

2021 JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE 39TH ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING

Adopted on 15 September 2021

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1. The 39th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) was hosted virtually by Brunei Darussalam on 15 September 2021. Hon. Dato Seri Setia Dr Awang Hai Mat Suny bin Haji Md Hussein, Minister of Energy of Brunei Darussalam, chaired the Meeting. H.E. Suy Sem, Minister of Mines and Energy of Cambodia was the Vice Chair. The Dialogues with the Heads of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) were conducted in conjunction with the 39th AMEM.

2. In his opening address, the Chair reaffirmed AMEM's commitment to foster economic growth and development for the advancement of the ASEAN Community by 2025. He commended the accomplishments of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase I: 2016-2020, and the robust key strategies of the APAEC Phase II: 2021-2025. Under the theme of Brunei Darussalam's 2021 ASEAN Chairmanship: "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper," the Chair also highlighted the importance of a people-centred and people-oriented ASEAN Community as the region adapts to new norms and circumstances.

JOINT DECLARATION ON ENERGY SECURITY AND ENERGY TRANSITION

3. The Meeting adopted the *Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Declaration of the 39th ASEAN Ministers on Energy on Energy Security and Energy Transition* which reaffirms the shared commitment and collective responsibility of ASEAN Member States in the pursuit of energy security and energy transition, and articulates the huge financial, investment, and technical as well as cross-sectoral and cross-pillar support needed to deploy advanced, cleaner and low carbon energy in the region.

4. The Joint Declaration, which serves as Brunei Darussalam's 2021 Priority Economic Deliverable (PED) on energy, called for concrete actions to develop robust policies and measures, and to strengthen national, bilateral and multilateral energy programmes and projects that enhance energy resilience and improve energy security, in all of its aspects in the region, which form the foundation of an inclusive and just energy transition, in achieving access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. ASEAN will endeavour in the future to explore an aspirational long-term regional target towards lower-emission energy systems that can contribute to lowering greenhouse gas emissions, in accordance with ASEAN Member States' common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

5. The Joint Declaration emphasised that achieving ASEAN's long-term energy security and energy transition agenda cuts across and goes beyond the energy sector, requiring significant focus and resources beyond those involved in pursuing ASEAN energy cooperation in the past. The Joint Declaration also welcomed the strengthened collaboration on sustainable development across relevant sectoral bodies and pillars within the ASEAN community, and encouraged further cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and International Organisations (DPs/IOs) as well as external parties, to channel cooperation and consolidate assistance to ASEAN under various cooperation platforms, in order to support the effective implementation of the APAEC Phase II: 2021-2025.

6. The Meeting welcomed the findings of the Mid-term Review of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint released in May 2021 commending APAEC Phase I's overall implementation rate of 92% as of December 2020, and highlighting the energy sector's progress towards sustainability as it surpassed the region's 2020 energy intensity reduction target and went more than halfway the 2025 aspirational targets for renewable energy share in the ASEAN energy mix. The Meeting also welcomed the key achievements and robust implementation of APAEC Phase II's first year of implementation, with an overall performance score of 3.25 out of 5 as of Q3 2021.

7. The Meeting also welcomed the discussions on the other 2021 Annual Energy Priorities under Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship, namely: (i) the AMEM-Wide Education and Training Exchanges on the Role of Natural Gas in Advancing a Low-Carbon Energy Transition; (ii) the AMEM Workshop on Hydrogen Economy and Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage; (iii) ASEAN Energy Establishments and Climate Change Organizations Cooperation on Energy Issues; and, (iv) Establishing ASEAN Energy Interaction Programmes.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ONGOING EFFORTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

8. On the **ASEAN Power Grid (APG)**, the Meeting appreciated the continuing efforts to expand multilateral electricity trading in the region, which will strengthen grid resilience and modernisation, and promote clean and renewable energy integration. The Meeting noted the actions collectively pursued in 2021 to advance this, including:

