

ERIA Discussion Paper Series**Analysis on Price Elasticity of Energy Demand in East Asia: Empirical Evidence and Policy Implications for ASEAN and East Asia**

Han PHOUMIN¹
and
Shigeru KIMURA²

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

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Abstract: This study uses time series data of selected ASEAN and East Asia countries to investigate the patterns of price and income elasticity of energy demand. Applying a dynamic log-linear energy demand model, both short-run and long-run price and income elasticities were estimated by country. The study uses three types of dependent variable “energy demand” such as total primary energy consumption (TPES), total final energy consumption (TFEC) and total final oil consumption (TFOC) to regress on its determinants such as energy price and income. The finding shows that price elasticity is generally inelastic amongst all countries of studies. These findings support to the theory of price inelasticity of energy demand due to the assumption that energy remains a special commodity due to its nature of lack of substitution. Any shift from oil to other energy is difficult as it depends on equipment uses which are not easily to be replaced. As a result, a unit change in price may not induce equal change in quantity of demand. Although prices are inelastic, this study observed that price elasticity in developing countries is more sensitive than in developed countries. Among the countries studied, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines have shown to be price sensitive compared to other developing countries and developed countries. For the income elasticity, this study also found that income has been very sensitive towards energy consumption, except for countries like India, China and Australia due to energy supply limitation in the cases of India and China and to less energy intensive industrial structure in the case of Australia. The price elasticity by energy type shows that TPES has a smaller impact than TFEC and TFOC, and TFEC is smaller than TFOC in terms of sensitivity of the price elasticity. Amongst other reasons, fuel subsidies may play roles in the insensitivity of energy prices. The findings have policy implications as inelastic price will impact on the uptake of energy efficiency in developing as well as developed countries. Therefore, removal of energy subsidies, albeit done in a gradual manner, will be critical to the promotion of energy efficiency. Its impact likewise goes further in that it will benefit the Renewable Energy uptake, the environment and social benefits.

Keywords: Energy intensity, price and income elasticities, energy demand, energy subsidy, ASEAN and East Asia.

JEL Classification: O4; L1 ; Q4

¹ Han, Phoumin, Energy Economist at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). He can be contacted at han.phoumin@eria.org.

² Shigeru Kimura, Special Energy Advisor to the Executive Director of ERIA. He can be contacted at shigeru.kimura@eria.org.

1. Introduction

Energy consumption is induced differently by countries due to differences in GDP level, industrial structure, life style, geographical location and energy price, especially relative energy price. This observation has been supported by an earlier work by Fan and Hyndman (2010) whose study focused on the electricity demand in South Australia and whose finding concluded that electricity demand had mainly been driven by the economy, demography and weather. In light of this, the present study aims to estimate price sensitivity in East Asian countries where prices are influenced by a different state of the economy and characteristics.

This paper is written to provide empirical evidences to energy price elasticity in some selected ASEAN and East Asian countries such as Australia, Japan, China, India, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. In theory, energy price elasticity measures the percentage change in energy consumption against a percentage change in energy price. In looking at studies on energy price elasticity, it is generally accepted that energy price is likely to be inelastic due to its basic nature of necessity and the lack of fuel substitutes. Inelasticity of energy price means that a percentage change in price induces less than a unity change in energy consumption.

Attempts in the past have been focused on the price elasticity of demand in various countries. For example, the Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism of the State of Hawaii (2011) conducted the study on income and price elasticity of Hawaii's energy demand by using data from 1970 to 2008 and its result was that Hawaii consumers were not very sensitive to change in electricity prices and price of gasoline. Moreover, energy consumption has not been very sensitive to the change in income either.

However, in the ASEAN and East Asia context, one needs to investigate if the patterns of the energy price and income elasticity granger cause changes in the energy demand. Applying a dynamic log-linear energy demand model, both short-run and long-run price and income elasticities were estimated by country. The study uses three types of dependent variable "energy demand" such as total primary energy consumption (TPES), total final energy consumption (TFEC) and total final

oil consumption (TFOC) to regress on its determinants such as oil price representing overall energy price for TPES and TFEC and income.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the empirical model for the price and income elasticity of demand. Section 3 explains the data and variables used in the study. Section 4 discusses the results while Sections 5 and 6 present the findings and policy implications, respectively.

2. Empirical Model

2.1. Price and Income Elasticities in Log Dynamic Energy Demand Model

Price elasticity of demand measures the sensitivity or responsiveness of consumers to the change in price of the energy consumed. Likewise, income elasticity of demand measures the sensitivity or responsiveness of consumers to the change in their income. In theory, the energy demand is a function of price and income. Other exogenous variables can also explain the variable of energy demand, including energy efficiency, climate condition and other variables that may also impact on energy demand. Since covariates of time series data are not widely available, the authors assume that energy price and income are likely to be the major determinants of the energy demand, and other covariates will be captured in error terms.

A similar approach has been used by Cooper (2003) to investigate the price elasticity of demand for crude oil in 23 countries. This study will therefore use the standard energy demand model to derive both short and long run-elasticities of price and income.

$$E_t = f(Y_t, P_t);$$

where E_t is the energy demand and in this case, it is the aggregated form represented by total primary energy supply (TPES), Total Final Energy Consumption (TFEC), and Total Final Oil Consumption (TFOC).

