WEF releases Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report 2017

The Results of the Global Energy Architecture Performance Index (EAPI) 2017 released by World Economic Forum highlight key trends in the energy transition moving towards more sustainable, affordable and secure energy systems around the world, as well as the challenges countries continue to face, individually and as cohorts.

EAPI 2017: Key insights

Looking back at five years of data from the EAPI, this report also distils insights from countries that have shown significant improvements in performance or remained consistently high performers.

Top performers come in all shapes and sizes: While many of this year's top performers tend to be smaller countries, both in size of gross domestic product and population, and typically have advanced economies, a significant number of countries do not fit this mould.

European countries dominate the leader board: As in previous years, countries from Europe continue to hold many of the top 20 ranks on the EAPI, with the exceptions of Colombia (8th), New Zealand (9th), Uruguay (10th) and Costa Rica (14th).

The world's biggest energy consumers are being outperformed: Major energy consumers continue to struggle to take leading positions on the EAPI. While showing strengths in certain areas, and early signs of strong trajectories in others, China (95th), India (87th), Japan (45th), the Russian Federation (48th) and the United States (52nd) have either slipped in the rankings since the EAPI 2009 benchmark or experienced only marginal gains.

Top-ranked countries and the rest of the table exhibit a growing divide in performance: Since last year, the top 20 highest-performing countries have achieved twice the average increase in EAPI score compared to that of all other countries.

Examining the journeys of Uruguay, Mexico and Jamaica, which have made strides in their energy sector performance since 2009, and those of Sweden and France, both of whom have been consistently high performers, revealed three principles of energy-sector governance to effectively steer energy systems through transition:

Frame the long-term direction for the energy sector, and commit to it: Change takes a long time to enact in energy systems.Governments that steer their energy systems through these changes with long-term visions provide important continuity across these extended time frames.

Enable the energy transition with adaptable, co-designed policies: The policies most effective at

advancing a country's energy transition are those enabling solutions that best suit a country's context.

Steward investment to the most impactful areas: Significant investment is required to make progress on the energy transition and to meet growing demand for energy. The International Energy Agency estimates that $48 trillion in investment is needed globally to meet energy needs to 2035.Innovative approaches are required to ensure this is done to maintain an attractive investment environment. In addition, choosing the right public-private partnership model is key to promoting investment while protecting national interests.

Now more than ever, decision-makers must understand the core objectives of energy architecture – generating economic growth and development in an environmentally sustainable way while providing access to energy and energy security for all – and how changing dynamics affect them.

Improvement seen in India's Performance: India (87th) is gradually improving its performance on the EAPI (90th last year). Similar to China, the country boasts a strong score on the indicator for diversification of import counterparts (5th), but its energy system continues to face some significant challenges, particularly in environmental sustainability (109th). India has some of the lowest scores in the EAPI for CO2 emissions from electricity production and PM2.5 levels (117th and 123rd, respectively). While sources of pollution are diverse and intermittent (e.g. agricultural crop burning, refuse combustion, fireworks), the energy sector is a large, consistent contributor to this issue of major concern.

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Warm regards,

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