- (i) Efforts led by the Heads of ASEAN Power Utilities/Authorities (HAPUA) to accelerate the progress of the APG interconnection projects;
- (ii) Completion of the ASEAN Interconnection Masterplan Study (AIMS) III Phases 1 and 2, which set out the transmission infrastructure needed to support multilateral power trade in ASEAN and renewable energy integration into the APG, led by the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE);
- (iii) Progress of AIMS III Phase 3, which focuses on further development of minimum requirements for multilateral market development, regulatory framework, and grid code and technical standards;
- (iv) Completion of the development of recommendations on the role of ASEAN Energy Regulators Network (AERN) in multilateral power trade (MPT) and the conduct of capacity building activities to support the development of institutional and regulatory capacities at the regional level;
- (v) Progress of the ASEAN Power Grid Consultative Committee (APGCC) on its initiative to review its Terms of Reference, considering the region's deepening efforts towards regional power integration and clarifying the institutional roles and relationships of other APG-related bodies; and,
- (vi) Progress of the consultative meetings among APG-related bodies to develop the required institutional and regulatory capacities to advance MPT.

9. The Meeting welcomed the progress of discussions of the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP). The Meeting also welcomed the Second Joint Statement of LTMS-PIP by Lao PDR, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, in which the four countries reaffirmed their commitment to advancing multilateral cross-border power trade in ASEAN, and looked forward to the early finalisation of all agreements underpinning the LTMS-PIP to commence in 2022. The Meeting expressed their support for the LTMS-PIP as a pathfinder to complement existing efforts towards realising APG and the ASEAN Economic Community, by creating opportunities for multilateral electricity trading in the region.

10. On the **Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP)** programme area, the Meeting emphasised the continuing role of natural gas in the region's cleaner energy future and the need to continue the pursuit of a common gas market for ASEAN by enhancing connectivity and accessibility of gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG). The updates on planned new regasification terminals (RGTs) in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam will allow ASEAN to continue to expand the distribution networks in the region. The Meeting welcomed the updates on the Technical Database on ASEAN Gas Infrastructure which provides technical information on gas pipelines, gas processing plants, LNG liquefaction and RGTs in ASEAN. The Meeting noted the progress on the development of the gas advocacy communication plans prepared by the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE) and looked forward to its implementation.

11. On **Coal and Clean Coal Technology**, the Meeting noted that coal will continue to be significant in the region's fuel input mix in power generation and thus welcomed the establishment of the *ASEAN Centre of Excellence for Clean Coal Technologies (ASEAN COE-CCT)* and looked forward to its virtual launch on 30 September 2021. The ASEAN COE-CCT will facilitate ASEAN's continued efforts to cooperate and find ways for the financing and integration of home-grown clean coal technology (CCT), including high-efficiency-low-emission (HELE) technologies, coal upgrading, coal gasification, biomass co-firing, and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS), in facilitating the region's transition towards a sustainable, low- carbon economy.

12. The Meeting acknowledged the completion of reports on "Regional Approaches for the CCT Promotion in ASEAN" and "ASEAN CO₂ Emission from Coal Fired Power Plants (CFPP): Baseline Study" to explore policy support and technology best practices for CCT and CCUS. The Meeting also noted the continued collaboration with DPs and IOs, such as the ACE-World Coal Association report on "Clean Coal Technology in ASEAN: Balancing Equity, Security, and Sustainability," and called for further strengthening of partnerships.

13. On **Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C)**, the Meeting welcomed the 21.8% energy intensity reduction achieved by ASEAN in 2019 (based on 2005 levels) and encouraged all relevant energy bodies to exert optimum efforts to achieve the APAEC Phase II target of 32% by 2025. The Meeting affirmed that adopting and expanding energy efficiency measures, particularly to buildings, transport, and the industrial sector, will help reduce energy use and emissions in cost-effective ways, while increasing energy security and overall economic productivity.

14. The Meeting noted the launch of the Regional Product Registration Database for Air Conditioners (ACs), the adoption of technical and policy recommendations on the Promotion of Higher Efficient ACs in ASEAN through Harmonisation of Standards and Strengthening of Market Verification and Enforcement Capabilities, and the progress of the Roadmaps Towards Sustainable and Energy Efficient Buildings and Cooling in ASEAN. The Meeting also acknowledged the continuous capacity building activities under EE&C, such as the ASEAN+3 Mitigation Cooperation Programme, ASEAN-Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership (AJEEP), Energy Efficiency Policy and Financing workshop under the ASEAN-German Energy Programme (AGEP), and ACE-IEA webinars on Energy Efficient Buildings and Cooling.