Y_t is the income, and in this case, it takes the form of GDP at constant price 2000;

P_t is the energy price, and in this case, it has been adjusted to constant price by GDP deflator;

Thus the above function can be written into three types of equations because energy demand takes the form of TPES, TFEC and TFOC:

a. $LogTPES = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 LogGDP_t + \beta_2 LogP_t + \beta_3 LogTPES_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$

a. $LogTFEC = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 LogGDP_t + \beta_2 LogP_t + \beta_3 LogTFEC_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$

b. $LogTFOC = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 LogGDP_t + \beta_2 LogP_t + \beta_3 LogTFOC_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$

With the following conditions:

$$\beta_1 > 0 \text{ and } \beta_2 < 0$$

The multiple regressions in time series in logarithm form as shown in equation (a, b, c) capture the elasticity of energy price and income. The inclusion of lag variable is to capture the serial correlation in the equation as time series are likely to suffer from the serial correlation (Wooldridge, 2003) and at the same time one can derive the short and long run price elasticities.

From equation (a, b, c), the coefficients of β_1 and β_2 are the short-run elasticities for P_t and Y_t respectively. And the long-run elasticities are $\frac{\beta_2}{1 - \beta_3}$ and $\frac{\beta_1}{1 - \beta_3}$ for P_t and Y_t respectively.

It is important to check if the time series are in stationary or non-stationary process. A stationary process of time series is one whose probability distribution is stable over time. The aim of this study, however, is to assess the sensitivity of the price and income elasticity. Using an advanced Error Correction Model will have drawbacks on the interpretation of the elasticity. Hence, the study focuses on the serial correlation, and the Cochrane-Orcutt interactive process is employed to deal with the serial correlation, and with robust standard error correction (Wooldridge, 2003).

2.2. Construction of Price and Income Elasticities

For the purpose of visualizing graph of historical trend of price and income elasticities amongst countries studied, we construct the historical data of price and income elasticities based on the following concept:

Elasticity is a numerical measure of the response of supply and demand to price (Meier, 1986). The so-called elasticity of demand measure relative change in quantity demanded per unit of change in price or income. Mathematically, we define elasticity as:

$$\text{For price elasticity: } e_{price} = \frac{\frac{\Delta Q}{Q}}{\frac{\Delta price}{price}} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta price} \times \frac{price}{Q}; \text{ and}$$

$$\text{For income elasticity: } e_{income} = \frac{\frac{\Delta Q}{Q}}{\frac{\Delta income}{income}} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta income} \times \frac{income}{Q},$$

where ΔQ , $\Delta price$, $\Delta income$ are the changes in quantity of demand, price and income respectively.

3. Data and Variables

This study uses two datasets in order to get the variables of interest in the model. The first dataset comes from the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) in which variables such as Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES), Total Final Energy Consumption (TFEC), and Total Final Oil Consumption (TFOC) are obtained. The data from IEEJ are also obtained from the energy balance of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Further, this study uses World Bank's dataset called World Development Indicators (WDI) in order to capture few more time series variables such as Gross

Domestic Products (GDP) at constant price 2000, GDP deflator at constant price 2000 and exchange rates. Combining variables of interest from these two datasets allows this study to formulate the time series of some selected ASEAN and East Asian countries. Table 1 provides descriptive statistics of the variables used in the multiple regressions.

The study uses Japan's CIF of crude oil as representative of world crude oil price as well as overall energy price because crude oil price should be fundamental for any energy price if a country applies market economy in the cases of TPES and TFEC. Therefore, crude oil price is normalized by the GDP deflator 2000 after converting from US\$/barrel to NC (National Currency) using exchange rates.

All variables have been transformed into logarithm so as to capture the price and income elasticity.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

Country	Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Australia	Log TPES	21	11.50846	.1214961	11.30493	11.68131
	Log TFEC	21	11.05635	.1082868	10.87576	11.19664
	Log TFOC	21	10.42524	.1018755	10.24811	10.5641
	Log GDP	21	27.08255	.2163957	26.772	27.40452
	Log EP	21	-.8178307	.4625645	-1.602393	.0410695
Japan	Log TPES	21	13.09927	.0543091	12.98156	13.15459
	Log TFEC	21	12.69513	.0477954	12.60084	12.74537
	Log TFOC	21	12.18429	.068679	12.05234	12.26112
	Log GDP	21	29.09217	.0597573	28.97942	29.18942
	Log EP	21	-1.233659	.668306	-2.155407	-.0422246
China	Log TPES	21	13.90416	.4076589	13.37793	14.64977
	Log TFEC	21	13.47244	.3375681	13.04721	14.09832
	Log TFOC	21	12.10464	.4579458	11.34567	12.85248
	Log GDP	21	27.99489	.5991104	26.98796	28.97597
	Log EP	21	-1.158321	.4469094	-2.05107	-.4184135
India	Log TPES	21	12.63342	.3193194	12.1188	13.20607
	Log TFEC	21	12.07476	.271638	11.68044	12.62726
	Log TFOC	21	11.37512	.2925261	10.86998	11.81765
	Log GDP	21	27.1462	.3968737	26.58189	27.85169
	Log EP	21	-.9806735	.386153	-1.831074	-.3183931
Philippines	Log TPES	21	10.21154	.2112802	9.769671	10.42258
	Log TFEC	21	9.645578	.1931893	9.21411	9.813705
	Log TFOC	21	9.332679	.1867411	8.898133	9.548647
	Log GDP	21	25.16487	.2453564	24.8462	25.59946
	Log EP	21	-1.078136	.3791594	-1.939554	-.4637494
Singapore	Log TPES	21	9.930412	.2570615	9.346298	10.41745
	Log TFEC	21	9.236406	.5200884	8.487645	10.09175
	Log TFOC	21	8.976227	.5548539	8.17186	9.875498
	Log GDP	21	25.2619	.3624895	24.61634	25.85591
	Log EP	21	-1.169026	.5681294	-2.055215	-.1451432
Thailand	Log TPES	21	10.96982	.3765344	10.21311	11.45978
	Log TFEC	21	10.64273	.3806036	9.887175	11.16411
	Log TFOC	21	10.27639	.3354904	9.611247	10.69003

