



The 1th Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum in Energy

Morocco: 8-9/6/2021

The first edition of the Arab-India Energy Forum (AIEF) was held in a virtual format on 8-9 June 2021, under the co-chairmanship of the Arab and Indian sides.

The Arab side was chaired by Mr. Aziz Rabbah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Environment (kingdom of Morocco), and the Indian side was chaired by Mr. Raj Kumar Singh, Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Republic of India).

The event was in implementation of the Executive Programme of the Arab-India Cooperation Forum (AICF) and the decision of the third meeting of the Senior Officials of India and the League of Arab States (LAS) held virtually on 12 January 2021, regarding the importance of strengthening aspects of Arab-Indian cooperation in the economic and social field, including trade Investment, energy and environmental protection.

Experts and specialists from Arab and Indian governmental institutions concerned with to energy participated in this forum, as well as the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, representatives of the Arab Atomic Energy Organization, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining together with several international and regional organizations working in energy field.

The meeting dealt with several topics related to the opportunities and challenges facing both India and the Arab countries in the field of energy, opportunities to develop Arab-Indian cooperation in this field, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in both sides, And the role of renewable



energy projects and energy efficiency programs in the energy transition in the Arab world and India.

The participants expressed their satisfaction at the progress made in the strategic relations of Arab-Indian cooperation in the field of energy. They also affirmed their determination to continue efforts to enhance cooperation in this sector for the benefit of both sides.

Forum highlights:

1. The two sides emphasized the need to encourage regional electricity trade, which will allow energy suppliers and market participants to take advantage of economies of scale to develop high capacity systems and access cost-effective supply options that provide more flexibility to access generation capacity from other countries in the able region that are able to meet capacity and power reserve requirements at lower cost.
2. The both sides stressed the need to strengthen Arab-Indian cooperation in energy field in order to accelerate the energy transition through the optimal exploitation of renewable energies, such as solar, wind and green hydrogen, and maximizing the use of fossil fuels in sectors which there is no other alternative source of energy. In addition, the two sides expressed the need to strengthen the efforts towards enhancing the energy efficiency programs and activities in various economic activities aiming to achieving sustainable development in the Arab world and India.
3. Many Arab countries have expressed their desire to include the option of electricity generation and sea water desalination with nuclear energy as part of their strategies to diversify energy and water supply resources. Both parties recognize the importance of cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experiences in the field of nuclear energy.
4. India is the third largest consumer of oil in the world and ranks 13th in gas consumption. It is expected that this consumption trend will



continue until 2040. Given the limited Indian oil and gas resources and the huge potential of oil and natural gas in the Arab countries, this strengthens the importance of enhancing the relationship between India and the Arab countries in the field of oil and natural gas industry. More important in the field of trade, as India's dependence on oil and gas imports is rapidly increasing in the coming decades, where Arab countries enjoy huge surplus of oil and gas for exports.

5. The both sides expressed the need to exploit the investment opportunities available in the field of energy between the Arab countries and India, and the importance of exchanging experiences in the area of Research and Development(R&D), and enhancing cooperation related to training and capacity building.

At the conclusion of the forum, the participants thanked Mr. Aziz Rabah, Minister of Energy, Mines and Environment in the Kingdom of Morocco for his generous patronage of the forum's activities and congratulated him for its success and richness of its activities. The participants expressed their deep appreciation for the great and distinguished efforts made by the Arab and Indian organizers to prepare for this forum.

The two sides also expressed their welcome to hold the next session of the Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum in the field of energy in the Republic of India during the year 2023.