15. On **Renewable Energy**, the Meeting noted that ASEAN achieved a 28.7% share in total installed power capacity and 13.5% RE share in Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) in 2019. Of note, 82% of new power capacity additions in 2020 came from renewable energy. The Meeting further noted that access to RE financing and technology remain crucial to sustain this positive trend and accelerate the scale up of RE deployment in ASEAN.

16. The Meeting welcomed the continued engagement with existing DPs/IOs in the area of RE policy and capacity building, including German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) through AGEF, National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) of Thailand, China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI), and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The Meeting noted ACE's study on "Hydrogen in ASEAN: Economic Prospects, Development and Applications."

17. On **Regional Energy Policy and Planning (REPP)**, the Meeting highlighted the need to accelerate energy transition and strengthen energy resilience in the region, as well as the need to leverage opportunities for innovation and multilateral partnerships to achieve these goals. The Meeting noted the information sharing activities conducted following the publication of the 6th ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEO6) supported by AGEF. The Meeting also noted the successful organisation of workshops on the opportunities and possible pathways for low carbon transition in ASEAN, including the ASEAN-U.S. Workshop on Decarbonisation of the Energy Sector, and the ASEAN-IEA Workshop on Net-Zero Roadmap Report and Applications to ASEAN, held at the sidelines of the 20th REPP Subsector Network (REPP-SSN) Meeting.

18. To this end, the Meeting highlighted the importance of strengthened cooperation within the ASEAN Community to enhance the region's policies, frameworks, and capabilities as an important step towards attracting and scaling up investments in sustainable energy infrastructure and technologies. The Meeting also tasked all relevant energy bodies to strengthen strategic partnerships with DPs/IOs and the private sector to enhance access to energy transition financing and boost investments on sustainable energy in ASEAN. The Meeting noted the continuation of the ASEAN Climate Change and Energy Project (ACCEPT) to support the promotion and information sharing on the energy-climate nexus.

19. On **Civilian Nuclear Energy**, the Meeting commended the efforts on capacity building and public information and awareness on civilian nuclear energy including (i) the launch of the ASEAN Nuclear Energy Portal, (ii) progress of the study "Public Knowledge and Willingness to Accept the Nuclear Power Plant," (iii) Focus Group Discussion on "Existing Studies of Nuclear Power Plant in ASEAN Countries," and (iv) conduct of study on "Nuclear Safety, Security, and Safeguards in ASEAN."

20. The Meeting acknowledged the increased cooperation and engagement with partners, including the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN) of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS), World Nuclear Association (WNA), and ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM). The Meeting noted the need for the partners' activities to be aligned with the APAEC Phase II: 2021-2025, focusing on human resources development on nuclear science and technology for power generation.

10 YEARS OF COOPERATION WITH IEA TO RESPOND TO ASEAN'S ENERGY PRIORITIES

21. The Meeting, at the annual AMEM-IEA Dialogue, expressed appreciation to the IEA for its continued partnership and engagement with ASEAN and its Member States and its support for Brunei Darussalam as 2021 ASEAN Chair. The Meeting welcomed the significant contribution of IEA in promoting energy transitions in the region while maintaining energy security and ensuring the social and economic impacts of the transition are addressed.

22. The Meeting and the IEA reviewed the progress made under the *ASEAN-IEA Three Year Rolling Work Programme 2019-2021*, including support for APAEC Phase I. The Meeting welcomed the continued progress and information sharing on multilateral power trade, renewable integration, hydrogen, CCUS, and energy efficiency, in particular the delivery by ACE and IEA of the ASEAN-IEA work programme on buildings and cooling efficiency, with support from the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Programme (AADCP) II. The Meeting welcomed the 2021 Singapore-IEA Regional Training Programme on Low Carbon Buildings, attended by over 200 participants from all ASEAN Member States. The Meeting endorsed a new *ASEAN-IEA Joint Work Programme 2022-2025*, noting the contribution it can make towards the targets and activities under APAEC Phase II, and called for continued strong cooperation between the ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat, ACE, and the IEA.

23. The Meeting endorsed the *Commemorative Statement on the ASEAN-IEA Energy Collaboration* marking 10 years of cooperation that began formally with the 2011 ASEAN-IEA MoU signed under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting looked forward to the IEA's continued assistance to support ASEAN's key energy priorities under Cambodia's Chairmanship in 2022, including in the areas of energy security, energy efficiency, clean energy, energy investments and decarbonisation.