Log GDP	21	25.6948	.2435054	25.21105	26.0708
Log EP	21	-1.668238	.4728295	-2.579158	-.8081316

4. Coefficients Estimate of the Case Study

The study selected some countries in ASEAN and East Asia for the analysis of the price elasticity. These countries are Australia, Japan, China, the Philippines, India, Singapore and Thailand. The study chose three time periods for the analysis to assess the price elasticity. These periods are from 1990-2010, 1990-2000, and 2000-2010. The formula in heading (3) above for the selected countries was employed.

The results of the regressions by country and by period are shown below (Tables 2a to 2g):

Table 2a: Regression Coefficients for the Case of Australia

Period	Dependent Variable	Intercept (a0)	Lag(1) Dependent Variable	Income Elasticity		Price Elasticity	
				Short-run	Long-run	Short-run	Long-run
1990-2010	Log TPES	-4.880501** (1.885187)	.0842896 (.3281561)	.568331** (.2057816)	.62064491	-.0350073** (.015029)	-.03822966
	Log TFEC	-2.447808* (1.211503)	.3494695* (.1986724)	.3554824** (.1222084)	.54645001	-.0228004** (.0102512)	-.03504893
	Log TFOC	-1.814148 (1.425579)	.3244738 (.2396768)	.3269297** (.1396169)	.48396302	-.0089681 (.0131877)	-.01327572
1990-2000	Log TPES	-10.18754** (2.866802)	-.3849486 (.4250049)	.9645539** (.2847125)	1.5682493	-.0321818* (.0149697)	-.02323682
	Log TFEC	-4.639216 (2.566607)	.1916971 (.426565)	.5017578 (.2671683)	.62075467	-.0094329 (.0132063)	-.01167001
	Log TFOC	-4.186167 (2.81753)	.2685695 (.4758402)	.4373681 (.2833669)	.59796262	.0073794 (.0176837)	.010089
2000-2010	Log TPES	-1.35868 (3.605726)	.2468878 (.3104898)	.3707006 (.2466358)	.49222493	.0089582 (.0273053)	.01189491
	Log TFEC	2.845257** (.9046293)	-.2184344 (.2158542)	.3940763** (.0903335)	.32342841	.0258257 (.0138379)	.02119581
	Log TFOC	3.907283** (1.201919)	-.1138058 (.1504273)	.2868794** (.078601)	.2575668	.0578592* (.0179763)	.0519473

Table 2b: Regression Coefficients for the Case of Japan

Period	Dependent Variable	Intercept (a0)	Lag(1) Dependent Variable	Income Elasticity		Price Elasticity	
				Short-run	Long-run	Short-run	Long-run
1990-2010	Log TPES	-14.23713 (10.17835)	.4094168* (.2042772)	.7532897* (.4303289)	1.2755014	-.0503335 (.0292217)	-.08522677
	Log TFEC	-2.029529 (9.816369)	.6078574* (.2118804)	.2400152 (.4168093)	.61206102	-.0242187 (.0306257)	-.06175993
	Log TFOC	11.08921* (5.177161)	.977847*** (.1177779)	-.3719946 (.2210063)	-16.79229	-.0014076 (.0215312)	-.06354079
1990-2000	Log TPES	3.497499 (12.50444)	.837253** (.3045373)	-.0440805 (.5628783)	-.2708539	.040905 (.0278046)	.25134197
	Log TFEC	-15.85688 (18.60061)	.2619132 (.4748877)	.8697751 (.8427181)	1.1784184	.025686 (.024124)	.03480078
	Log TFOC	7.596748 (16.78731)	.9384204 (.5382668)	-.2338571 (.8019942)	-3.7976392	.0215383 (.0301465)	.34976356
2000-2010	Log TPES	-27.11455** (8.295914)	.1150082 (.1725794)	1.32667** (.32247)	1.4990817	-.099428** (.0231338)	-.11234952
	Log TFEC	-23.72428** (8.464948)	.176857 (.3014381)	1.170813** (.4098922)	1.4223689	-.103052** (.040805)	-.12519356
	Log TFOC	2.656399 (11.76706)	.714946** (.2048772)	.0259982 (.4804607)	.09120447	-.0569338 (.0574083)	-.19972988

Table 2c: Regression Coefficients for the Case of China

Period	Dependent Variable	Intercept (a0)	Lag(1) Dependent Variable	Income Elasticity		Price Elasticity	
				Short-run	Long-run	Short-run	Long-run
1990-2010	Log TPES	-1.131446 (.7181653)	.657047*** (.1654675)	.2155128* (.1028465)	.6284036	.079344** (.0293599)	.23135633
	Log TFEC	-2.297873 (.3476051)	.7497355*** (.1232148)	.1327402* (.0607776)	.53039964	.0664611* (.0263207)	.26556343
	Log TFOC	-5.261123** (1.730542)	.4100935** (.1845455)	.4447381** (.1405724)	.75391287	.0161523 (.0186623)	.02738112
1990-2000	Log TPES	1.746876 (.9760478)	.2057866 (.3160883)	.3300025* (.1363938)	.4155086	.0238893 (.0308968)	.0300792
	Log TFEC	6.642941* (2.451751)	.0631158 (.3040873)	.2057965** (.0841594)	.21966055	-.0520304 (.0457791)	-.05553557
	Log TFOC	-7.660562** (1.364753)	.219731 (.1480769)	.6141269** (.1097699)	.78707074	.0464696 (.0165328)	.05955587
2000-2010	Log TPES	-2.94627 (4.258405)	.7721307 (.7659666)	.2191901 (.5275655)	.9619115	-.0133559 (.1925273)	-.05861211
	Log TFEC	-3.109939 (2.238053)	.099927 (.3401377)	.5493963** (.2316592)	.61039082	.1907649 (.0764132)	.21194381
	Log TFOC	-4.260871 (2.790019)	.177181 (.4630842)	.5135611* (.2612943)	.62414832	.0937026 (.1269687)	.11387997

