

CHAIRMAN STATEMENT OF THE 18th EAST ASIA SUMMIT ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING

Vientiane, Lao PDR, 27 September 2024

1. The Eighteenth East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (18th EAS EMM) was hosted by the Ministry of Energy and Mines of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) on 27 September 2024, in Vientiane, Lao PDR. H.E. Phosay Sayasone, Minister of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR, chaired the Meeting. The Meeting was attended by EAS participating countries from ASEAN Member States (AMS), Australia, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America (US). The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was also in attendance. The Meeting also welcomed the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Timor-Leste as Observer.
2. The Meeting recognised that the EAS region is facing emerging energy challenges, including rising energy demand, energy security concerns, and the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions in line with global climate commitments. With heavy reliance on fossil fuels, the ASEAN region concurred to navigate the transition to cleaner energy sources while ensuring energy security, affordability, and accessibility.
3. The Meeting decided to collaborate in supporting ASEAN in achieving the regional target through the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC). This includes collaboration to support the ASEAN sustainability agenda, including the Framework for Circular Economy, ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework. The Meeting underscored the importance of aligning sustainability agenda and strategic frameworks within the energy sector to foster a unified and forward-looking approach to regional development.

Progress on EAS Workstreams to Support the Advancement of Energy Development in the ASEAN Region

4. The Meeting engaged in a comprehensive exchange of views on the progress, achievements, and future plans concerning key energy initiatives, including Biofuels for Transport, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Renewable and Alternative Power Generation Work Streams. The Meeting discussed the accomplishments made thus far in promoting biofuels as a sustainable alternative for transport and enhancing energy efficiency measures across the region. The Meeting also reviewed the advancements in renewable and alternative power generation, highlighting the importance of these initiatives in reducing emissions and supporting ASEAN's energy transition goals.
5. Regarding the **biofuels for transport and other purposes**, the Meeting acknowledged the outcomes of a study on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus for

sustainable biomass utilisation, conducted by relevant research institutions. It was noted that a long-term strategy is essential to address the challenges related to biomass utilisation in the context of food, water, and land use. The Meeting encouraged stronger collaboration with international partners to share best practices in bioenergy, aiming to enhance energy security while addressing broader sustainability concerns.

6. On the topic of **energy efficiency and conservation**, the Meeting took note of the findings from the Energy Outlook and Energy Saving Potential report for the region. The Meeting welcomed the upcoming Joint Energy Efficiency Workshop to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which will feature discussions on energy efficiency policies, legal frameworks, and advanced technologies such as Zero Emission Buildings (ZEB), heat pumps, digitalisation, and thermal storage.
7. With regard to **renewable and alternative power generation**, the Meeting noted the completion of research on solar rooftop development and business models in an industrial complex in the region. Capacity-building initiatives, such as a seminar on co-firing technologies using ammonia and hydrogen, as well as energy storage systems, were highlighted. The Meeting also acknowledged the successful convening of regional forums and events focused on clean energy, such as the East Asia Energy Forum and the Clean Energy Week, which facilitated knowledge-sharing and collaboration.
8. On **new cooperation and initiatives**, the Meeting took note of a study focused on inclusive and sustainable development in the region, which highlighted the need to diversify energy sources and improve financial solutions. By prioritising investments in renewable energy, ASEAN countries can enhance both domestic and regional energy security while contributing to global sustainability efforts. Additionally, the Meeting acknowledged ongoing collaborations on projects such as the Low-carbon Energy Technologies Roadmap, improvements to the Petroleum Security Agreement, and advancements in coal transition technologies.

Strengthening Regional Energy Connectivity and Resilience through an Improved Power, Oil and Gas Exchange

9. The Meeting engaged in a comprehensive exchange of views on key developments and policy initiatives aimed at strengthening regional energy connectivity and resilience. With a growing emphasis on cross-border electricity trade, the APG was highlighted as a cornerstone for advancing multilateral power exchange across the ASEAN Member States. The discussion also underscored the importance of diversifying energy sources, enhancing grid stability, and improving infrastructure to address the rising energy demand and secure sustainable and affordable energy for the region. The Meeting welcomed the progress of the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP) and Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines (BIMP-PIP) towards realising the shared benefits of cross border power trading to the region.

10. The Meeting looked forward to the next 19th EAS EMM Meeting in 2025 to be hosted by Malaysia.
11. The delegations from EAS participating countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the ACE expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Lao PDR for the excellent hosting of the meeting.

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