

APEC Joint EGEDA-EGEEC Meeting cum Workshops
Closing Remarks by Ir Eric PANG JP,
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Mr. HOU, Mr. VY, EGEDA Members, EGEEC Members, ladies and gentlemen.

I am deeply honoured, on behalf of Hong Kong China, to give the closing remarks, at the end of this meaningful event of the joint meeting of APEC Expert Group on Energy Data and Analysis (EGEDA) and Expert Group on Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EGEEC). Together with the District Cooling and Heating System (DCHS) Workshop and the Energy Efficiency Policy (EEP) Workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday, the joint event is indeed a great success.

It's amazing that we are now meeting in a virtual venue. We can see each other, and communicate freely, even though we are physically in various parts around the Pacific. Indeed, we are not only connected by information technology, but also by a very noble cause – the call and our commitment to join hands to tackle the pressing issues of energy, environment, climate, and the sustainability of our future.

Climate change is a real crisis and challenge to the Earth that we all can feel ourselves. The Paris Agreement is a good start, but the fight against the change is a long and challenging uphill battle.

The EGEDA and EGEEC were originally scheduled for February and September 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic came uninvited. What gratified us is, not only did we overcome the challenge, but we managed to turn it into the first ever joint meeting of the EGEDA and EGEEC, and at the same time, expanded it to include two workshops. Altogether, over 150 participants from 16 economies joined this remarkable event. Similarly, with the relentless and unyielding efforts of APEC member economies and the World, I believe that we can overcome all hurdles and challenges to beat the climate change.

In the past few days, we have updates, sharing and the heated discussions among renowned energy and data experts on the latest development on energy saving, energy data, energy technologies and policies.

Specifically, I am most pleased to learn that the energy intensity of APEC economies has been reduced by 23.7%, while the increase of renewable energy share was over 40%. These figures are highly encouraging. It indicates that our policies and actions are effective. With our additional and sustained efforts, we would be able to achieve the APEC's 45% intensity reduction goal and double the use of renewable energy.

On behalf of the host, Hong Kong China, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for your insights and contributions during the event. Also, my deep gratitude to the great support of IEA, IRENA, UNIDO, and particularly, my sincere thanks to the friends who gave presentations the first time in the event. Your tremendous contribution is invaluable to all our APEC member economies.

Finally, I hope the pandemic will end soon. I look forward to further collaboration of the two expert groups, and possibly more expert groups, in the future, and meeting all of you again in coming APEC activities soon. Thank you!