Table 2d: Regression Coefficients for the Case of India

Period	Dependent Variable	Intercept (a0)	Lag(1) Dependent Variable	Income Elasticity		Price Elasticity	
				Short-run	Long-run	Short-run	Long-run
1990-2010	Log TPES	-6.130792** (1.734748)	.3800769* (.1523335)	.5141996** (.1335197)	.82945707	-.0253058 (.0171307)	-.04082087
	Log TFEC	-1.118278 (.6779961)	.8737161*** (.12259)	.1001141 (.0754743)	.7927701	.0338111* (.0143254)	.2677388
	Log TFOC	-4.087369* (1.958854)	.5898215** (.1926494)	.3211573* (.1510666)	.78296961	-.0639347* (.0298486)	-.15587043
1990-2000	Log TPES	-6.941832* (3.147113)	.3545634 (.2670283)	.5564865* (.2380649)	.86218615	-.0214626 (.0292013)	-.03325284
	Log TFEC	-3.75939* (1.640811)	.1284346 (.3232131)	.5249508* (.1990487)	.60230799	-.0232732 (.0303528)	-.02670276
	Log TFOC	-17.71452* (5.794674)	-.0083829 (.3374075)	1.079167** (.3549208)	1.0701957	-.0043904 (.0186666)	-.0043539
2000-2010	Log TPES	-7.988967* (1.734748)	.4035808 (.1523335)	.5699425 (.1335197)	.95560723	-.052301 (.0171307)	-.08769168

	(3.85254)	(.2735472)	(.2547861)		(.0538911)	
Log TFEC	-7.731165 (4.379941)	.5305846* (.2585221)	.4912964 (.2645691)	1.0466133	-.0393069 (.0606106)	-.08373586
Log TFOC	-4.141775 (2.76032)	.0315378 (.303539)	.5585576* (.2165345)	.57674693	-.0557643 (.05973)	-.05758025

Table 2e: Regression Coefficients for the Case of the Philippines

Period	Dependent Variable	Intercept (a0)	Lag(1) Dependent Variable	Income Elasticity		Price Elasticity	
				Short-run	Long-run	Short-run	Long-run
1990-2010	Log TPES	-1.453254 (2.947949)	.754726*** (.1720946)	.1557718 (.1819976)	.6350940	-.0584492 (.0451797)	-.2383020
	Log TFEC	-1.452149 (2.621494)	.675309*** (.1445072)	.1792897 (.1480663)	.55218579	-.0863156 (.0646904)	-.2658393
	Log TFOC	.4712048 (2.356504)	.651223*** (.1253073)	.1054292 (.1171409)	.3022830	-.1340568 (.0723053)	-.38436316
1990-2000	Log TPES	-15.35369 (11.44311)	.4999256 (.3561224)	.8148572 (.5965046)	1.629471	-.0622235 (.0556633)	-.1244284
	Log TFEC	-48.31333 (34.19109)	-.419478 (.8811999)	2.467074 (1.689294)	1.738015	-.202464 (.1643402)	-.1426327
	Log TFOC	-52.80794 (38.20067)	-.4418452 (.8585023)	2.639264* (1.830934)	1.830476	-.2299752* (.1695918)	-.15950062
2000-2010	Log TPES	14.7114*** (2.081402)	-.867569** (.195655)	.1827789* (.080504)	.09786993	.0032185 (.0372207)	.00172336
	Log TFEC	-5.122191 (6.234581)	.628275 (.3922668)	.3401551** (.1165449)	.91507189	-.1274693** (.0429298)	-.34291291
	Log TFOC	-.6045702 (8.623857)	.5143002 (.2749281)	.1967961 (.2391446)	.40518053	-.1713919** (.060756)	-.3528762

Table 2f: Regression Coefficients for the Case of Singapore

Period	Dependent Variable	Intercept (a0)	Lag(1) Dependent Variable	Income Elasticity		Price Elasticity	
				Short-run	Long-run	Short-run	Long-run
1990-2010	Log TPES	-6.153743 (5.948274)	.2945013 (.2848456)	.5173473 (.3361874)	.73330723	-.0939268 (.1270521)	-.1331353
	Log TFEC	-11.11586** (4.509567)	.574350** (.161125)	.598164** (.2292214)	1.4052974	.0149655 (.0555867)	.03515919
	Log TFOC	-12.82271 (5.23611)	.545705** (.1747217)	.671832** (.2592553)	1.4788495	.0223782 (.0674263)	.04925928
1990-2000	Log TPES	.943668 (7.535468)	.4822788 (.3763139)	.159412 (.4272159)	.3079109	-.1027717 (.2697849)	-.19850781
	Log TFEC	-10.7388 (5.749355)	.5064947* (.2016679)	.6053215* (.2865566)	1.2265755	-.0023776 (.1295645)	-.00481778
	Log TFOC	-11.93361 (6.966708)	.4887197* (.2270357)	.6530095* (.3380328)	1.2772045	-.0094149 (.1710508)	-.0184143
2000-2010	Log TPES	-41.2175** (12.44275)	.3771364 (.36558)	1.84091** (.5100345)	2.9555636	-.667761** (.2506498)	-1.0720832
	Log TFEC	-19.57583** (5.916247)	1.085742** (.3592339)	.7269637** (.2273317)	-8.4785018	-.3574961* (.1942162)	4.1694397
	Log TFOC	-23.03989** (7.823706)	.9542293** (.3411908)	.9115172** (.2844408)	19.914863	-.357452 (.2301098)	-7.8096249

