

2016 JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE 34TH ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING (AMEM): “TOWARDS A GREENER COMMUNITY WITH CLEANER ENERGY”

Issued in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 21 September 2016

1. The 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) was held on 21 September 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. H.E. U Pe Zin Tun, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy of Myanmar, chaired the Meeting and H.E. Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi, Secretary of Energy of the Philippines, was the Vice Chair. The 13th ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3), the 10th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) and the 5th Dialogue between AMEM and the International Energy Agency (AMEM-IEA Dialogue) were also held back-to-back with the 34th AMEM.

Opening Ceremony

2. H.E. U Pe Zin Tun, Union Minister of Electricity and Energy of Myanmar officiated the 34th AMEM and associated meetings. In his opening remarks, the Minister emphasised the significance of this year's AMEM which marks the initial implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase I (2016-2020) and called upon Dialogue Partners (DPs), International Organisations (IOs) and the energy business community to strengthen collaboration to achieve energy security, accessibility affordability and sustainability for all. Taking into account the strong growth in global investments on renewable energy (RE), he expressed optimism that the region will be able to meet its energy security and sustainable development goals.

Starting Strong – Implementation of the new ASEAN Energy Cooperation Plan

3. Recognising the importance of the COP21 Paris Agreement, the Ministers were pleased with the strong start in the implementation of the new ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025 Phase 1(2016-2020) to support the strategic measures under the new ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 towards realising the goals of the ASEAN Community. The Ministers emphasised that the implementation of APAEC's energy strategies is key to responding to the call for a well-connected ASEAN that drives an integrated, competitive and resilient region and commended the progress of the energy sub-sector networks (SSNs) and specialised energy bodies (SEBs) in detailing the implementation of the measures under the new action plan.
4. Recalling ASEAN's renewable energy and energy intensity reduction targets in the APAEC, the Ministers emphasised ASEAN's resolve to advance clean energy development in the region, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean technology applications.
5. The Ministers also reaffirmed the region's determined efforts to cooperate towards the integration of energy infrastructure and markets so that the benefits of sharing ASEAN's indigenous and renewable resources, expert human and technical resources, and the resiliency of shared energy systems may be fully realised.

Working to Reduce Energy Intensity in ASEAN

6. In the area of energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) where ASEAN's key strategy is to target the reduction of energy intensity in the region by 20% by 2020 and 30% by 2025 based on 2005 levels, the Ministers welcomed the progress in implementation and noted the key planned activities of the Energy Efficiency Sub-Sector Network (EE&C-SSN) in 2016/2017.

7. In particular, the Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the regional policy roadmap for minimum energy performance standards in air conditioners and the ongoing work towards developing a similar regional policy roadmap for lighting. The Ministers noted that the regional policy roadmap for air conditioning now serves as basis for the ongoing efforts to draft corresponding national policy roadmaps which are expected to be endorsed in each ASEAN Member State (AMS) by 2016. The Ministers looked forward to the conclusion of the protocol of cooperation between the ASEAN Centre for Energy and the ASEAN-Standards Harmonisation Initiative for Energy Efficiency (ASEAN-SHINE) programme. The Ministers also looked forward to the coordination between ASEAN bodies responsible for energy efficiency and standards and conformance to work towards pursuing a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) for energy performance testing under existing ASEAN MRAs, such as the ASEAN Harmonised Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulation Regime (AHEEERR) of the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ).
8. The Ministers agreed to pursue the dynamic collaboration with DPs in the area of energy efficiency and conservation and acknowledged the continued implementation of the EU SWITCH Asia's ASEAN-SHINE programme, ASEAN-Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership Programme (AJEEP) and Energy Conservation Workshop under AJEEP (ECAP), and the Study on Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) in AMS. The Ministers also looked forward to the promotion of EE&C under the new ASEAN-German Energy Programme (AGEP) 2016-2019, including the ASEAN-GIZ project on EE and climate mitigation in the land transport sector.

Increasing the Deployment of Renewable Energy

9. In the area of renewable energy where ASEAN's key strategy is to aspire to 23% share of RE in the ASEAN energy mix by 2025, the Ministers further welcomed the progress in implementation and noted the key planned activities of the Renewable Energy Sub-Sector Network (RE-SSN) in 2016/2017.
10. In particular, the Ministers welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and Singapore's Nanyang Technological University to implement the proposed Southeast Asian Collaboration for Ocean Renewable Energy (SEAcORE), and initiate research and capacity building activities to advance ocean renewable energy development in the region.
11. The Ministers commended the cooperation among the RE-SSN, ACE, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Germany's GIZ to undertake the REmap Analysis for the ASEAN region, in support of the ASEAN Renewable Energy Outlook.
12. The Ministers also noted the implementation of various activities under the ASEAN Renewable Energy Support Programme (ASEAN-RESP) Phase II in the areas of networking, policy advice and capacity building, including several publications such as the ASEAN RE Policy Review and Analysis, the Levelised Cost of the Electricity for RE Technologies and the Recommendations on RE Permit Procedures for ASEAN. The Ministers looked forward to further collaboration under the new AGEP2016-2019 as the successor programme of the ASEAN-RESP, including on project financing and associated trainings. The Ministers also welcomed further collaboration with DPs on information sharing in RE initiatives such as smart grids and smart communities.

