



International Confederation of Energy Regulators

2010-2012 Work Plan

Ref: I10-SC-01-03
23 April 2010



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INTRODUCTION

1. The International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER), established at the fourth World Forum on Energy Regulation in Athens on October 19 2009, provides a framework for interaction and cooperation of energy regulators on issues that affect energy markets on a global scale.
2. The establishment of ICER is a recognition that energy regulation plays an increasingly important role in addressing many of the critical global challenges that are faced by governments worldwide.
3. Its aim is to provide a voluntary framework for the cooperation of the world's energy regulators on issues of a global nature which affect energy markets. Our mission for ICER is:
 - to raise the profile and public awareness of the work of national energy regulators in monitoring electricity and gas markets and safeguarding consumer interests,
 - to provide an open platform for energy regulators to pursue joint values and goals;
 - to reconcile market mechanisms with public service objectives; and
 - to provide a significant contribution towards a sustainable planet.
4. This framework will serve to promote a new level of dialogue and cooperation between regulators across the world, based on voluntary participation in cooperative work addressing regulatory issues that transcend national and regional borders in regard to all aspects of energy regulation including customer protection, quality and continuity of supply, climate change and regulatory training, education and best practices.
5. This first ICER work plan is organised into four themes: Reliability and Security of Supply; Responding to Climate Change; Competitiveness and Affordability, and Regulatory Training, Education and Best Practices.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

6. Operationally, ICER's work plan is allocated between four virtual working groups (VWGs), each responsible for one of the four themes. The planning horizon of activities is the WFER V to be held in Quebec City in 2012. Three phases are envisaged over this three-year period, with more definitive plans for 2010 and indicative plans for 2011 and 2012.
7. Further information on ICER and its work can be found at www.icer-regulators.net or by contacting office@icer-regulators.net.



WORK PLANS FOR THE ICER THEMES

Theme 1: Reliability and Security of Supply

2010 Q4	Report on effectiveness of national and local energy policy and regulation in addressing security of supply issues: regulatory practices in promoting investments
2011	Report on the scope and powers of regional bodies and regulatory associations in achieving national and regional security of supply
2012	Report on the role of energy regulators in promoting security of supply on a global scale

8. The focus in 2010 will be on investments as a means of enhancing security of supply (SoS). This phase is a learning stage dedicated to achieving an adequate understanding of SoS issues and their solution at the national and local levels.
9. The focus during 2011 will move to regional approaches to address SoS issues and will to some extent be influenced by the results emerging from the work in 2010. A multiplicity of regional regulatory bodies and international groupings and organisations are frequently involved in the supervision and management of SoS and their influence must be taken into full consideration in any analysis of the scope for regulatory intercession.
10. The focus of the report in 2012 will be on the promotion of SoS on a global scale. This is a longer term process and the report will explore future uncertainties and their impact on regulation such as: geopolitical change, market reform and innovation, technological breakthroughs, global environmental accord and; new development paradigms.



Theme 2: The Role of Regulators in Responding to Climate Change

2010 Q2	Report on best regulatory practices regarding the promotion of energy efficiency
2011	A review of renewable energy and distributed generation
2012	Report on sharing best practice for use world-wide (where appropriate) and developing new approaches on regulatory issues which are central to meeting greenhouse gas emissions targets

11. A report on best regulatory practices regarding the promotion of energy efficiency will be prepared during the first part of 2010. This deliverable is item number 3 on the list of actions and next steps in the October 2009 World Energy Regulators' Statement on Climate Change¹. The report will be presented to the next meeting of the G8.
12. During 2011, a review of renewable energy and distributed generation will be published. The deliverable is item number 4 on the list of actions and next steps in the World Energy Regulators' Statement on Climate Change. The report will include case studies and examples of best practices on the integration of renewable and distributed generation into the overall energy supply and their impact on the grid and competition.
13. During 2012, a report will be published on the sharing of best practices for use world-wide (where appropriate) and the development of new approaches on regulatory issues which are central to meeting greenhouse gas emissions targets. The report will explore ways of maintaining a climate for timely, well-targeted and efficient investments in grid infrastructure and energy efficiency. The issues addressed may include the evolution of electricity networks, i.e. smart grids and how they enable and contribute to increasing the amount of renewable primary energy resources, distributed and micro generation and the evolving changes in electricity consumption including demand response and electrification of transportation.