Table 2g: Regression Coefficients for the Case of Thailand

Period	Dependent Variable	Intercept (a0)	Lag(1) Dependent Variable	Income Elasticity		Price Elasticity	
				Short-run	Long-run	Short-run	Long-run
1990-2010	Log TPES	-8.575189** (3.070005)	.631737*** (.0856154)	.492024** (.1521031)	1.336069	-.0095186 (.027153)	-.0258473
	Log TFEC	-12.78834** (3.723789)	.556492*** (.1118474)	.6803714** (.1881028)	1.534069	-.038385 (.0310849)	-.0865486
	Log TFOC	-10.3827** (3.37087)	.586428*** (.1162429)	.567328** (.1724208)	1.371776	-.0533772 (.0387591)	-.1290639
1990-2000	Log TPES	-10.9585** (2.733072)	.595117*** (.0779265)	.606628** (.133091)	1.498281	.0716131* (.0357097)	.17687378
	Log TFEC	-16.2797** (2.692303)	.4928067** (.0811746)	.85014*** (.1313182)	1.676172	.0600301 (.034441)	.11835744
	Log TFOC	-15.096*** (2.93785)	.4980964** (.0905636)	.795728** (.1417692)	1.585420	.0693726 (.0420216)	.13821897
2000-2010	Log TPES	-17.8979** (4.796381)	.5222926* (.2640651)	.891801** (.2692523)	1.866836	-.1675388** (.0518605)	-.3507142
	Log TFEC	-21.4965** (3.8157)	.7310183** (.1585742)	.931869** (.2057924)	3.464435	-.268297*** (.0397785)	-.9974555
	Log TFOC	-22.0060*** (2.255733)	.7907673*** (.1265676)	.9200519 (.1171911)	4.397266	-.321107*** (.040767)	-1.534692

5. Analysis of the results

The above regression results by country allow for the elaboration for both short and long-run income and price elasticities of energy demand. As argued in the literature, the income and price elasticity varies country by country based on the social, environmental and economic structure of the country's characteristics. The analysis below will use only the condition of $\beta_1 > 0$ and $\beta_2 < 0$, and β_1 and β_2 as statistically significant, to elaborate on the result.

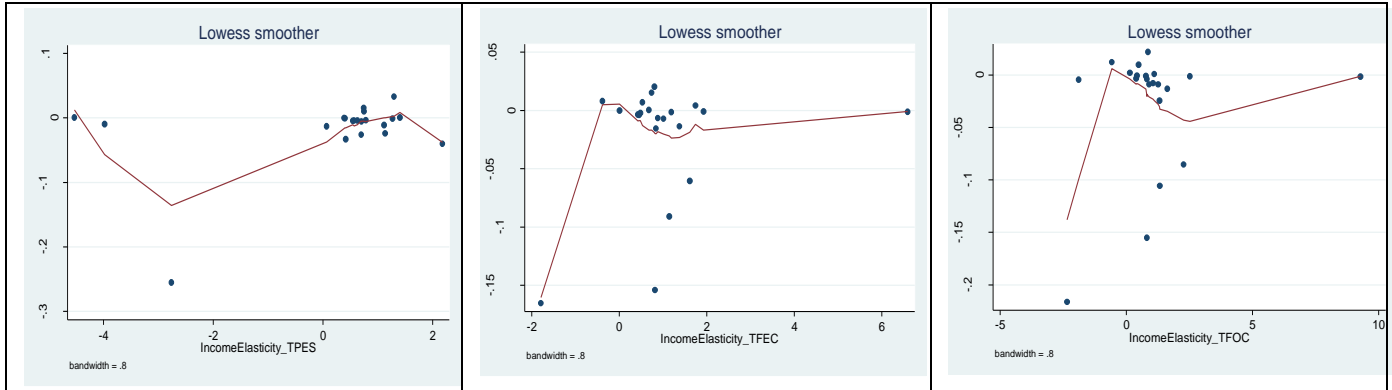
a. Analysis of Sensitivity by Country

Australia: For both short and long-run price elasticities for Australia, the range goes from -.022 to -.038. This means that energy price is inelastic in Australia. Figure 1a shows that price elasticity generally centers on just below or above zero. However, income elasticity ranges from 0.25 to 1.5, meaning that the income elasticity has moved from inelastic or less sensitive to more than unity or responsive.

