

**Remarks by IEF Secretary General Joseph McMonigle
IEF-KAPSARC Webinar on Energy Open Data Ecosystems,
Transparency and Policy Scenario Models & Tools
October 5, 2020**

It is a pleasure to co-host this webinar with KAPSARC and mark another milestone in the IEF-KAPSARC cooperation on enhancing national and regional data transparency.

As the coordinator of global energy data transparency initiative – JODI, IEF strongly supports efforts to improve understanding of nationally sanctioned datasets such as today’s energy balance compilation exercise with Saudi Arabia as a case study.

IEF attaches great importance to the opportunities offered in collaboration with energy knowledge centers such as KAPSARC to improve existing energy balances in the Middle East and beyond.

As many of you may know, JODI consolidates and disseminates key oil and gas supply/demand indicators directly reported from official government sources monthly. Complete, timely, and accurate energy data is key to trading, investment, and policy making decisions. This energy balance compilation exercise with KAPSARC allows us to validate consistency across various official data sources that includes JODI data sets.

I am glad to learn from my team that we are making progress. JODI data is fully integrated into this IEF-KAPSARC exercise and now includes more consistent and consolidated data from various Saudi official data sources.

To facilitate this and enhance overall energy data transparency, international cooperation frameworks, such as JODI and other efforts, all play a pivotal role. Since the IEF Ministers called for greater energy data transparency in early 2000 and launched JODI, our cooperation has contributed to harmonise methodologies and definitions. Such efforts have been further augmented by a growing number of international organisations. This helps stakeholders to make apple to apple data comparisons, better inform policy and investment decisions, and elevate the global energy dialogue to a higher level.

In this regard, I am delighted to welcome JODI Partner Organisations present here today: International Energy Agency (IEA) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) as well as our regional UN partner the United Nation Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UN ESCWA) who continue to solidify our international cooperation on improving energy data availability and comparability.

Accelerating the flow of complete and reliable data comes at a premium in any crisis to which COVID-19 takes no exemption. The impact of the pandemic calls for a renewed sharpened focus on challenges surrounding energy data transparency. The IEF in collaboration with JODI partners and other organisations such as KAPSARC, is ready to take the challenge in a holistic, and integrated approach forward. This includes:

- Leveraging digital solutions to accelerate data submissions and enhance market transparency.
- Improve data on market balances including data on storage and spare capacity data, made available in full.
- Expand partnerships to enhance energy data coverage on the IEF platform to better inform on energy security, market stability and orderly transitions and be ready for the next crisis.
- Collaboration in the context of the trilateral work programme with IEA-IEF-OPEC, and the US EIA as well, on historical baseline data comparison to enhance outlook comparability.

This IEF-KAPSARC cooperation and webinar is timely and fits well with our regional engagement as well as with my commitment as Secretary General of the IEF to re-energise and accelerate joint efforts to improve market transparency globally.

We will take notes of key findings from this workshop to help advance our work and inform the IEF energy dialogue including at upcoming Ministerial meetings:

- The **7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum hosted by Malaysia** on 3 December 2020, and
- The next **the 17th IEF International Energy Ministerial and Business Forum** hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2021.