

Sixth Regional Conference of CIGRE National Committees in Arab Countries



Opening Session: Speakers from left to right: Professor .Tom Hammons (Chair International Practices for Energy Development and Power Generation IEEE), Dr Mohamed Awad (Chairman Egyptian Electricity Holding Company), H.E Dr Hassan Younes (Minister of Electricity and Energy of Egypt), Dr Fouad Taher (President Egyptian National Committee CIGRE} and Mr Jean Kowal (Secretary General CIGRE).

The Sixth Regional Conference of CIGRE National Committees in Arab Countries was organized by the Egyptian National Committee and held in Cairo, Egypt, 21-23 November 2005. The theme of the Conference was "Arab Common Market for Electricity and Electrical Industries". The Conference was held under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Hassan Younes, Minister of Electricity and Energy, Egypt and member of the administrative council of CIGRE. Mr. Jean Kowal, the Secretary General of CIGRE attended the Conference. The Conference was presided by Dr. Fouad Taher.

The Opening Session started with a welcome speech by Dr. Fouad Taher followed by H.E. Dr. Younes. Three Plenary speeches followed. They were given by Mr. J. Kowal (Secretary General CIGRE), Professor Tom Hammons (Chair, IEEE International Practices for Energy Development and Power Generation Committee), and Dr. P. Kirchesch (Vice-President for Research, AREVA).



Dr: Taher indicated that the CIGRE National Committee was established in 1961, elected member in the Administrative Council in 1984 and member of the Executive Committee in 2002. Egypt initiated the regional activities by holding the first Regional Conference for Arab countries in 1995. It was followed by Regional Conferences organized by Jordan, the Gulf States, Libya, and Algeria.

Registration for the Sixth Regional Conference in Egypt was 250 from 10 Arab countries including the chairmen of the CIGRE National Committees of Algeria, the Arab Gulf, Jordan and Libya as well as deputy ministers and presidents of Electricity organizations of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Tunisia and Sudan. Seventy-five papers were presented from Arab countries as well as from U.S.A., Canada, Switzerland and Austria. The papers were presented in three languages; Arabic, French and English with simultaneous interpretation.

Technical visits were arranged to Cairo North 2x750 MW combined cycle power station and to the Zaafarana 80 MW Wind Farm.

On the fringe of the Conference, the Presidents and Secretaries of the CIGRE National Committees in Arab countries held two meetings, one of them was at the office of the Minister of Electricity and Energy with the participation of the electricity dignitaries participating in the Conference.

Recommendations are summarized below:

1- The Regional Conference of CIGRE National Committees in Arab countries should continue to be held on a regular basis. The Committee of Jordan will organize the 2007 Conference. The Committee of the Gulf Countries will take responsibility for the 2009 Conference.

2- Initiate a Regional Technical Committee to include members National Committee of Jordan will suggest a work plan for this committee and circulate it for approval. This committee will meet on the fringe of the Regional meetings as well as the general conference in Paris.

3- The main topics for the next Regional conferences will be directed toward development and design of the interconnection network and optimization of its operation in order to maximize the electricity common market in the Arab region.

4- Topics will also include ways of cooperation and coordination between the manufacturers of electrical equipment in Arab countries with the aim of activating the Arab common market.