The above inelastic energy price and elastic income in the Australian context could be explained by the fact that Australia is a large exporter of energy resources such as oil, coal and gas. High energy price would bring an increase of revenue and thereby induce domestic energy consumption due to income effect rather than to

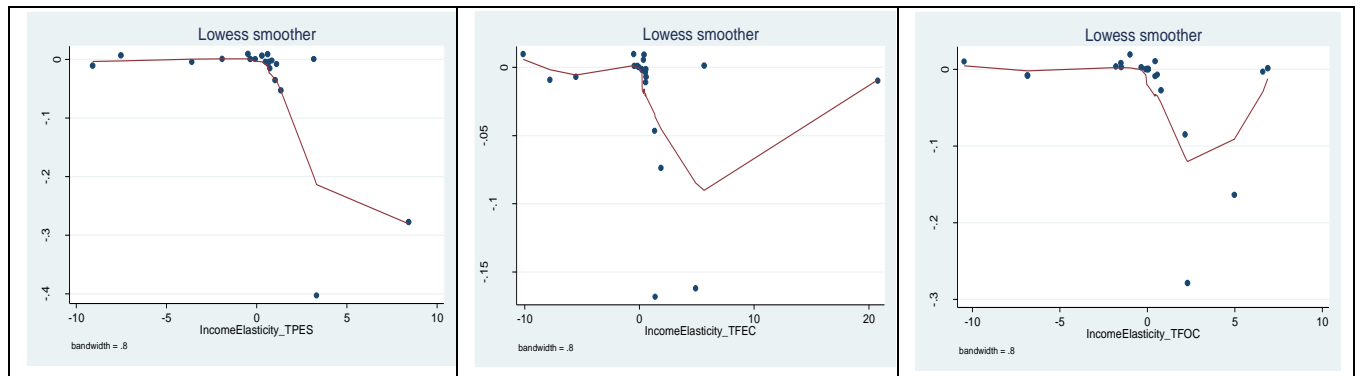
price effect. In short, any change in energy price will not induce an equal change in energy demand.

Figure 1a: Price and Income Elasticity in Australia



Japan: Price elasticity for Japan ranges from -.10 to -0.12. This means that price is very inelastic or insensitive in the case of Japan but the impact of price sensitivity is higher than that of Australia. For income elasticity, it ranges from 1.27 to 1.49. This means that the income elasticity is elastic or more sensitive in the case of Japan. Again, compared to Australia, Japan's income elasticity has been more sensitive whereas the price elasticity is the same. . Figure 1b shows that income elasticity is greater than price elasticity, with price elasticity centering around or below zero and income elasticity centering mostly above zero to more than unity.

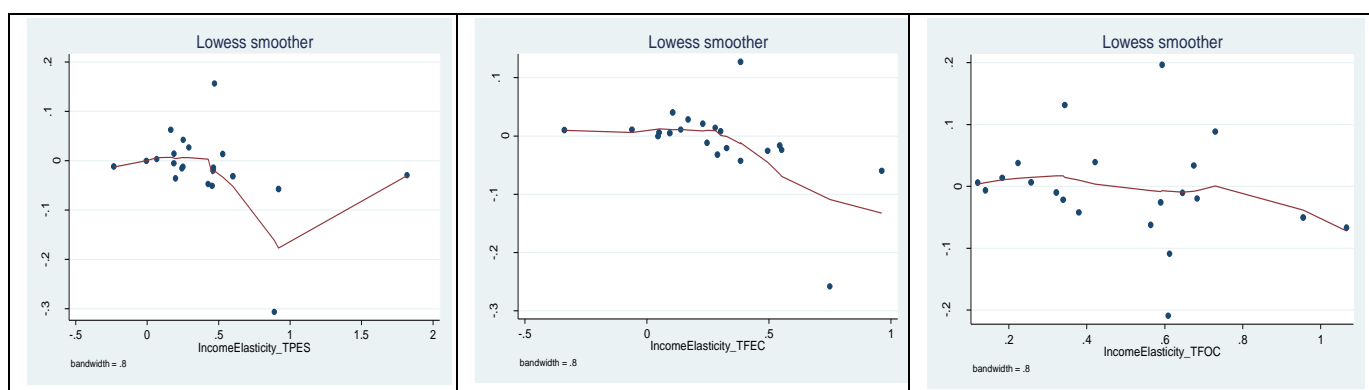
Figure 1b: Price and Income Elasticity in Japan



China: The strangeness of price elasticity in China is that the sign is positive (+) and significant. This could be explained more by the structural transformation in China during the economic growth where industries need more energy and price keeps on increasing. Thus, in this case, the price is very insensitive in China. Additionally, energy subsidies such as gasoline price in China are a reason why the energy price increase shows plus effect to energy demand. For income elasticity, meanwhile, it ranges from 0.13 to 0.78, indicating that income elasticity has moved from being inelastic or less sensitive to being close to unity or sensitive.

Figure 1c shows that most of the time, price elasticity in China centers above and below zero value due to its insensitiveness, while income elasticity stays above zero all the time, reflecting an income sensitivity for energy demand. However, China's income sensitivity is smaller than that of Japan.

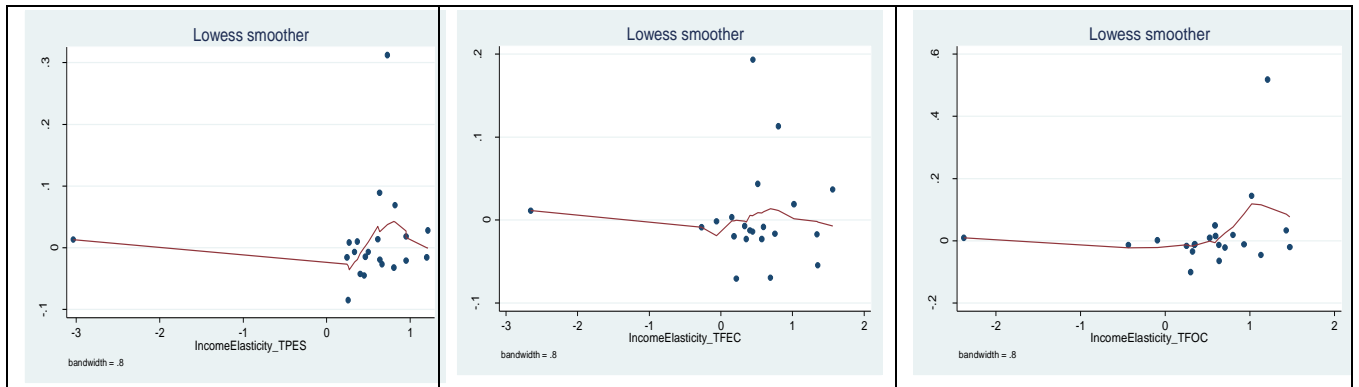
Figure 1c: Price and Income Elasticity in China



