
PRESS RELEASE

EAS Energy Ministers welcome ERIA report

Vientiane, 24 September 2014



Vientiane—24 September 2014: Energy Ministers from members of East Asia Summit (EAS) welcome ERIA studies in Energy Efficiency and Conservation, benchmarking of renewable mobility energy, best mix of renewable energy, EAS energy outlook, energy market integration, sustainable natural gas market, oil stockpiling, and nuclear safety management.

The importance of the policy implications of these ERIA studies is highlighted. One of the recommendations that clean coal is pivotal for the future energy use was widely discussed. In addition, the report calls for supportive policies for technology diffusion, capacity building, financing mechanism and harmonization in emission standards in promotion the use of clean coal.

The Ministers noted the progress on the study on sustainable natural gas market and affirmed the importance of having competitive natural gas prices and the further promotion of a flexible, transparent and sustainable natural gas market. The Ministers also noted the good progress made on the EAS study on nuclear safety management, and looked forward to further progress in pursuing regional nuclear safety and forging greater collaboration in capacity building in civilian nuclear energy.

H.E. Soulivong Daravong, Minister of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR said at the Press Conference that the ASEAN Power Grid is part of component of ASEAN Community. Efforts are ongoing with Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to purchase hydroelectricity from Lao PDR. At the moment, Thailand is the largest importer of Lao energy. The ERIA research in this area provides timely corroboration.

The Ministers also welcomed the establishment of the Energy Research Institute Network (ERIN) and acknowledged the collaboration between ERIN and ERIA which was formalised through an MOU signing on 6 September 2014 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

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Before the EAS Energy Ministers Meeting on 23rd Sept in Vientiane, ERIA launched two books: Energy Outlook and Energy Saving Potential in East Asia; Investing in Power Grid Interconnection in East Asia. Dr. Daovong Phonekeo, SOE Leader of Lao PDR expressed appreciation of both the report EAS energy outlook and the report on investing in power grid interconnection, prepared by ERIA. The two reports, together with three other ERIA energy studies, were also presented to ministers and senior officials from the EAS members at the AMEM and the EAS EMM.

East Asia Summit comprises the ten-member ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand, The United State of America and Russia also attend.

The ERIA energy team is headed by Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director, and Mr. Shigeru Kimura, Special Advisor to the Executive Director, Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Senior Energy Economist, Dr. Han Phoumin, Energy Economist and Dr. Yanfei Li, Energy Economist. The book launch was organized by Mr. Shimpei Yamamoto, Managing Director for Research Affairs, Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, Senior Communication Advisor and Ms. Jennifer Liguton, Chief Editor and Publication Director.

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