Advancing the ASEAN Power Grid and Initiating Multilateral Power Trade

13. On the development of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), the Ministers welcomed the achievements made by the Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities (HAPUA) in implementing the APG, including the successful completion of more than 1,700 megawatts of new interconnection capacity for 2015/2016 which involves the completion to date of eight (8) cross-border transmission links/projects under the umbrella of the sixteen (16) APG projects identified under the APAEC. The Ministers moreover noted HAPUA's plans to conduct studies to ascertain the APG institutions needed to support further implementation of the APG and to help policymakers determine the feasibility of various options to establish the mechanisms of multilateral power exchange in ASEAN. The Ministers also noted the need for close collaboration between HAPUA and the ASEAN Energy Regulators' Network (AERN) in identifying and overcoming regulatory issues in the region's multilateral power trade.
14. The Ministers also welcomed the signing by Lao PDR, Thailand and Malaysia of an MOU to pursue the initial phase of the Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP). The Ministers commended the efforts of the four countries in examining the feasibility of power trade beyond neighbouring countries and reiterated their support for the LTMS-PIP as a pathfinder to complement existing efforts towards realising multilateral electricity trade in the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) and the ASEAN Economic Community.

Energy Security and Accessibility in Oil and Gas

15. On activities related to gas infrastructure and market development under the purview of the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE), for which the key strategy is to enhance connectivity within ASEAN for energy security and accessibility via pipelines and liquefied natural gas (LNG) regasification terminals, the Ministers welcomed the progress in the development of regional gas infrastructure, with the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) network now consisting of bilateral pipelines connecting six (6) countries with a combined length of 3,673 kilometres and six (6) operational regasification terminals at a total capacity of 22.5 million metric tonnes per annum.
16. The Ministers also applauded AMS efforts towards implementing the long-term goal of open access systems in their gas markets. In particular, the Ministers noted that Singapore's LNG terminal is the first open access, multi-user terminal in Asia and welcomed the announcements that Thailand's third party access (TPA) system already secured approval from its energy regulator and that Malaysia is now in the process of submitting to its Parliament a request for approval of its TPA system. The Ministers likewise welcomed the good progress in the implementation of an ASEAN Gas Infrastructure Database, with an analysis and validation of ASCOPE member data being uploaded onto the ASCOPE website.
17. Towards providing greater flexibility in destination and associated contract costs and improving the commercial environment for oil and gas, the Ministers noted the progress made by ASCOPE towards the development of a standard clause for LNG diversion and destination flexibility for ASEAN LNG contracts. The Ministers also noted the conduct of a preliminary study on the legal and commercial aspects as well as the ongoing preparation of an appropriate instrument for ASEAN LNG cooperation.
18. The Ministers noted the continued work to operationalise the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) to address emergencies or possible disruptions in oil and gas supplies in the region, including the APSA Task Force Phase 2 to render the agreement more practical and operable.

Coal in ASEAN and Promoting Cleaner Coal Technologies

19. On coal and cleaner coal technologies (CCT) where ASEAN's key strategy is to enhance the image of coal in ASEAN, the Ministers noted the planned activities of the ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC) among others to undertake cooperative activities to enhance knowledge and information sharing on carbon capture and storage (CCS), capacity building in CCT and activities to enhance coal's image in the light of global environmental concerns. The Ministers also looked forward to AFOC's plans to undertake a feasibility study and demonstration project for a CCT facility with the involvement of DPs, IOs and the private sector, to develop a joint policy research paper on coal, and institutional and human capacity building in the ASEAN coal sector.
20. The Ministers emphasised the importance of continued efforts towards increasing uptake of clean energy technologies in the region and the continued strengthening of cooperation with DPs and IOs and the private sector to this end. The Ministers looked forward to the development of the concept and the study to identify and establish an ASEAN Coal Centre of Excellence, as well as to establish a fully functioning ASEAN Coal Database and Information System.