India: Price elasticity for India ranges from -0.06 to -0.15. This means that price is inelastic or insensitive. The inelastic price in India could be explained by several reasons such as fuel subsidy by the state and lack of alternative mode of fuel substitution especially for the transportation sector. For income elasticity, it ranges from 0.31 to 1.07. This means that the income elasticity has moved from inelastic or less sensitive to more than unity or became sensitive in India. In this case, income elasticity is more responsive than price elasticity.

Figure 1d shows that price is inelastic and centers above and just below zero value, while income elasticity is more responsive and centers mostly around unity or close to 2 value.

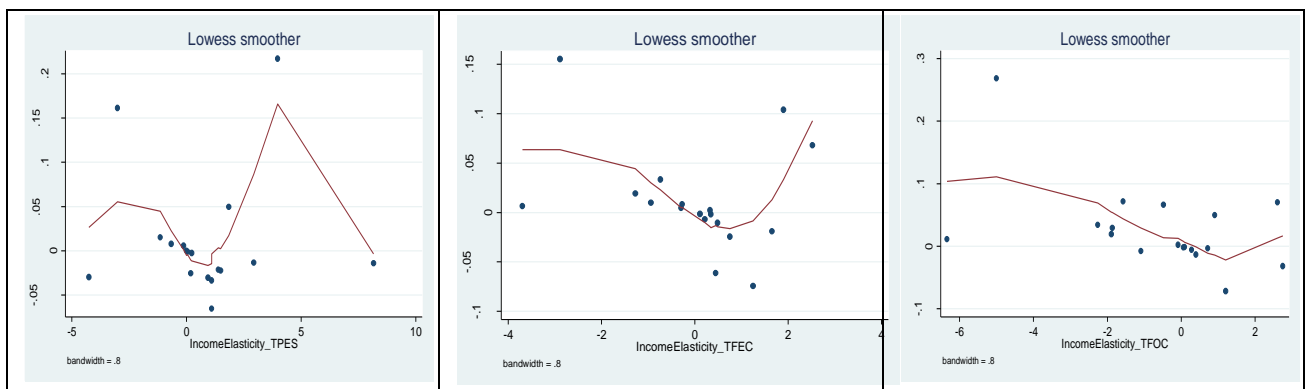
Figure 1d: Price and Income Elasticity in India



Philippines: Price elasticity for the Philippines ranges from -0.12 to -0.35. This means that price is inelastic, but it appears to be very much more sensitive than Australia, Japan, India and China. For income elasticity, it ranges from 0.18 to 2.63. This means that the income elasticity has moved from inelastic to very elastic or sensitive in the Philippines.

Figure 1e shows that most of the time, price elasticity centers just above and below zero value while income elasticity scatters above zero and more than unity, and some times, even more than the value of 2.

Figure 1e: Price and income elasticity in the Philippines

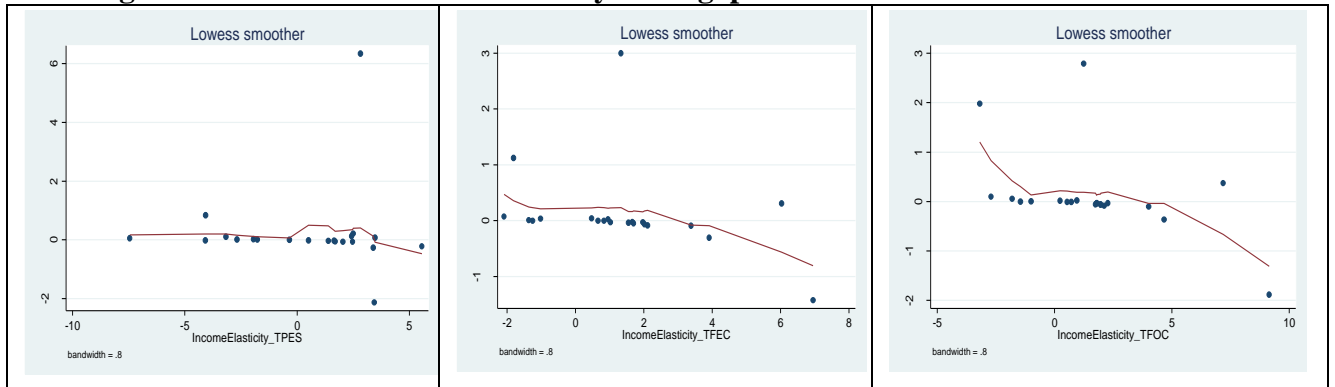


Singapore: Price elasticity for Singapore ranges from -0.35 to -1.07. This means that price has moved from elastic or unity in the case of Singapore. It appears that price elasticity in Singapore is higher than all countries in this study, except Thailand. For income elasticity, it ranges from 0.59 to 2.95. This means that the income elasticity has been sensitive or more than unity in Singapore.

