

## **Electricity in the Russian Far East: Status and Opportunities for Cooperation in Northeast Asia**

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The electricity sector in the Russian Far East (RFE) operates under difficult economic conditions, which are caused by a complex general economic situation, both within Russia and elsewhere in the region.

The RFE's great expectations for its electricity sector are connected with international cooperation that may achieve a structural transformation of this sector in the Northeast Asian region. These expectations have an objective basis and are conditioned by the complementarity and interaction between the RFE's advantages, in terms of energy resources, and neighboring countries' economic opportunities and goals.

At present, the policy of international cooperation of the RFE electric power sector is developing in two key directions:

- the corporate (narrow) strategy for developing electricity exports by electric power companies in the RFE
- the regional (broad) strategy within broad international goals in Northeast Asia.

These strategies are intended to achieve the following three objectives:

- energy security and deriving system effects, through the creation of international integrated power grids
- energy cooperation for general economic development in the Northeast Asian region
- sustaining the environment.

A number of real advances have been made in the policy for the RFE's electricity sector, within these strategies and objectives for international cooperation. Thus far, however, this policy has not acquired a character that is complete or mutually coordinated in terms of goals, means, and participants.