¹ http://www.icer-regulators.net/portal/page/portal/IERN_HOME/ICER_HOME/ABOUT_ICER/Publications/Climate_change_statement_091203.pdf



Theme 3: Competitiveness and Affordability

2011 Q1	A report on affordability of new forms of electricity supply and grid functionality
2011 Q1	Market monitoring and performance indicators in regulatory oversight – phase 1
2012	Market monitoring and performance indicators in regulatory oversight – phase 2

14. An issues paper will be published in Q1 2011 that examines various ways that new investment and equipment costs are incorporated into tariff prices in the selected sample areas from around the world. The paper will include some quantification of existing supply and technology prices for a sampling of regions around the world and compare them to the cost of new technologies and sustainable supply. This will allow for a determination of whether the incremental and embedded cost differences are enough to be of concern. The document will assess practices that could be adopted or modified to ensure that future equipment costs are recoverable in a manageable and affordable manner.
15. The project on market monitoring and performance indicators in regulatory oversight has two related but distinct phases. The first phase examines market monitoring and market indicators as regulatory tools to provide energy regulators with a better appreciation of the performance of markets. The scope of this phase is kept at a higher level but covers a broader spectrum of the energy markets, namely oil, gas and electricity. A report on this phase will be published in Q1 2011. The second phase focuses on one type of market participants, that is, the transportation (or transmission) and distribution electricity sector. The use by regulators of performance indicators and benchmarking in evaluating electric utilities is examined in a more in-depth manner. A report on this phase will be published in 2012.



Theme 4: Regulatory Training, Education and Best Practices

2010 Q2	Online calendar of events
2011 - 2012	Regulatory best practices & research exchange
2010 Q4	Regulatory training program database
2011	Short-term shadow placements, twinning and experts exchanges
2010/2011	Distinguished scholar (and/or program) award(s)
2011	Coordination with universities, institutes & others engaged in regulatory training & research

16. **An online calendar of events** will be created on the members area of the ICER website which will include a consolidated calendar of each member regional regulatory association's major conferences, meetings, training programs (in-house or endorsed/affiliated), and other activities of relevance to ICER.
17. **Regulatory best practices & research exchange** is a three-prong project to be located on the ICER website. It will be composed of a Publications Clearinghouse, an E-Forum to share best practices and possibly a Regulatory Encyclopaedia based on a Wikipedia format.
 - **A Publications Clearinghouse** is planned which will include published resource documents prepared directly by each member association or by an outside institution that is endorsed by a member association;
 - **An intranet E-Forum to share best practices** will be created;
 - **A Regulatory Wikipedia** pilot project will be developed by the Florence School of Regulation and IERN and submitted to ICER for an initial evaluation in 2010 (Q4).
18. **A regulatory training program database** will be created. This database will present the various training programs offered by regulatory associations as "in-house" training programs.
19. **Short-term shadow placements, twinning and expert exchanges will be facilitated through the creation of an internal database.** The database would be used by energy regulators interested in hosting and/or placing mid-senior level staff in short-term (2-3 days up to 1-2 weeks) assignments at another regulatory agency. In addition to regulatory placements, through partnership with affiliated training or research institutions, the database could include opportunities for internships with these institutions/universities.
20. **A distinguished scholar and/or program award(s)** will be explored in order to highlight high achievement in the energy field.
21. **A strategy for coordination with universities, institutes & others engaged in regulatory training & research** will be developed. There is a continuous need for technical training and research in the energy and regulatory fields. ICER will develop a strategy for engaging in collaborative relationships with various universities, institutes, and other types of research or training organisations.