

2021 JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF THE 15TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING

Adopted on 16 September 2021

1. The Fifteenth East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (15th EAS EMM) was hosted virtually by Brunei Darussalam on 16 September 2021. The Meeting was chaired by the Hon. Dato Seri Setia Dr Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md Hussein, Minister of Energy of Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting was attended by EAS participating countries from the ASEAN Member States (AMS), Australia, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), New Zealand, and the United States of America (U.S.). The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community was also in attendance.

2. The Meeting held a special session to exchange views on strategic, policy and practical cooperation initiatives needed to advance the global climate sustainability agenda and decarbonisation in the energy sector. EAS participating countries took the opportunity to brief the Meeting on key aspects of their respective transition plans, policies, major initiatives, challenges and ongoing learnings as well as the integration of energy transition into their pandemic recovery efforts. They also discussed the importance of promoting green growth, sustainable development and economic opportunities arising from energy transition and climate action in line with global efforts to implement the Paris Agreement.

3. The Meeting acknowledged the newly adopted Bandar Seri Begawan Joint Declaration of the 39th ASEAN Energy Ministers Meeting on Energy Security and Energy Transition, which called for concrete actions to enhance energy resilience and improve energy security to form the foundation of an inclusive and just energy transition and where 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' different national circumstances and economic needs.

4. On the work streams under the EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF), the Meeting was pleased with the implementation of concrete initiatives to foster EAS energy cooperation. The EAS EMM affirmed the continuing importance of the EAS energy platform not only to implement joint efforts but also to explore trends, barriers and opportunities affecting areas of common interest. They appreciated the ECTF's efforts to work towards energy security and to support energy transitions and a sustainable energy future for the region.

5. On the 'Energy Efficiency and Conservation' work stream, the Meeting noted the progress of activities implemented under the initiatives on distributed energy systems (DES), energy savings potential, and roadmap formulation to promote energy efficiency technologies for EAS participating countries. They looked forward to the resumption of energy audits by Japan that was paused last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. On the 'Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes' work stream, the Meeting looked forward to the results of the Joint Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) study on the Analysis of EAS Future Mobility Fuel Scenario considering the sustainable use of biofuels and other alternative vehicle fuels. The Meeting noted that the consumer surveys underway in Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, and Viet Nam are helping understand consumer awareness and attitudes towards renewable energy, including consumer willingness-to-pay for higher shares of renewable electricity supply. The Meeting looked forward to the results of similar surveys in Indonesia and follow-up analysis in Malaysia.

7. On the 'Renewable and Alternative Power Generation' work stream, the Meeting welcomed the continued focus on innovative and emerging renewable energy technologies and noted the progress of the Brunei Darussalam Wind Power PreFeasibility Study, following the installation of a LiDAR System this year to investigate wind data in Brunei Darussalam. On promoting floating solar applications in the ASEAN region, the Meeting welcomed the successful organisation of the Webinar on Floating Solar in ASEAN: Outlook, Policies, Opportunities and Challenges held 26 August 2021. The Meeting looked forward to the launch of the 5th East Asia Summit Clean Energy Forum, which will be held in Chengdu, Sichuan, China.

8. The Meeting recognised the importance of accelerating the development and deployment of innovative, scalable, and efficient technologies to advance the pathways for achieving an affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. The Meeting noted that there is no single pathway to achieve a low carbon economy, but rather there are diverse paths for each country. The Meeting emphasised the need for EAS members to explore a variety of options and utilise all technologies and fuels to ensure a stable and secure supply of energy for achieving economic growth.

9. The Meeting noted the importance of mobilising finance, technology access and innovation to accelerate energy transitions, and welcomed Japan's 'Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI)', which includes a wide range of support for energy transitions in Asia, such as the 10 billion USD financial facility to support technology development and deployment, and human resource development through various training workshops, studies and reports, and knowledge sharing activities. The Meeting noted Japan's related initiative to convene the Asia Green Growth Partnership Ministerial Meeting in October 2021.

10. The Meeting recognised the role that some parties see for natural gas in helping transition the region's economies towards a low carbon future while improving energy security. They noted the efforts towards the utilisation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the development of infrastructure to support LNG markets in the region. The Meeting acknowledged the support of Japan and Russia and the past support of the U.S. for the EAS members in terms of capacity building in the LNG value-chain; finance mechanisms in LNG infrastructure and related services; and, continuing development of conditions for the relaxation of destination restrictions. The Meeting also noted the conduct of the Capacity Building Workshop: Promoting Use of Natural Gas as Ecological Friendly Fuel in Transport Sector, Households and Industries organised by the Russian Energy Agency in July 2021.

11. On the promotion of innovative technologies and low carbon societies, the Meeting expressed appreciation to Japan for its continued advocacy on the development of hydrogen and mobility decarbonisation technologies. Recognising the importance of promoting carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) and carbon recycling, the Meeting noted the successful launch of the Asia CCUS Network during the 1st CCUS Network Forum co-hosted by ERIA and METI-Japan last June 2021. They looked forward to the capacity building activities, and case studies under this initiative.

12. The Meeting noted the contributions of ERIA towards energy policy research activities in the EAS region through the implementation of the rolling 3-year Roadmap on EAS Mid-Term Energy Policy Research for 2019-2021, including analyses on the impact of the pandemic on the EAS region and the updated EAS energy outlook, as well as the voluntary preliminary scenario building analyses on low carbon energy transition roadmaps conducted with the Institute of Energy Economics, of Japan (IEEJ). The Meeting also welcomed the successful convening of the 4th East Asia Energy Forum (EAEF4) focusing on the low carbon energy transition in the ASEAN region on 13 September 2021 organised by ERIA and Brunei Darussalam and noted the "Brunei Reflections from the EAEF4".

13. The Meeting welcomed the ASEAN-U.S. Workshop on Decarbonisation of the Energy Sector, co-organised by Singapore with the U.S. Department of State and the Department of Energy on 25 May 2021. The Meeting noted the extensive discussions on the role of hydrogen and energy storage systems which will contribute to ASEAN's clean energy transitions.

14. The Meeting looked forward to the next 16th EAS EMM Meeting in 2022 to be hosted by Cambodia via virtual platform. The delegations from EAS participating countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Centre for Energy expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam for hosting the virtual meeting.

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