

Grid stabilization sri lanka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to upgrade Sri Lanka's power sector infrastructure, enhancing the reliability of transmission and distribution networks and facilitating greater integration of renewable energy.

"Driving power sector reforms, combined with targeted infrastructure interventions, is essential to facilitate competitive renewable energy development and reduce power generation costs," said ADB Country Director for Sri Lanka Takafumi Kadono. "By expanding and modernizing infrastructure and incorporating digitalization solutions, this project will support the government's goal of increased integration of renewable energy in the electricity mix, reduce power interruptions, and minimize transmission and distribution losses."

The approval of this project reflects the significant progress made by Sri Lanka in advancing power sector reforms, which aims to enhance financial sustainability, ensure cost recovery tariff revisions, and competitive renewable energy development. ADB's support for infrastructure upgrades is contingent on these reforms, recognizing their critical role in renewable energy integration and improving the sector's overall performance.

The project will strengthen the institutional capacities of Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and Lanka Electric Company (LECO)—the only utilities in the country responsible for power delivery to end-consumers. The project will improve their ability to integrate and manage renewable energy systems, adopt digital solutions, and enhance hosting capacity of rooftop solar installations.

Various career development activities for CEB and LECO female staff, awareness-raising programs on safe and productive use of electricity, training on adopting clean energy solutions for women-led groups and businesses will be implemented. Of the total amount, \$150 million will be provided to CEB and \$50 million will go to LECO. Both financing will be guaranteed by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 69 members—49 from the region.

A significant stride has been achieved in Sri Lanka's power infrastructure as the newly constructed Polpitiya-Hambantota 220kV transmission line is now seamlessly integrated into the national grid following the completion of its preliminary work.

This transformative project, funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with an investment of USD 55 million, is aimed at elevating the efficiency and capacity of Sri Lanka's power transmission system.



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The project encompasses the development of the Polpitiya-Hambantota 220kV transmission line as well as the establishment of the new Hambantota grid substation.

Covering a distance of 150 kilometers, the transmission line traverses through 11 Divisional Secretariats from Ambagamuwa to Hambantota, boasting a robust line capacity of 580MVA. Complementing this transmission enhancement, the Hambantota new grid substation has been fully realized, equipped with two power transformers boasting a combined capacity of 500MVA.

The implementation of these infrastructure components is anticipated to fortify the power grid in the southern part of the country. The improvements are set to amplify the reliability of power supply and augment the power transfer capabilities both to and from the Southern region, a development warmly welcomed by the CEB.

The successful culmination of this project underscores Sri Lanka's commitment to advancing its energy infrastructure, bolstering the nation's capacity to meet growing energy demands while enhancing the overall stability and resilience of the power network.

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