

## **The International Energy Agency (IEA)**

IEA is an autonomous organisation, which works to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for its 28 member countries and beyond. The 28 member countries are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Founded in response to the 1973/4 oil crisis, the IEA's initial role was to help countries co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in oil supply through the release of emergency oil stocks to the markets. As a leading think tank of the industrialised countries on energy issues, the IEA provides important inputs for important fora such as G20 & G8. The IEA has developed close cooperative working relationship with major energy consuming nations such as China and India (non member countries) as well as strengthened ties with key producers such as Russia and OPEC members.

### **IEA's four main areas of focus are:**

- i. **Energy security:** Promoting diversity, efficiency and flexibility within all energy sectors.
- ii. **Economic development:** Ensuring the stable supply of energy to IEA member countries and promoting free markets to foster economic growth and eliminate energy poverty.
- iii. **Environmental awareness:** Enhancing international knowledge of options for tackling climate change.

- iv. **Engagement worldwide:** Working closely with non-member countries, especially major producers and consumers, to find solutions to shared energy and environmental concerns.

The IEA through its outreach aims to promote its objectives of increasing the availability of affordable, reliable and clean energy through out the world. As oil consumption outside IEA member countries is increasing rapidly, IEA is promoting dialogue and information sharing on oil security policies with countries such as India and China. The IEA regularly conducts Emergency Response Simulation Exercises for oil supply disruptions for officials from its member countries. Since 2004, the IEA has started to invite countries such as India, China, ASEAN and South East European Countries to these exercises.

On the direction of PMO, MoPNG prepared a position paper on “Whether India should Join IEA” for consideration of the Prime Minister. MoPNG recommended that the optimal solution would be to collaborate with IEA’s programs through the instrument of MOU / Agreements, including in IEA’s Global Energy Emergency Response System, without becoming a member of the IEA. This way, India could maximize the strategic depth of its crude oil reserves and benefit from IEA’s technical assistance in the energy sector while avoiding the obligations entailed by membership.

Prime Minister approved the Ministry’s recommendation that India may collaborate with IEA’s programs through the instrument of MOUs/Agreements, including its Global Emergency Response System, without becoming a member at present in May 2011.

India was invited to attend the Ministerial Meeting of IEA on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 in Paris. An inter-Ministerial delegation led by Minister of Power participated in the Ministerial meeting.

During the IEA Ministerial meeting in Paris, India and International Energy Agency (IEA) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In the MOU, India's Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the IEA agreed to work together on further strengthening and developing the oil stockholding regime and Emergency Response policies in India as well as supporting broader dissemination and exchange of available information in the oil and gas sectors.

The enhanced co-operation set forth in the MoU will involve activities such as Indian participation in relevant IEA meetings and events, and the sharing of IEA's best practices with regard to emergency response measures in the event of oil supply disruptions.

MoP&NG has taken the following steps to expand collaboration with IEA's programs:

- a) A bilateral hotline on oil emergency preparedness has been established between MoP&NG and IEA's Headquarters at Paris. The hotline is a voluntary and flexible communication link in emergency preparedness and does not involve any legally binding obligations.
- b) MoP&NG participated in the Emergency Response Review of France and the Standing Group on Emergency Questions in November 2011.
- c) MoP&NG has nominated officials to participate in the IEA training week to be held during April, 2012, at the IEA's headquarters in Paris.
- d) Emergency Response Assessment of India by IEA has been conducted in New Delhi during 30-31, May 2012.
- e) Two officers from PPAC participated in the Secondment Programme of IEA at IEA's Energy Data Centre in Paris for the period January-April, 2014.

## **MOUs SIGNED**

Attached MOU to be uploaded here.

### **INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM**

The International Energy Forum is an Inter-governmental arrangement that serves as a neutral facilitator of informal, open, informed and continuing global energy dialogue among its membership of energy producing and energy consuming States, including transit States.

Executive Board serves as the governing body of the Forum. Chaired by the Host State of the forthcoming biennial Ministerial Meeting it is comprised of designated representatives of Ministers responsible for energy matters from thirty-one (31) IEF member countries. The representatives of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are non-voting members of the Executive Board.

From among the thirty-one (31) members of the Board, twenty-three (23) serve as permanent members of the Executive Board and eight (8) as rotating members. Permanent members of the Executive Board are the Host Country of the Secretariat, the eleven (11) largest oil and gas producers and the eleven (11) largest oil and gas consumers.

The Executive Board meets at least twice a year to execute its duties, which include approval of membership to the Forum, appointment of the Secretary General, approval of holding Extraordinary Ministerial Meetings, approval of the theme and programme of the biennial IEF Ministerial and IEBF, as well as the Programme of Work, Budget and Statements of Account of the Secretariat.

India by virtue of being among the top 11 largest consumers of oil and gas has been the permanent Member of the Executive Board since its set-up in 2002.