



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT OF THE TWENTIETH EAST ASIA SUMMIT ENERGY MINISTERS' MEETING (20th EAS EMM)

8 October 2026, Metro Manila, Philippines

1. The Twentieth East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting (20th EAS EMM) was convened on 8 October 2026 in Metro Manila, Philippines. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Sharon S. Garin, Secretary of the Department of Energy of the Republic of the Philippines and attended by Energy Ministers and representatives from the ASEAN Member States, together with Australia, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. Also present were representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), relevant ASEAN energy bodies and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
2. The Meeting commended the Philippines' leadership in advancing ASEAN's energy priorities in 2026. The Meeting reaffirmed the important role of the EAS EMM as an ASEAN-led platform for strengthening practical and mutually beneficial cooperation among EAS Participating Countries to advance energy security, affordability, accessibility, reliability, long term energy development and resilience, while supporting economic growth and development across the region.

Strengthening Energy Security and Resilience amid an Evolving Global Landscape

3. The Meeting exchanged views on recent regional and global energy developments and recognised that evolving geopolitical circumstances, increasing energy demand, market volatility and potential disruptions to energy supply chains continue to underscore the importance of strengthening regional energy security and resilience, including through fuel reserve systems and response measures, and cooperation on regional interconnectivity. The Meeting emphasised the importance of maintaining accessible, stable, and reliable energy supply chains, pursuing uninterrupted energy flows, including by maintaining secure and open sea lanes, ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight, and the safe and unimpeded, and continuous transit passage of vessels and aircraft in the straits used for international navigation and preserving the unimpeded flow of essential goods, including energy, in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
4. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed continued cooperation among EAS Participating Countries to strengthen energy security, diversification, emergency preparedness and responses, information and knowledge sharing, energy efficiency and demand-side measures that retain optionality for consumers, regional energy connectivity, and the development and deployment of reliable energy technologies. The Meeting acknowledged the value of engagement between consuming and producing countries, recognising that a broad range of energy sources and technologies may contribute to energy security and support diverse national energy priorities, considering different national circumstances, priorities, development needs and respective energy resource endowments.

5. The Meeting took note of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2026–2030, under the theme chosen by ASEAN “Advancing Regional Cooperation in Ensuring Energy Security and Accelerating Decarbonisation for a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition”. The Meeting discussed opportunities for EAS Participating Countries to contribute, based on their respective expertise and comparative advantages, through technology cooperation, policy dialogue, capacity building, investment, energy finance, and voluntary knowledge exchange on mutually agreed terms.
6. The Meeting welcomed the launch of the 9th ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEO9) and noted that ASEAN’s energy demand is projected to reach around four times current levels by 2060, driven by economic growth, urbanisation, industrialisation and emerging sources of demand, including data centres. The Meeting further noted that achieving this growing demand while ensuring a secure, reliable, affordable and resilient energy supply could require investment of around USD 400 billion annually, while delivering longer-term benefits for ASEAN. In this regard, the Meeting committed to strengthen cooperation on technology, capacity building and investment mobilisation to advance ASEAN’s energy security, independence, and future long-term energy development, in line with APAEC 2026–2030, and in accordance with respective national laws and regulations.

Connecting the Region for a More Secure and Resilient Energy Future

7. The Meeting underscored the importance of enhancing regional energy interconnectivity to strengthen security, resilience and economic development. The Meeting reaffirmed support for the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), development of cross-border power interconnections, and regional pipeline connectivity, including Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP), regional cooperation on submarine power cables, including the ongoing discussion on the ASEAN Submarine Power Cable Development Framework, and efforts to facilitate greater multilateral and multidirectional electricity trade through initiatives including the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP).
8. The Meeting welcomed continued support from EAS Participating Countries and relevant partners for the APG, including through project preparation, technical assistance, regulatory cooperation, capacity building, financing and investment mobilisation. The Meeting noted the progress of the ASEAN Power Grid Financing Initiative (APGF) and the Partnership for ASEAN Energy Connectivity (PACE) in bringing together governments, development partners, multilateral development banks, financial institutions and the private sector to support the development of bankable cross-border energy infrastructure projects. The Meeting also welcomed ERIA’s ongoing technical studies and policy dialogue on ASEAN–India regional power connectivity.
9. The Meeting further recognised the importance of secure, reliable and resilient energy infrastructure, including strengthening and modernising power grids, to improve system functionality, reliability, and security, accommodate additional reliable power generation, and enable smart grids, energy storage systems, grid flexibility solutions, digital technologies and cross-border interconnections. The Meeting encouraged further practical cooperation to strengthen the reliability and resilience of critical energy infrastructure and to facilitate the integration of a diverse range of energy resources.

