

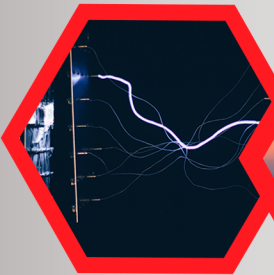


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National Symposium on
Energy Sector Reforms in Sri Lanka

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



EE
EESoc

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

Introduction

The National Symposium on Power Sector Reforms in Sri Lanka, organized by the Electrical Engineering Society (EESoc) of the University of Moratuwa, stands as a critical platform to address the challenges and complexities of energy restructuring in the country.

Electrical Engineering Society (EESoc), being one of the leading societies at the University of Moratuwa, has established itself through a strong collaboration with the Department of Electrical Engineering. With a primary motive of producing well-rounded graduates dedicated to the betterment of the community, EESoc has become an influential force within the university.

One of the primary objectives of this symposium is to foster collaboration between electrical engineering undergraduates and industry professionals. By providing a space for interaction, knowledge sharing, and networking, the symposium presents an excellent opportunity for students to gain insights into the real-world applications of their studies. Engaging with industry experts allows students to bridge the gap between theory and practice, nurturing their professional growth and cultivating a deeper understanding of the power sector.

The written papers presented during the symposium will undergo rigorous evaluation by relevant energy authorities. These valuable insights and recommendations will be shared during the final ceremony of the Symposium, with the aim of influencing concrete actions in the energy sector restructuring of Sri Lanka.

We invite you to explore the abstracts in this booklet, which provide a condensed overview of the thought-provoking research and insights presented at the Symposium. May this compilation inspire dialogue, innovation, and collaboration as we collectively strive towards a more efficient and sustainable power sector in Sri Lanka.

Message from the Head of the Department

Prof. W.D.A.S. Wijayapala

Department of Electrical Engineering



On behalf of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the National Symposium on Power Sector Reforms in Sri Lanka. This esteemed event, organized by the Electrical Engineering Society of the University of Moratuwa, serves as a platform to unite experts, professionals, and researchers from the power sector to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities in implementing reforms for sustainable and efficient power systems in our country.

As the head of the department, I am honoured to witness the convergence of brilliant minds in power sector reforms. It is with the utmost enthusiasm that we anticipate your active participation, insightful discussions, and valuable contributions during this symposium. Your presence and expertise will undoubtedly foster an environment conducive to transformative discourse and constructive exchange of ideas.

The power sector plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth, ensuring social development, and preserving environmental sustainability. In this era of rapid technological advancements, it is imperative for us to address the pressing issues facing our power systems and explore innovative solutions to improve their resilience, reliability, and efficiency. This symposium provides a unique opportunity to engage in comprehensive discussions on various dimensions of power sector reforms, including policy frameworks, regulatory mechanisms, technological advancements, and socio-economic implications.



I extend my gratitude to the organizers, sponsors, and all those who have contributed to making this symposium a reality. Your dedication and support are invaluable in bringing together this exceptional gathering of experts and enthusiasts. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the reviewers, speakers and moderator who have graciously agreed to share their expertise and insights.

Let us seize this opportunity to collectively envision a future where our power systems are environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially inclusive. I have no doubt that your participation and contributions will make this symposium a resounding success. Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to each and every one of you. May this symposium pave the way for transformative power sector reforms in Sri Lanka.

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Executive Summary

Introduction:

Electricity sector reforms have been implemented in many developing countries over the past few decades, with the aim of improving the efficiency, reliability, and affordability of electricity supply. The reforms typically involve restructuring the sector by separating the generation, transmission, and distribution functions, introducing competition and private sector participation, and establishing independent regulators to oversee the industry. One of the key lessons learned from these reforms is that the success of such initiatives depends on a number of factors, including political will, stakeholder engagement, regulatory capacity, and the availability of financing. In some cases, reforms have been hindered by inadequate institutional capacity, resistance from vested interests, or insufficient funding.

However, where reforms have been successful, they have led to significant improvements in the electricity sector and the broader economy. For example, by introducing competition and private sector participation, reforms have often led to increased investment in generation capacity, improved efficiency and reliability of electricity supply, and lower electricity prices for consumers. In addition, the establishment of independent regulators has helped to create a more transparent and accountable regulatory environment, which has improved investor confidence and encouraged private sector investment in the sector.

Furthermore, electricity sector reforms have often had positive spillover effects on the wider economy. For example, by improving the reliability of electricity supply, reforms have helped to attract foreign investment, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth. In addition, by reducing the cost of electricity, reforms have improved the competitiveness of businesses and reduced the cost of living for households.



In summary, the lessons learned from electricity sector reforms in developing countries highlight the importance of political will, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory capacity in implementing successful reforms. While the outcomes of these reforms have varied, where they have been successful, they have led to significant improvements in the electricity sector and the broader economy, with positive spillover effects on investment, job creation, and economic growth.

Key Objectives:

Assessing the Proposed Power Sector Reforms: The symposium will critically evaluate the proposed power sector reforms in Sri Lanka. It will examine the scope, timeline, and strategies outlined in these proposals and identify potential shortcomings and risks associated with inadequate planning and lack of political goodwill.

Understanding the Importance of Planning: Through expert presentations and case studies, the symposium will emphasize the significance of comprehensive planning in power sector reforms. It will underscore the need for thorough assessments, stakeholder consultations, impact analyses, and strategic roadmaps to ensure successful outcomes.

Analyzing Political Goodwill: The symposium will examine the role of political goodwill in driving power sector reforms. It will explore the impact of political stability, commitment, and consensus-building on the success of reform initiatives. The symposium will also discuss strategies to foster political goodwill and support for long-term reform agendas.

Identifying Risks and Pitfalls: The symposium will identify the potential risks and pitfalls associated with insufficient planning and political goodwill in power sector reforms. It will address issues such as inadequate financial planning, weak regulatory frameworks, resistance to change, and limited capacity-building measures. By



highlighting these risks, the symposium aims to facilitate proactive mitigation strategies.

Developing Recommendations: Drawing upon the insights shared during the symposium, participants will collaborate to develop a set of recommendations. These recommendations will outline best practices and guidelines for policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders involved in power sector reforms in Sri Lanka. The recommendations will emphasize the importance of comprehensive planning and political goodwill to ensure the success and sustainability of reform initiatives.

Expected Outcomes:

Risk Awareness: Participants will gain a better understanding of the potential risks and challenges associated with power sector reforms in Sri Lanka, particularly in the absence of sufficient planning and political goodwill.

Policy Guidance: The symposium will provide policymakers and stakeholders with actionable recommendations to enhance the planning process and foster political support for power sector reforms. These recommendations will aim to mitigate risks and enhance the effectiveness of reform initiatives.

Stakeholder Engagement: The symposium will foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, facilitating a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of various actors in ensuring successful power sector reforms.

Capacity Building: The symposium will identify capacity-building needs and strategies to address the challenges posed by insufficient planning and political goodwill. It will emphasize the importance of investing in human resources, institutional strengthening, and knowledge sharing.