

ERIA energises Lao officials' statistics capacity

Times Reporters

Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia (ERIA) has supported Laos in building capacity of technical officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mines and line agencies in terms of energy statistics.

Officials from Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and Electricite du Laos (EDL) and other line agencies are attending a five-day course on data preparation for energy statistics in Vientiane.

ERIA has paid close attention to supporting the CLMV countries in building human resources and the capacity of civil servants.

The Lao Energy Statistics Project 2017 runs from June to December.

Following the project a statistics publication was expected to be circulated to the public and media in December, the special advisor on energy affairs to president of ERIA, Mr Shigeru Kimura said.

"We are currently providing capacity building

to staff from Ministry of Energy and Mines and line agencies who are involved in this energy statistics project," he said.

"This year we support technical staff capacity building, but next year they can do it by themselves and that will be very beneficial for Laos," he added.

So far, ERIA has conducted training in Cambodia and after supporting Laos will move to Myanmar.

The work will involve energy data collection from

line ministries, and also energy surveys for the final energy consumption sector which consists of industry, transportation, residential and commercial subsectors.

Mr Kimura mentioned that Laos needed good data to set appropriate energy policy which included understanding the current position of energy.

Laos produced some appropriate energy policies such as for renewables and the supply of biogas so statistical data was needed, he said.



Mr Shigeru Kimura along with trainers and trainees pose for a group photo during the course.

Prior to the course, ERIA's delegation paid a courtesy visit to Minister of Energy and Mines Dr Khammany Inthirath.

Dr Khammany expressed deep appreciation for ERIA's support in Lao energy statistics, and expressed his wish to jointly launch the survey project publication later this year.

The first ever publication on Lao Energy Statistics would enable the ministry to better plan and shape the formulation of future energy policies.