Advancing Practical Technology Cooperation through Various Pathways

10. The Meeting recognised that EAS Participating Countries pursue various pathways towards meeting growing energy demand, strengthening energy security and their respective energy development priorities, reflecting their national circumstances, priorities and capabilities. The Meeting recognised the benefits of practical cooperation across a broad range of energy sources and technologies, as appropriate that can contribute to secure, affordable, reliable, resilient energy systems, aligned with APAEC 2026-2030, and consistent with the highest relevant international safety and security standards. The Meeting encouraged such cooperation to remain open, inclusive, voluntary, mutually beneficial and responsive to the needs and priorities of participating countries.
11. The Meeting noted the progress made under the EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (EAS ECTF) and the continued implementation of its work streams:
 - the Philippines' work on sustainable biofuels and biomass utilisation, supported by ERIA through its water–energy–food nexus research;
 - China's continued support for voluntary knowledge exchange on mutually agreed terms through the EAS Clean Energy Forum in areas such as clean energy, power grid interconnection, innovative energy storage, and the mutual recognition of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs);
 - the Republic of Korea's cooperation on renewable and alternative power generation, smart grids, grid modernisation and energy storage, as well as its Resilient and Integrated Strategy for Energy Security in Asia (RISE ASIA) in partnership with the International Energy Agency (IEA), to support regional information sharing, crisis preparedness, and to advance electrification;
 - the Russian Federation's cooperation with ASEAN on energy statistics and capacity building through the ASEAN-Russia Capacity Building on Energy Statistics project;
 - Australia's support for the ASEAN Power Grid through the Aus4ASEAN Futures Initiative and as an anchor partner to the Asian Development Bank Regional Connectivity Fund for Energy in Southeast Asia;
 - New Zealand's continued support for regional geothermal cooperation, including through voluntary knowledge exchange on mutually agreed terms, technical cooperation and capacity building; and
 - the United States' continued cooperation and technical assistance on the ASEAN Power Grid, submarine power cables, civilian nuclear energy, LNG market development, and cross-border electricity trade to support regional energy security, resilience, and economic growth.
12. The Meeting also recognised the importance of advancing clean cooking by promoting access to affordable, reliable and safe clean cooking fuels and technologies, consistent with national circumstances, needs and priorities and respective international commitments.

Mobilising Investment, Innovation and Knowledge for Regional Energy Cooperation

13. The Meeting recognised that substantial investment and stronger partnerships will be required to meet the region's growing energy demand, strengthen infrastructure and support national energy priorities, taking into account different circumstances. The Meeting encouraged strengthened engagement among governments, the private sector, financial institutions, multilateral development banks, research institutions and

development partners to facilitate investment mobilisation, project development, risk mitigation, capacity building and voluntary access to appropriate technologies on mutually agreed terms.

14. The Meeting highlighted the importance of fostering an enabling environment for innovation and technology deployment and encouraged continued technology cooperation and voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, together with capacity building, research collaboration and exchange of experiences. The Meeting also recognised the growing role of digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence in enhancing energy system planning, efficiency, reliability and resilience.
15. The Meeting noted the continued policy research and analytical support provided by ACE and ERIA to ASEAN and EAS Participating Countries. The Meeting also noted ERIA's contributions to regional research and policy dialogue on energy planning, financing and technology deployment in support of ASEAN's energy priorities. The Meeting encouraged ACE and ERIA to further strengthen evidence-based research, policy dialogue and technical cooperation on regional energy security, emerging technologies, regional electricity markets, and other areas supportive of APAEC 2026–2030.
16. The Meeting noted the second phase of the Singapore-United States Joint Feasibility Study on Regional Energy focusing on the legal and governance frameworks as well as the financing and investment models needed to facilitate regional interconnectivity and strengthen energy security. To support regional grid resilience and modernisation, Singapore and United States will co-host the Spotlight US Forum on “Powering Data Centers and Strengthening Grids – The Next Decade” at the Singapore International Energy Week from 26 – 30 October 2026.
17. The Meeting noted Japan's continued cooperation with ASEAN regarding energy efficiency and conservation, as well as support for strengthening of energy supply systems, including building voluntary crude oil stockpiling and release systems under Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience Asia (POWER Asia), in support of ASEAN's energy priorities.

Deepening EAS Energy Cooperation

18. The Meeting acknowledged the continued relevance of the EAS ECTF as a key platform for practical energy cooperation among EAS Participating Countries. The Meeting encouraged future cooperation to be practical, demand-driven, action-oriented and complementary to existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, with particular attention to initiatives that strengthen electrification, energy security and resilience, regional energy connectivity, cooperation on various energy technology, investment mobilisation, human capital development and implementation of APAEC 2026–2030.
19. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening regional energy cooperation with ASEAN at its centre, and encouraged EAS Participating Countries to continue working together constructively to promote secure, affordable, accessible, reliable and resilient energy systems that contribute to shared prosperity and economic growth in the region, in line with APAEC 2026-2030.
20. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Government of the Philippines for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in hosting the 20th EAS EMM and its associated meetings. The Meeting noted with appreciation that the 21st EAS EMM will be hosted

by Singapore in 2027 and looked forward to continuing discussions and practical cooperation to advance shared regional energy priorities.

-