across key energy-consuming sectors, building on relevant initiatives.
- Enabling joint research and development on key energy-efficient technologies, especially for application in developing countries.
- Facilitating dissemination of energy-related products and services that contribute to improving energy efficiency.
- Other aspects as mutually decided upon by the members.