

Statement
by
Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi
D-8 Secretary General
at
Asian Natural Gas Conference
17-18 November 2015, Singapore

Honourable Speakers
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Developing Eight Countries Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), it is a great honor and pleasure for me to be with you all, at this important event, the *Asian Natural Gas Conference*.

First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Organizer for inviting the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) to participate in this important Conference, at this wonderful venue in the capital city of Singapore.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the outline, I would like to briefly highlight about the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. D-8 is an intergovernmental organization and currently consists of eight developing countries, namely the **People's Republic of Bangladesh, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey**. Out of eight D-8 Member States, five D-8 Member States have participated in this Conference through their public and private sector representatives and experts.

The idea of the establishment of D-8 Organization goes back to the Cooperation for Development Conference, held in October 1996 in Istanbul at the initiative of late Professor Necmettin Erbakan, then Prime Minister of Republic of Turkey. D-8 Organization was officially established through the Istanbul Declaration of Summit of Heads of State/Government (1st D-8 Summit) on 15 June 1997.

The objectives of D-8 are to improve developing countries' positions in the world economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, enhance participation in decision-making at the international level, and provide better standard of living. As one of intergovernmental organization, D-8 commits to work towards broadening the support for the Organization at the national level within the member states, and strengthen its weight and voice at

regional and international levels, including through active engagement in and promotion of South-South and South-North cooperation.

D-8 cooperation encompasses all areas including trade, agriculture & food security, industry & SMEs, transportation, **energy**, communication and information, finance, banking and privatization, science and technology, poverty alleviation and human resources development, environment, health, tourism, and culture. Energy is considered as one of the priority areas of cooperation in the D-8. Currently, there are **three working groups** under the energy cooperation namely:

- Working Group (WG) on **Energy**;
- Working Group on **Renewable Energy**; and
- Working Group on **Mining and Minerals**.

There are a lot of potential among the D-8 Member States including cooperation in the energy sector because D-8 member States are not only rich with natural resources and high population, but also has a vast potential for development, given large amounts of land, abundant inexpensive and skilled labor, diversified human capital and a large market of more than 1 billion people.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before discussing about the strategies, it is imperative to know the production capacity of the D-8 Member States in the energy sub-sector. For the **renewable energy**, the total D-8 Member States production is **65,740 MW** or about **4 per cent** of the total world production. The Republic of Turkey is the biggest producer among the D-8 Member States with total production of 28,073 Mega Watt (MW) in 2014 or 43 per cent of the total D-8 Member States. The second is Islamic Republic of Iran with total production of 10,984 MW (17 percent), followed by Republic Indonesia 7,895 MW and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with production capacity of 7,834 MW (12 per cent) respectively.

For the **hydropower**, the total D-8 Member States production of hydropower is **55,674 MW** or about **5 per cent** of the total world production. Among the D-8 Member States, Republic of Turkey is having the highest amount of capacity with total capacity of 23,643 Mega Watt (MW) in 2014 or 42 per cent of the total D-8 Member States followed by Islamic Republic of Iran with total capacity of 10,850 MW (19 percent), and Republic of Indonesia with the total production capacity of 5,166 MW (9 per cent).

For the **crude oil**, the total D-8 Member States total production of crude oil is at **8,240 thousand barrels per day** or about **9 per cent** of the total world crude oil production. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the largest crude oil producer among the D-8 Member States with total amount of 3,375 thousand barrels per day or 41 per cent of the total production of the D-8 Member States

followed by Federal Republic of Nigeria with total production of 2,427 thousand barrels per day (29.5 per cent), and Republic of Indonesia with production of 911 thousand barrels per day (11 per cent). The total world production of crude oil amounted to 93,015.50 thousand barrels per day.

For dry natural gas production, total of the D-8 Member States production of dry natural gas amounted to 15,624 billion cubic feet or about 15.3 **per cent** of the total world natural gas production. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the largest natural gas producer among the D-8 Member States with total amount of 5,360 billion cubic feet or 34 per cent of the total production of the D-8 Member States followed by Republic of Indonesia with total production of 2,692 billion cubic feet (17.2 per cent), and Malaysia 2,179 billion cubic feet (14 per cent).

For your information, the existing Working Groups on energy, renewable energy and mining and minerals had convened several meetings. Among other recommendations of the Working Group on Energy were to establish a center of strategic studies on energy policies, establishment of a business energy forum by inviting the participation of other major consuming and technology providing countries; and D-8 to establish a WG on mining and minerals and WG on renewable energy.

While, the Working group on renewable energy had recommended on establishment of a special fund for implementation of projects and programmes in the field of renewable energy field in the D-8 Member States. Financing of the fund should be from any possible source, it may be from the D8 Member States and also from the donor agencies or from any applicable financial institutions. It was also proposed to establish a postgraduate and doctorate level programme in renewable energy in any technical university of the D-8 Member States.

A development in the energy sector is not possible unless a trained and able manpower is not in place to exercise it. Under this initiative a “**pool of renewable energy experts**” should be developed that may be utilized in carrying out various renewable energy projects throughout the region and also beyond wherever it is deemed necessary, including all of the major energy producing countries. A special fund may be utilized in establishing various projects in the D8 Member States to establish a better understanding of **renewable energy technologies** in all of the D-8 Member States.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to enhance cooperation in the energy sector, D-8 needs to formulate new strategies, policies and measures and making joint efforts at overcoming basic problems of the D-8 Member States to achieve economic development, hence progressing economic development and social welfare. Among other strategies for the D-8 Member States in the energy sector are:

- D-8 Member States to enhance cooperation in the field of energy through sharing of information, experience and best practices on policies and programs in energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy technologies and rural electrification;

- D-8 Member States to establish a closer cooperation on joint research, exploration and production of alternative energy resources;
- D-8 Member States need to establish a uniform format for database of energy experts and institutions. The establishment of such uniform format for database should take advantage of the existing D-8 website; and should be coordinated by the D-8 Secretariat in Istanbul;
- Every D-8 Member States to provide information on their respective capacity on training and research facilities for formulation of capacity building programs, including technical assistance, exchange of expertise and technology transfer among the D-8 Member States; and
- Encouraging participation of the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders should be considered in the next D-8 meetings on energy in order to promote investment for energy sector.

The first Ministerial meeting on Energy which will be held in 2016 either in Turkey is expected to assess and review the decisions made particularly the **WG on Energy** and **WG on Renewable Energy**, draw out the projects/programmes including feasibility studies and direct the relevant Working Groups for implementation of the tangible projects/programmes.

Last but not Least, D-8 Member States to enhance cooperation in the field of energy through sharing of information and experiences, exchanging best practices on policies, programs on energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy technologies, and rural electrification, including joint research and exploration in energy sub-sector and production of alternative energy resources. With that note, I would like to end my statement here, and I wish you all success in your endeavors and deliberations.

Thank you very much for your attention.