

# 2020 JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN+3 (CHINA, JAPAN, AND KOREA) MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING

*Adopted on 20 November 2020*

*“Energy Transition Towards Sustainable Development”*

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Seventeenth ASEAN+3 (China, Japan, and Korea) Ministers on Energy Meeting (17th AMEM+3) was held virtually on 20 November 2020. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dang Hoang An, Vice-Minister of Industry and Trade, Vietnam, Vietnam and co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Lin Shanqing, Vice Administrator of National Energy Administration (NEA) of The People’s Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Ejima Kiyoshi, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, and H.E. Mr. Youngjoon Joo, Deputy Minister for Energy and Resources, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was also attended by the Ministers of Energy of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.
2. The Ministers affirmed that the ASEAN+3 countries are committed to pursue sustainable post-pandemic economic recovery measures in the energy sector by strengthening partnership and innovation towards energy security, energy transition, and energy resilience. The Ministers noted the efforts to strengthen resiliency by balancing the economic cost and risk of supply disruption while looking at the optimum balance between national security and economic recovery. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of realistic and pragmatic energy policy by utilising all energy sources and all technologies for achieving both goals of economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing emissions of greenhouse gas. The Ministers also welcomed the recent announcement by the Plus Three countries towards net-zero emissions and looked forward to sharing of information and experience on the relevant energy policies.
3. The Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II: 2021-2025 by the 38<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and reiterated their strong support in its implementation through various activities such as knowledge and information exchange, capacity building programmes, joint research and publications, and demonstration projects.

## ENERGY SECURITY

4. The Ministers expressed their appreciation towards Cambodia and Japan for hosting the 17th ASEAN+3 Energy Security Forum held virtually on 30 September 2020, which noted that industry, transportation, and building sectors will be dominating the end-use consumption, with coal and oil as the major energy supply sources in the region. The Ministers encouraged to continue information exchange on energy trends and outlook in the ASEAN+3 region, and to promote stronger cooperation in oil, natural gas, coal, civilian nuclear energy, and energy safety management.
5. The Ministers noted that the COVID-19 pandemic brought in unprecedented challenges for the region’s energy sector, such as falling electricity demand, cuts in oil refinery and exploration projects, and delays in renewable energy project development. The Ministers reconfirmed the importance of a stable supply of affordable and clean energy to support economic activities and daily life. The Ministers recognised that energy transition in ASEAN is focusing not only on shifting from fossil fuel to renewables, but also to affordable, reliable, and resilient cleaner energy options and technology towards post-pandemic recovery.
6. The Ministers expressed their appreciation towards Cambodia and Japan for hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> Oil Stockpiling Roadmap (OSRM), which was held virtually on 29 September 2020 and further noted the recommendations to align the OSRM activities with APAEC Phase II: 2021 - 2025, such as to continue information sharing and best practices on oil stockpiling between ASEAN+3, and to

explore online cooperation during the COVID-19 situation, especially for the needs research and country visits such as through online platform. The Ministers noted that AMS are improving their policies and guidelines to enhance their Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) system. The Ministers also noted the conduct of Capacity Building on Oil Security on 17 – 20 February 2020 which was jointly organized by the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC), which focuses on addressing the challenges for oil stockpiling development in ASEAN Member States (AMS).

7. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN+3 countries are actively promoting the deployment of Clean Coal Technology (CCT) for supporting the transition towards a low-carbon economy. The Ministers encouraged further cooperation on CCT, Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS), and Carbon Recycling through dissemination of best practices, focus group discussions, policy workshops, and research, development, and demonstration projects. The Ministers encouraged the Plus Three Countries to continue to support the ASEAN Forum on Coal (AFOC) in the implementation of the APAEC Phase II: 2021 – 2025. The Ministers welcomed the Joint Policy Brief and Study on the New Role of Coal-Fired Power Plants in the Era of Energy Transition prepared by ACE and Japan Coal Energy Centre (JCOAL). The Ministers appreciated the support of China and Japan on CCT through technology advancement and policy support.
8. The Ministers acknowledged the continuing collaboration on nuclear energy literacy, public acceptance and awareness, and human capacity building on nuclear science and technology in the ASEAN+3 countries. The Ministers noted the importance of nuclear safety, security, and safeguards with regard to civilian nuclear power developments in the ASEAN+3 countries, and looked forward to the initiatives from Japan Atomic Energy Agency's (JAEA) Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN) to conduct capacity building activities on nuclear security, safeguards and state system of accounting for and control (SSAC) of nuclear material, and an international non-proliferation framework. The Ministers encouraged the countries to continue to leverage the ASEAN+3 mechanism for sharing best practices and experience in the development of civilian nuclear energy for power generation including Small Modular Reactors (SMR).

## **OIL MARKET AND NATURAL GAS FORUM AND BUSINESS DIALOGUE**

9. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Cambodia and Japan for hosting the 9th ASEAN+3 Oil Market and Natural Gas Forum, which was held virtually on 28 September 2020. The Ministers appreciated the information sharing on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to the oil and gas sector and the plans for sustainable recovery in ASEAN+3 Countries. The Ministers encouraged to continue information sharing on policy updates, best practices and experiences, and business opportunities in the ASEAN+3 oil and gas sector, especially on response to the COVID-19 impact and the post-pandemic sustainable recovery plans.
10. The Ministers expressed their concerns on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which affected the development and feasibility of oil refinery and liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure projects in ASEAN+3 region which also brought about socio-economic issues such as job losses. The Ministers encouraged the ASEAN+3 countries to bolster cooperation amongst the government, financial institutions, and private sector in enabling greater access to financing towards achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery.
11. The Ministers emphasised the essential role of oil and natural gas in improving energy security and the role of natural gas in supporting the gradual transition towards low carbon future. The Ministers encouraged the ASEAN+3 countries to explore the growing potential and interest by fostering technological innovation for decarbonisation and digitalisation in the oil and gas value chain, including small-scale LNG, LNG bunkering, hydrogen, and CCUS.
12. The Ministers noted that gas demand is increasing substantially in the region and encouraged countries in the region to further study the expected economic and environmental benefits of using natural gas. The Ministers also reiterated the importance of a strong and visible commitment to increase the utilisation of natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) and infrastructure development which would support the growth of natural gas and LNG markets in the region. The

Ministers noted the initiative of Japan to conduct the 9<sup>th</sup> LNG Producer Consumer Conference 2020, held virtually on 12 October 2020.

