

## Foreword

Myanmar is endowed with rich natural resources in quantities that, if fully developed, would be sufficient to meet most of the country's daily energy needs. Myanmar's energy policy is generally aimed at ensuring energy independence by increasing national production of available primary energy resources through intensive exploration and development activities. Myanmar also acknowledges electricity as the main power source driving economic development and it addresses the need to generate and distribute more power in terms of greater volumes, density, and reliability. Myanmar's natural gas will play a very important role in Myanmar's future. Although Myanmar has been a major producer of natural gas in Asia, the country has not fully utilised natural gas for its own uses. As energy demand is expected to increase significantly in the future, Myanmar will need to have a clear policy direction towards its resource uses, including the natural gas development for both import and export. However, natural gas is expected to have a larger share of the primary energy mix, just after oil, by 2040.

Thus, Myanmar's natural gas will play a greater role in providing energy security as the country will be exposed to increasing energy demand in all sectors particularly gas consumption in the power sector and industries. Myanmar's oil and gas sector faces several challenges that will have to be overcome to ensure its sustainability. Domestic gas will need to be managed effectively to secure a stable supply to businesses and end-use consumers.

The Natural Gas Master Plan is designed to be the country's long-term plan as it should ensure sustainable energy sector development and conserving the environment sustainably. It also necessitates adopting national strategies for a sustainable and reliable energy supply, ultimately complementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals of 2015. Natural gas has become the preferred fuel in Myanmar in terms of available reserves, environmentally friendly electricity generation, as well as the development of industry. Thus, the natural gas demand cannot be realised without infrastructure development. That is why the Natural Gas Master Plan places such high importance on energy infrastructure development such as investment in and development of the upstream sector, the pipeline sector, the LNG sector, and city gas as well.

The Natural Gas Master Plan provides us with a clearer view of the most likely future energy landscape including key trends that are likely to shape Myanmar’s energy mix over the next 20 years. Natural gas will serve as a backbone for fueling economic growth as we look to the decades ahead.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy of Union of Myanmar (MOEE) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) have carried out this valuable study, which will serve Myanmar’s energy security interests by utilising natural gas development for sustainable economic growth.

The MOEE and ERIA look forward to further fruitful cooperation on energy policy support for Myanmar, so the country can use its resources to steer economic growth in a sustainable way.



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December, 2018



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I also congratulate ERIA on producing sound estimates of natural gas supply, demand, and trade balances up to 2040. I am very impressed with the results of this master plan for what infrastructure to develop to ensure that the supply of Natural Gas or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) meets future demand. I firmly believe that this plan provides a stable, sustainable, and reliable energy supply to ensure long-term economic stability.

Myanmar's pipeline network is becoming a pressing issue for the government. We are aware that the role of natural gas is vital for the economic development of the country and we need to adopt the comprehensive and integrated Master Plan. We hope that it will become the foundation for the long-term sustainable development of the energy sector.

I would like to express our appreciation to all the energy ministries concerned, the Steering and Working Committee members of the Natural Gas Master Plan, ERIA, and IEEJ, for their efforts and cooperation during the planning process and the Gas Master Plan Study.

After this planning process, we have to embark on the implementation phase of the Natural Gas Master Plan. The Ministry will count on ERIA's participation to help guide this plan's implementation and we are hoping to receive ERIA's continuous support and cooperation in our upcoming energy development activities.



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