COOPERATION WITH IRENA TO ADVANCE CLEAN ENERGY AND ENERGY TRANSITION

24. During the AMEM-IRENA Dialogue, the Meeting acknowledged the perspectives offered by IRENA's World Energy Transition Outlook, which presents options to accelerate the global energy transition in line with the Paris Agreement objective to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C and bring carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. IRENA highlighted that, along with renewable energy, electrification and energy efficiency are to be main decarbonisation drivers, enabled by renewables, green hydrogen and sustainable biomass. The Meeting noted IRENA's recommendation that comprehensive policies must be reconciled with a balance between economic growth, environmental sustainability, and human development goals.

25. The Meeting appreciated the progress made in the implementation of the 2018 ASEAN-IRENA MoU in 2020-21 that contributed to the achievement of the APAEC Phase II in accelerating energy transition in the region. This included progress made in the development of the *2nd ASEAN Renewable Energy Outlook: Towards Regional Energy Transition* as well as support to RE project development in ASEAN through the planned Investment Forums in 2022.

26. In addition, the Meeting acknowledged IRENA as a key partner International Organisation for ASEAN and welcomed IRENA's continued collaboration and support for the ASEAN Community in working towards an achievable and sustainable energy transition. The Meeting appreciated IRENA's assistance to ASEAN Member States in enhancing the energy component of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as to Thailand on Sustainable Urban Energy System Planning, and to Malaysia and Indonesia on Energy Transition Outlooks. The Meeting requested ACE and IRENA to work closely together to align the activities with the implementation of APAEC Phase II: 2021 – 2025.

ENHANCING ASEAN'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE U.S. ON ENERGY

27. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the new ASEAN-U.S. Energy Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025 at the SOME-U.S. Consultation this year and looked forward to sustaining areas of engagement in pursuit of expanding capacity within ASEAN Member States to achieve the targets and objectives established under the APAEC 2016-2025, Phase I and II. The work plan covers six (6) of the APAEC programmes in four (4) priority areas: energy security and resilience; renewable, advanced and emerging energy technologies; energy market integration; and natural gas and petroleum.

28. Given the urgent need for global action to address energy issues, AMEM and the U.S. Secretary of Energy held discussions at the 39th AMEM to further enhance ASEAN-U.S. energy cooperation. The Meeting expressed support to deepen cooperation on clean and alternative energy initiatives and energy innovation, including the deployment of technologies that support renewable energy such as energy storage, grid optimisation activities and digitalisation tools as well as modern civilian nuclear energy technologies. The Meeting looked forward to further exchanges and collaboration under this enhanced ASEAN-U.S. energy cooperation.

2021 ASEAN ENERGY AWARDS AND ASEAN ENERGY BUSINESS FORUM

29. The Meeting congratulated the 123 awardees of the ASEAN Energy Awards 2021 recognised for best practices in coal and clean coal technology, energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, excellence in energy management, and youth awards. The awards were given in the areas of: (i) ASEAN Coal (22 awards); (ii) Green Building (5 awards); (iii) ASEAN Energy Efficient Building (21 awards); (iv) ASEAN Energy Management in Buildings and Industries (13 awards); (v) ASEAN Renewable Energy (19 awards); (vi) Awards for Excellence in Energy Management by Individuals conferred to senior energy officials in recognition of their significant contributions to advance ASEAN's energy cooperation goals (8 awards); and (vii) ASEAN Energy Youth Awards, (26 awards), which is jointly organised with Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE)/Korea Energy Agency (KEA). The Meeting also congratulated the additional nine (9) trainers certified under the AJEEP Training of Trainers programme.

30. The Meeting commended the Ministry of Energy of Brunei Darussalam and ACE on the successful organisation of the virtual ASEAN Energy Business Forum (AEBF) 2021, including the 1st ASEAN International Conference on Energy and Environment (AICEE).

40TH AMEM

31. The Meeting looked forward to the 40th AMEM in 2022 to be hosted by Cambodia via virtual platform.

The Meeting expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam for hosting the 39th AMEM and its Associated Meetings.
