

2009 JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE 27TH ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING: “SECURING ASEAN’S ENERGY FUTURE TOWARDS PROSPERITY AND SUSTAINIBILITY”

Issued in Mandalay, Myanmar on 29 July 2009

1. The 27th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) was held in Mandalay, Myanmar on 29 July 2009. H.E. Brig. Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Energy of Myanmar, chaired the Meeting. H.E. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam, was the vice-chairperson.
2. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Thailand for her chairmanship of AMEM in the past year, during which ASEAN energy cooperation achieved significant milestones through the implementation of various activities under the programme areas of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2004-2009.

Opening Ceremony

3. The Twenty-Seventh AMEM was officially opened by H.E. General Thein Sein, the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar. In his Opening Remarks, the Prime Minister extended his warmest welcome to all delegates of 27th AMEM to the historic city of Mandalay. He was delighted to have the opportunity to host this important event in time for the region to embrace global challenges such as energy security, climate change, environmental degradation and global financial crisis. He emphasised that the 27th AMEM’s theme “Securing ASEAN’s Energy Future towards Prosperity and Sustainability” is timely and suitable in facing those challenges and in transforming ASEAN into an Economic Community by 2015 as energy is a prime mover of economic growth. In conclusion, he wished all delegates to achieve fruitful deliberations and great success in the meeting.

Achievements in ASEAN Energy Cooperation

4. The Ministers were pleased with the remarkable progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2004-2009. The Ministers commended the notable achievements made in this second cycle of energy cooperation implementation plan, including, among others, the establishment of the ASCOPE Gas Centre to implement a 5-year work programme for the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline project, the establishment of the ASEAN Power Grid Consultative Council to oversee the overall development as well as implementation of the ASEAN Power Grid project, the coal cooperation initiated with dialogue partners in cleaner coal through regional dialogue and capacity building, the implementation of 19 energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) projects and 48 renewable energy projects under the ACE’s EAEF programme, the job training for ASEAN engineers and technicians through the workshop for the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (PROMEEC) and training through the Multi-Country training course on Energy Conservation with support from Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, the annual competition of EE&C for energy management and buildings as well as renewable energy (RE) project competition, and the establishment of the Regional Energy Policy and Planning Sub-sector Network to oversee the implementation of the APAEC as well as to undertake policy reviews and recommendations to deepen regional energy cooperation.
5. The Ministers lauded their senior officials, ASEAN specialized energy bodies, the ASEAN Secretariat as well as the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) for their continued vigorous initiation, coordination and facilitation in the implementation of the regional energy programmes and activities under the APAEC 2004-2009, and tasked them to enhance their efforts in furthering ASEAN energy cooperation and in its cooperation with the dialogue partners and international organisations.

Strategising Energy Cooperation in the ASEAN Economic Community

6. The Ministers reaffirmed that a cleaner, more efficient and sustainable energy community is key to support the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. The Ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation to ensure greater energy security and sustainability through diversification, development and conservation of resources, continuity of supply, and the efficient use of energy, including the wider application of environmentally-sound technologies.
7. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2010-2015 which will serve as a guideline for the ASEAN energy cooperation to support the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community towards 2010 and beyond. The APAEC 2010-2015 consists of seven programme areas, namely (i) ASEAN Power Grid; (ii) Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline; (iii) Coal and Clean Coal Technology; (iv) Renewable Energy; (v) Energy Efficiency and Conservation; (vi) Regional Energy Policy and Planning; and (viii) Civilian Nuclear Energy.
8. The Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the new ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) and its Annex on Coordinated Emergency Response Measures (CERM), which was signed on 1 March 2009 during the 14th ASEAN Summit. The new APSA sets strategic options to enhance the ability to respond to an energy emergency situation, either individually or collectively, and minimise exposure to an emergency situation, while the CERM mechanism is designed to facilitate the activation/deactivation of emergency measures to assist the ASEAN Member State in distress and foster closer cooperation among the ASEAN Member States and the oil and gas industry.
9. In view of the fact that energy efficiency is one of the most cost effective ways to enhance energy security and addressing climate change in the region, the Ministers agreed to pursue the aspirational goal of reducing regional energy intensity of at least 8% by 2015 based on 2005 level.
10. The Ministers recognised the need to strengthen cooperation in the development of renewable and alternative energy, including hydropower and biofuels, as well as in the promotion of more use of renewable energy in the total energy mix to achieve energy security both at regional and national levels. While recognising the varying degrees of renewable energy endowments amongst ASEAN Member States, the Ministers agreed to achieve a collective target of 15% of renewable energy in the total regional power installed capacity by 2015. The Ministers also agreed to promote the development of research and development centers on renewable energy in the region.
11. The Ministers emphasised the need to foster cooperation in the promotion of sustainable development and utilisation of coal while addressing environmental issues as well as facilitating intra-ASEAN coal related issues. The Ministers encouraged the use of clean coal technologies through regional cooperation.
12. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance to forge ASEAN-wide nuclear energy cooperation for electricity generation and noted the progress in the preparation of the draft TOR of the Nuclear Energy Cooperation Subsector Network (NEC-SSN). In this regard, the Ministers encouraged SOME to accelerate the finalisation of the TOR of the NEC-SSN.

Strengthening Energy Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

13. The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the solid progress of the energy cooperation with the dialogue partners and international organisations. In particular, the Ministers were pleased with the notable achievements made under the frameworks of AMEM+3/SOME+3, SOME-METI, EAS EMM/ECTF, and SOME-EU Consultations over the past year. The Ministers agreed to foster closer cooperation with the dialogue partners in securing energy future towards prosperity and sustainability in the region.

ASEAN Energy Awards 2009

14. The Ministers congratulated the winners and runners-ups from the 54 national nominees for the ASEAN Energy Awards 2009 under the Best Practices Competition for Energy Management in Buildings and Industries, Energy Efficient Buildings, as well as Renewable Energy Projects.
15. The Ministers tasked the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) to consider further improvement in the award system to better promote public awareness in energy efficiency and conservation and in the utilisation of renewable sources of energy.

28th AMEM

16. The Ministers agreed to convene the 28th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in Viet Nam in 2010.
17. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar for the warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the 27th AMEM.

List of Ministers

- a) H.E. Pehin Dato Haji Mohammad, Minister of Energy, at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam;
- b) H.E. Dr. Ith Praing, Secretary of State, on behalf of Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy of Cambodia;
- c) H.E. Mr. Novian Moezahar Thaib, Secretary General of the National Energy Council, on behalf of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia;
- d) H.E. Mr. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR;
- e) H.E. Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia;
- f) H.E. Brig. Gen. Lun Thi, Minister for Energy of Myanmar;
- g) H.E. Mr. Joselito Chad Jacinto, Charge D'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines to Myanmar, on behalf of Secretary of Energy of the Philippines;
- h) H.E. Mr. Wong Siew Kwong, Director, External Relations, on behalf of Senior Minister of State (Trade and Industry), Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore;
- i) H.E. Mr. Wannarat Channukul, Minister of Energy of Thailand;
- j) H.E. Mr. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam; and
- k) H.E. Mr. S.Pushpanathan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community, on behalf of Secretary-General of ASEAN.