SECRETARY GENERAL’S ACTIVITIES

The International Energy Charter discusses investments into renewable energy

Constructive cooperation continues to develop between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the International Energy Charter in early 2018, as Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák joined a range of dignitaries and high-level officials in addressing the Second Annual Abu Dhabi Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum on 12-13 January 2018.

Joining the likes of H.E Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of State and the CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), H.E Suhail Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy, the Secretary Generals of OPEC, the IEA, IRENA and the IEF, as well as other ministers and energy executives, Dr. Rusnák contributed to a high level forum panel on the topic of investments into electrification and renewable energy. He introduced the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) project 2018, focused on benchmarking energy governance in participating countries from around the world. The Energy Charter family currently comprises of 96 countries and Regional Economic Integration Organisations which includes both Members and Observers to the Energy Charter Conference.

The Forum provided an opportunity for the Secretary General to hold a brief meeting with Acting Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs of the Department of State of the USA, Ms. Sue Saarnio. Dr. Rusnák and Ms. Saarnio discussed modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty and prospects to follow on cooperation emanating from the State Department’s recent recognition of the Energy Charter Conference as an International Organisation. Meetings were also held with Dr. Matar Al Niyadi, Undersecretary, Ministry of Energy of the UAE and Chairman of the Board of the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority.

The International Energy Charter expands relations with Observer countries

Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák, travelled to Abu Dhabi at the invitation of the Ministry of Energy of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Secretary General was invited to participate in one of the flagship gatherings of the international energy sector – Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week - during 13-15 January 2018.
High-level government officials and energy company executives from all around the world are drawn to Abu Dhabi during this period, when the Emirati capital transforms into a leading international platform for energy dialogue and networking. Major conferences taking place in Abu Dhabi during Sustainability Week include the IRENA General Assembly, the World Energy Futures Forum, as well as the Atlantic Council Energy and Economy Forum.

The Secretary General’s participation in this sequence of high level gatherings allowed the International Energy Charter to strengthen relations with many countries particularly the growing number of Observer countries including those interested in accession to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).

**ENERGY CHARTER SECRETARIAT’S ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

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**The East African Community looks to deepen participation with the Energy Charter Process in 2018**


Dr. Mwemezi met with Energy Charter Secretary General Dr. Urban Rusnák to discuss various aspects of ongoing and future collaboration between the EAC and the Secretariat. The main purpose of the visit was to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the different characteristics of the Energy Charter Process including the Energy Investment Risk Assessment (EIRA) project which aims to eventually include the six EAC countries; Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan.

**Conference on Key Issues in International Arbitration: Advocacy, Damage Calculation, Settlement and Cybersecurity**

On 11 May 2018 in Paris, France, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, Energy Charter Secretariat, and Permanent Court of Arbitration will...
organise a conference titled: Key Issues in International Arbitration: Advocacy, Damage Calculation, Settlement and Cybersecurity. Featured topics include:

- Advocacy in international arbitration involving energy disputes
- Settling investment disputes without tribunal rulings
- Damage calculations in international arbitration
- Cybersecurity in international arbitration

**Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and the Development of Investor State (IS) Mediation**

A Forum on *Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and the Development of Investor State (IS) Mediation* is set to take place on 2 May 2018, in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE has been an Observer to the Energy Charter Conference since the summer of 2017.

This forum will provide an interactive panel and a plenary session on the following topics:

- Review ISDS in the context of the Gulf Region
- Explore the developing impact of mediation on the resolution of IS disputes
- Discuss the challenges to mediating with states and how these are being overcome
- Explore why and how the UAE could develop into a hub for IS mediation, particularly for energy disputes

The International Energy Charter continues to be at the forefront of investment mediation developments. In 2016, the Conference approved a Guide on Investment Mediation which is a voluntary instrument to facilitate the amicable resolution of investment disputes. In 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat co-hosted a training for investment mediators together with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Furthermore, in 2014 the Secretariat established a Conflict Resolution Centre to provide assistance and support for mediation in relation to investment disputes.

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**Save the Date**

**Wednesday 2nd May 2018**

**Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) and the Development of Investor State (IS) Mediation**

ADGM Authority Buildings, Al Maryah Island, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

This Forum will, through interactive panels and a plenary session:

- Review ISDS in the context of the Gulf Region
- Explore the developing impact of mediation on the resolution of IS disputes
- Discuss the challenges to mediating with states and how these are being overcome
- Explore why and how the UAE could develop into a hub for IS mediation, particularly for energy disputes

Fees and locations will be released from the major sponsors involved in developing its mediation, together with corporate investors and state representatives.

Further details, including the invitation and the full program of speakers, will be released shortly.
Visit the International Energy Charter YouTube channel

In 2017, the Energy Charter Secretariat prepared a number of videos and publications aiming to raise awareness about the Energy Charter Process and activities of the Secretariat. On the margins of the 28th Energy Charter Conference in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, this material was distributed to delegates and uploaded to the International Energy Charter website.

These videos, as well as others, can be viewed on the International Energy Charter YouTube channel.

Also, please find International Energy Charter on following social media (links):

@Energy_Charter
@SecGenEnergyCharter
International Energy Charter
International Energy Charter
International Energy Charter

EU4Energy Newsletter