



First Pan-Arab Energy Trade Conference

Day Two • Thursday, November 7, 2019

Session 2 | Investments in Regional Infrastructure to Realize Electricity Trade Benefits

Optimization of generation and transmission investment on a regional, rather than national, basis can offer substantial cost reductions. But these cost reductions often go unrealized when countries follow national priorities, including domestic energy security, economic nationalism, and sovereignty concerns. Recognizing as legitimate and appropriately addressing these and other important national priorities is essential to achieving regional investment optimization and the full benefits of regional integration. This session will discuss the key role of development institutions in establishing the approaches for common practices to plan and finance regional investments, and to benefit from the interplay of public and private financing at the country and regional levels.

Role of Development Institutions in Financing Cross-Border Electricity Interconnections

Mr. Belkacem Ouzrourou, Director of Africa Region, OFID

Developing and Financing Regional Electricity Transmission Investments

Mr. Jose Ramon Gomez, Lead Energy Specialist, IADB

Updated Regional Investments and Tools to Facilitate Trade in the PAEM

Mr. Waleed Alsuraih, Lead Energy Specialist, World Bank Group

Moderator: Ms. Fatouma Toure Ibrahima, Manager, Infrastructure Programs and Analytics, World Bank Group

Panelists



Ms. Fatouma Toure Ibrahima,
Manager, Infrastructure
Programs and Analytics,
World Bank Group

Ms. Fatouma Toure Ibrahima is the Manager for Global Infrastructure Programs and Analytics for Infrastructure. She was previously Operations Adviser of the Infrastructure and Urban Development Hub in Singapore, where the World Bank, IFC and MIGA work together to generate direct investments and provide technical assistance for infrastructure and related sectors.

Since joining the World Bank in 1998, Ms. Ibrahima has worked in several sectors, including the finance and energy sector. Prior to joining the Singapore Hub, she served as Regional Representative for the Public Private Partnership Infrastructure Facility (PPIAF), in charge of the West, Central and North Africa portfolio, and Senior Financial Sector Specialist and Task Team Leader in the Africa region, where she led the design and implementation of various country and regional-level energy projects.

A national of Mali, Ms. Ibrahima has also served as Special Assistant in the office of the World Bank Group Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, and as Financial Sector Specialist in the Middle East and North Africa Region, where she managed financial sector and financial system infrastructure projects and contributed to the Financial Sector Assessment Program.



Mr. Belkacem Ouzrourou,
Director, Africa Region, OFID

Mr. Belkacem Ouzrourou is Director of Africa Region (including Arab countries), Public Sector Operations Department, at the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). Prior to joining OFID in November 2010, Mr Ouzrourou spent ten years at Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and three years at Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) at both technical and managerial positions. Mr. Ouzrourou has regularly attended most of the meetings of the Arab Coordination Group (ACG) held during the last fifteen years. The ACG is a coordinating body composed of 10 regional and bilateral Arab development funds with a Permanent Secretariat hosted by Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Mr. Ouzrourou manages currently a portfolio of more than 180 on-going public sector operations amounting to USD 2.6 bn. spread over 40 beneficiary countries in Africa in all sectors. Energy represents around 23% of total and includes generation, transmission as well as distribution, with overall objective of increasing access to energy. Most of these operations are co-financed with other donors, mainly members of the Arab Coordination Group. This implies intensive coordination at all stages of project processing from identification to completion.

Mr. Ouzrourou is a Civil Engineer graduated from “Ecole Nationale des Travaux Publics”, Algiers. He, also, holds a certificate of specialized studies in “Roads Design and Management” from “Ecole Nationale des Travaux Publics de l’Etat”, Lyon, France.



Mr. Jose Ramon Gomez,
Lead Energy Specialist, IADB

Mr. Jose Ramon Gomez is the Lead Energy Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank and leads the IDB energy programs in Panama. Previously, Mr. Gómez led the IDB energy program in Argentina, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua. His areas of expertise are sustainable energy access, energy integration, energy efficiency and renewable energy; climate and energy finance; power transmission and generation. During his career at the IDB Mr. Gomez worked in Costa Rica, Jamaica, Guatemala, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and led the outreach and partnership activities of the energy division, which included the identification and development of funds to finance several programs, such as the Programa Nacional de Electrificación Sostenible y Energía Renovable (PNESER), a 10 donor financed program (Asia, Europe and America) (220,000 beneficiaries and U\$420 million investment). Before joining the IDB in 2005, he worked in the World Bank Group (IBRD) for the Environmentally & Socially Sustainable Development Division - Latin America & Caribbean Region.

Mr. Gómez is an academic and infrastructure leader with vast experience and knowledge in energy management systems and climate finance activities. He is a multilateral finance expert with managerial and technical experience establishing public-private partnerships and large-scale energy and infrastructure programs.

Mr. Gómez holds a B.S. Sanitary and Environmental Engineering from the “Universidad de la Salle”, Bogotá (Colombia) and two Master of Science degrees in “Environmental and Civil Engineering” and “Engineering Management” both from the George Washington University, Washington D.C.



Eng. Waleed Alsuraih,
Lead Energy Specialist, World Bank
Group

Mr. Alsuraih is the Cluster Leader of the World Bank Energy Advisory Services for the GCC and regional energy trade program for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. He oversees teams to develop policy solutions and investments needed to address evolving energy sector challenges facing the transition to sustainable energy systems. With over twenty years of professional work experience, of which about ten years in electric utility industry, Mr. Alsuraih handled power sector development and planning, as well as managerial responsibilities including tasks in utility restructuring as part of a wider power sector reform.

Since joining the Bank in 2007, he has been working with governments, utilities, and relevant stakeholders across the MENA region to strengthen the role of power sector in economic growth and social prosperity. Mr. Alsuraih led and supervised investment operations with a value of over US\$3 billion.

Some of his recent tasks are leading projects to strengthen power sector sustainability by unlocking private sector investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy systems modernization. He is currently leading the World Bank Initiative on Pan-Arab Regional Energy Trade Platform, which supports the development electricity and gas trade markets within the region, and beyond. He has led and contributed to different energy sector development reports.

Mr. Alsuraih holds a B.Sc. in Power Engineering and MBA from Southampton School of Management in the UK.