Why your company
should join
the Industry Advisory Panel (IAP)

What is the Industry Advisory Panel (IAP)?

The Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) is the consultative body of industry to the Energy Charter Conference and to its Subsidiary Bodies. It has been set up in 2004 as a business-to-business and business-to-government forum with the goal of channelling views and advice of business on matters related to energy investment, investment dispute settlement, energy trade, energy transit, and energy efficiency.

What is the Energy Charter Conference?

The Energy Charter Conference is the decision-making intergovernmental body of the Energy Charter process. It comprises more than 50 signatories of the legally binding Energy Charter Treaty (1994) as well as almost thirty observer states and intergovernmental organisations that have signed either or both political declarations, the European Energy Charter (1991) or the International Energy Charter (2015). Since 2015 the Energy Charter process has become a global process with members on all continents.

What are the powers of the Energy Charter Conference?

The Conference takes decisions on all issues affecting international energy cooperation, including the review and the implementation of the Energy Charter Treaty and its Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects, as well as possible new activities pursuant to the International Energy Charter. The Conference meets on an annual basis. Its subsidiary bodies meet more frequently.

What is the purpose of the IAP?

The main purpose of the IAP is to give advice to the political decision makers and members of the Energy Charter Conference, with a particular focus on creating a climate favourable for both, enterprises and the flow of investments and technologies.

Who are the members of the IAP?

IAP members cover the full range of the energy supply chain activities: exploration, production, generation, transmission, distribution, finance, equipment, services and technology. For actual membership please consult: www.energycharter.org.

Who are the stakeholder groups participating in the IAP?

The IAP comprises entities from the following stakeholder groups: enterprises, business associations, intergovernmental organisations, academic institutions, municipal authorities, and individuals.

Which countries do the IAP members come from?

Currently the IAP members come mostly from Energy Charter member countries. With the signature of the International Energy Charter which made the Energy Charter a potentially global organisation, it has been decided that IAP membership should also be extended to entities of observer countries and of outreach countries with whom the Energy Charter seeks cooperation. The Energy Charter Conference has accordingly amended the IAP Terms of Reference.

How can my company become a member of the IAP?

Interested enterprises, associations or individuals may submit their request for IAP membership to the IAP Chair through the Energy Charter Secretary General. IAP membership is free of charge, members bear however their own cost of participation. Membership is renewed every year by submission of the list of members to the Conference. IAP Members may communicate in writing their intention to withdraw.

How do members benefit from the IAP?

IAP members benefit from a wide range of opportunities. Firstly they benefit from privileged access to the governmental level of Energy Charter member states, in particular concerning the effects of energy and investment policies on foreign direct investments. Secondly they may benefit from specific services provided for their needs, especially as regards investor state dispute settlement (e.g. by way of mediation). Thirdly they may participate directly or indirectly in the Energy Charter's activities (e.g. training programmes; seminars) and publications (country reviews; reports, occasional papers) of the Energy Charter Secretariat.

How often does the IAP meet?

The IAP attempts to organise at least one global meeting once a year back to back with the Energy Charter Conference. During this meeting members have an opportunity to communicate with all other IAP members as well as with political representatives of their Energy Charter signatory states.

Does the IAP have regional structures?

To better act at regional level, the IAP aims to establish regional chapters in various parts of the world. The regional chapters will have regional chairs that will interact with regional industries and organise regional activities. Regional chapters should have an attractive and nationally/regionally relevant set of activities. Regional chapters should comply with the general IAP Terms of Reference as well as with local legislation. Internationally active enterprises may be members of several regional chapters.

What are the possible functions of the regional IAP chapters?

To be attractive and nationally/regionally relevant, members of regional chapters can cooperate more closely amongst each other and with national or regional authorities rather than with the global IAP. Concrete actions are decided at the level of the regional chapter and may include:

- Regional meetings and regional networking
- Investment promotion to and from the region
- Promoting regional cross-border infrastructures
- Technology transfer to and from the region
- Capacity-building