## **NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION**

13. The Ministers expressed appreciation towards the Philippines and Japan for organising the 14th ASEAN+3 New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Forum on 28 November 2019 in Makati City, Philippines. The Ministers acknowledged the progress and initiatives of the cooperation and encouraged the ASEAN+3 countries to initiate tangible projects, such as but not limited to hydrogen economy, electric vehicle, digitalisation, Internet of Things (IoT) in the energy efficiency of transport sector, corporate value to promote climate actions and Environmental and Social Governance (ESG), waste-to-energy, smart communities and grid system, ocean renewable energy, and offshore wind.
14. The Ministers welcomed the continuation of the cooperation between Korea Energy Agency (KEA) and ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) on the ASEAN+3 Mitigation Cooperation Programme including the conduct of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Action Plan Working Group (APWG) Meetings, Capacity Building Workshop, and Pre-Feasibility Study on Energy Efficiency System For Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. The Ministers encouraged the establishment of EE programmes and expansion of EE markets in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar.
15. The Ministers appreciated the continuous support and involvement of Japan in the development of ASEAN EE&C capabilities through the ASEAN Japan Energy Efficiency Partnership (AJEEP) and Energy Conservation Workshop under AJEEP Programme (ECAP) implemented jointly by Energy Conservation Center Japan (ECCJ) and ACE. The Ministers noted the two (2) year extension by 2021 and support of METI Japan to the AJEEP Scheme 2 on Training of Trainers (TOT) for energy managers in the AMS. The Ministers welcomed the steady progress on the development of legislation on energy efficiency which has been made in Lao PDR and Cambodia through AJEEP Scheme 3 programme.
16. The Ministers welcomed Japan's proposal on the capacity building programme related to Energy Management System (EMS) utilized for Demand-Response (DR) and Virtual Power Plant (VPP), and communication protocol for IoT appliances control at the 19<sup>th</sup> SOME+3 EPGG on 12 October 2020.
17. The Ministers welcomed the 1st Government-Private Forum on Cleaner Energy Future Initiative for ASEAN (CEFIA) which was held on 27 November 2019 in Makati City, Philippines. The Ministers noted the mission statement of CEFIA and encouraged the ASEAN+3 Countries to realize the flagship projects such as Zero Energy Building (ZEB), RENKEI control, Renewable Energy Hybrid Micro-Grid Technologies. With a view for contributing to the implementation of APAEC Phase II:2021-2025, the Ministers reiterated the need for further strengthening cooperation in the implementation of the CEFIA flagship projects and looked forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> CEFIA Forum.
18. The Ministers welcomed the activities on promoting hydrogen utilisation in the region and the research project on Electrified Vehicle policy, especially the study on "Well to Wheel" impact on ASEAN countries implemented between ASEAN and Japan.
19. The Ministers appreciated the support of Korea Energy Agency to the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Energy Youth Awards jointly organised by ACE and Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO). The Ministers looked forward to the continuation of the awards and encouraged youth participation in the energy sector.

## CLEAN ENERGY ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE

20. The Ministers appreciated Vietnam and China for hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN+3 Clean Energy Roundtable Dialogue which was held virtually on 30 October 2020. The Ministers noted the outcomes and recommendations of the dialogue through case sharing and pathway discussion on the implementation of high proportion renewable energy (RE), including enhancing RE applications and existing RE policies. The Ministers noted that the Dialogue was a platform to promote and enhance collaboration on clean energy. The Ministers noted that the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Clean Energy Roundtable Dialogue would be held in China in 2021 back to back with the 5<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Clean Energy Forum.
21. The Ministers noted the reports on "*Practical Experience and Prospects for Energy Accessibility in ASEAN*" and "*The Roadmap for Innovative Scale Development of Solar PV in AMS and the Suggested Applications*" jointly carried out by ACE and China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI) and released during the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN+3 Clean Energy Roundtable Dialogue, which could be a reference for promoting the energy access progress and renewable energy deployment especially solar PV in the region.
22. The Ministers noted China's activity on the "Approach to Increase the Share of Solar PV Capacity in ASEAN" which serves as a platform for information sharing and exchanging of ideas in assisting AMS to achieve the 35% RE target in installed power capacity in 2025, which will contribute to achieving the aspirational RE target of 23% in Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) by 2025. The Ministers also welcomed the proposed activities to explore the applicability of solar in diverse forms including distributed solar, hydro-solar hybrid system, floating solar, PV in combination with agriculture, fishery, energy storage, etc in ASEAN, and best practices. The Ministers recognised the positive contribution of the China-ASEAN Clean Energy Capacity Building Programme and will provide consistent support to the Programme.
23. The Ministers noted China's initiatives on "To Boost ASEAN Wind Growth Potential with New Tech" and "To Enhance Maturity of Floating Solar Market in ASEAN" and the joint proposal on "Utilisation of Solar PV to Support the Green Economic Recovery in ASEAN Post COVID-19" to be conducted by ACE and CREEI in 2021, and looked forward to the relevant activities.

## NEXT MEETING

24. The delegations of the ASEAN+3 countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and ACE expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Vietnam for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting.
25. The Ministers agreed to meet again in 2021 in Brunei Darussalam for the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Ministers on Energy Meeting.