Greater International Profiling of the ASEAN Energy Sector

21. On ASEAN's objective to achieve greater international profiling of the ASEAN energy sector, the Ministers acknowledged the positive feedback received from DPs, IOs, and the private sector on the new APAEC and the 4th ASEAN Energy Outlook. They believed that continued efforts to strengthen energy policy analysis and planning in the region will lead to strong support for the implementation of ASEAN's energy cooperation measures in the next five years. The Ministers also welcomed ACE's efforts on the development of the 5th ASEAN Energy Outlook to be published in 2017.
22. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Regional Energy Policy and Planning Sub-sector Network (REPP-SSN) along with ACE's productive collaboration with IRENA and GIZ towards the publication of the ASEAN RE Outlook. The Ministers were encouraged by the findings of the RE Outlook showing that ASEAN's aspirational RE target is achievable through the additional deployment of RE technology options identified under the new RE Outlook's Remap scenario. To close the gap between the regional RE target and baseline RE deployment plans, the Ministers called for additional effort and robust framework from all AMS towards the timely achievement of the ASEAN RE target.
23. In addition, the Ministers welcomed the adoption of the new ASEAN-Russia Energy Cooperation Work Plan 2016-2020, and the enhanced engagement with the United States under the new US-ASEAN Energy Connect initiative, including the Energy Access Forum to be held in Singapore in October 2016. The Ministers also noted the plans to collaborate with the US-ASEAN Business Council to look into human capital development in the ASEAN energy sector.
24. The Ministers also welcomed the continued energy cooperation with the IEA as well as the start of collaborative activities with IRENA and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). ASEAN's collaboration with IRENA in the field of renewable energy is not only to help push for increased integration of RE into the ASEAN Power Grid, but is also fostering better integration of RE planning into ASEAN's energy policy analysis and planning processes.

Building AMS Capabilities for Civilian Nuclear Energy

25. On civilian nuclear energy where the ASEAN's key strategy is to build AMS capabilities on nuclear energy, the Ministers noted the continuing efforts to facilitate information sharing and capacity building to prepare the region in light of some AMS considering the option of nuclear energy for power generation to meet their energy needs. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the enhanced discussions with the IAEA to establish areas of collaboration and looked forward to the conclusion of the proposed three-year ASEAN-IAEA joint work programme.
26. The Ministers were likewise pleased with the increasingly strong collaboration on civilian nuclear energy with ASEAN's DPs, namely (i) Canada, in support of nuclear and radiological security expertise and to strengthen ACE's capacity for coordinating the work of the Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-sector Network (NEC-SSN); (ii) China, in support of capacity building, experience sharing, and other forms of engagement such as joint studies or research on civilian nuclear energy; and, (iii) Japan, in support of human resource development, including training and the conduct of workshops in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation, safeguards and additional protocols.

Recognising Best Practices through the ASEAN Energy Awards

27. The Ministers congratulated the 60 awardees of the ASEAN Energy Awards 2016 recognised in various categories for best practices in renewable energy and energy efficiency and conservation. The awards were given in the areas of: (i) ASEAN Energy Management in Building and Industries with 14 awards out of 32 submissions from seven countries; (ii) ASEAN Energy Efficient Building with 11 awards out of 27 submissions from six countries; (iii) ASEAN Green Building with seven (7) awards out of ten (10) submissions from five countries; (iv) ASEAN Renewable Energy with fifteen (15) awards out of 23 submissions from five countries. In addition, awards for Excellence in Energy Management by Individuals were conferred on 13 senior energy officials in recognition of their significant contributions to the ASEAN energy sector. The annual ASEAN Energy Awards which began in year 2000 has helped to engage private actors, including private developers, industries and large consumers as well as the wider consuming public, in the promotion of best practices in the development and deployment of cleaner and efficient energy.

35th AMEM

28. The Ministers agreed to convene the 35th AMEM in September 2017 in the Philippines. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Myanmar for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made for the 34th AMEM and associated meetings.

ASEAN MINISTERS FOR ENERGY

1. **H.E. Dato Hamdan Abu Bakar**, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam;
2. **H.E. Mr. Suy Sem**, Minister of Mines and Energy of Cambodia;
3. **Mr. Jarman, Ir., MSc.**, Director General of Electricity of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, representing the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia;
4. **H.E. Mr. Viraphonh Viravong**, Vice Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR;
5. **Hon. Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili**, Minister of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia;
6. **H.E. U Pe Zin Tun**, Union Minister of Electricity and Energy of Myanmar;
7. **Mr. Alfonso G. Cusi**, Secretary of Department of Energy of the Philippines;
8. **H.E. Ms. Sim Ann**, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry of Singapore;
9. **H.E. General Anantaporn Kanjanarat**, Minister of Energy of Thailand;
10. **H.E. Dr. Cao Quoc Hung**, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;
and
11. **H.E. Dr. Lim Hong Hin**, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community.