Except Thailand, both price and income elasticity in Singapore are responsive more than all countries in this case study.

Figure 1f shows that price elasticity in Singapore centers from below zero to unity, while income elasticity scatters above zero to more than unity. These mean that both price and income elasticities are responsive.

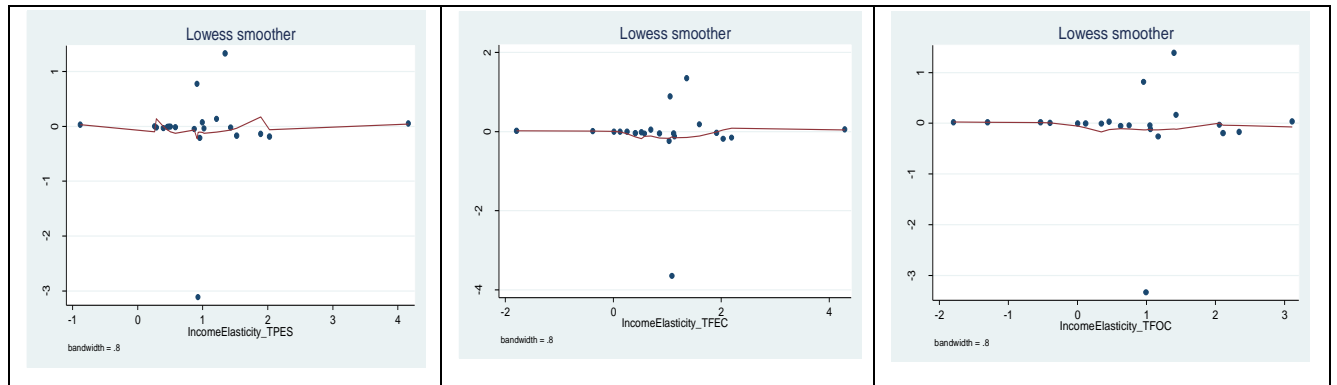
Figure 1f: Price and Income Elasticity in Singapore



Thailand: Price elasticity for Thailand ranges from -0.16 to -1.53, meaning that price has moved from inelastic to very elastic or sensitive. This could be explained by the use of alternative fuels in the transport sector where Thailand has introduced both gas and biofuels for transportation. Therefore, price elasticity in Thailand seems to be the most responsive to change in energy price. For income elasticity, it ranges from 0.56 to 3.46. This means that the income elasticity has moved from inelastic or less sensitive to very sensitive or very elastic in Thailand.

Figure 1g shows that both price and income elasticities are very elastic as they move from the short to the long run.

Figure 1g: Price and Income Elasticity in Thailand



b. Analysis of Sensitivity by Period

The analysis of sensitivity of both price and income elasticity looks into selected three countries for the price and income elasticity during the period 1990-2000, and 2000-2010 as follows:

For the Philippines: The price elasticity in the Philippines was -0.22 during the period 1990-2000, lower than -0.35 during the period 2000-2010. For income elasticity, the impact was 2.63 in 1990-2000 compared with 0.91 in 2000-2010. This means that price elasticity in the case of the Philippines was higher in the period 1900-2000 than in the period 2000-2010. Income elasticity, on the other hand, was lower in the period 1990-2000 than in the period 2000-2010. The average per capita income of the Filipino in 1990-2000 was about USD 1,005 while in 2000-2010, it was about USD 1,200 at the constant price for the year 2000.

For Singapore: The price elasticity in Singapore was insignificant during the period 1990-2000 compared to -1.07 during the period 2000-2010. For the income elasticity, it showed that the impact of income elasticity was 1.27 in the period 1990-2000 which was lower than 2.95 in the period 2000-2010. The average per capita income of the Singaporean in 1990-2000 was about USD 20,265 while in 2000-2010, it was about USD 28,185 at constant price for the year 2000.

For India: The price elasticity in India was insignificant in both periods of 1990-2000 and 2000-2010. For the income elasticity, it showed that the impact of income elasticity was 1.07 in 1990-2000 compared with 0.57 in 2000-2010. The average per capita income of the Indian in 1990-2000 was about USD 475 while in

2000-2010, it was about USD 763 at constant price for the year 2000.

c. Analysis of Sensitivity by Energy Type

In terms of energy type, this study generally observed that the price elasticity of demand by TFOC has a greater impact than the price elasticities of TPES and TFEC. Furthermore, the price elasticity of TFEC has a smaller impact than the price elasticity of TFOC. However, for the income elasticity, it is observed that the income elasticity of TFOC is bigger than the income elasticity of TFEC and TPES. However, this result is really theoretical because crude oil price is used as overall energy price for TPES and TFEC albeit the fact that the two latter variables also include a variety of other energy sources such as hydro and nuclear.

6. Key Findings

The pattern of price elasticity largely depends on whether the income level is for developed countries or for developing countries. Price elasticity in developing countries is more sensitive than in developed countries. In this study, it was found that Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines have been price sensitive compared to other developing and developed countries. For income elasticity, this study also found that income has been very sensitive toward energy consumption, except in countries like India, China and Australia due to energy supply limitation in the cases of India and China, and to less energy intensive industrial structure in the case of Australia. Among the countries that have high income elasticity are Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Inelastic price of energy demand has been observed in all the case studies. However, the degree of sensitivity of price elasticity varies from country to country depending on the characteristics of the country's economic structure and on the dichotomy of the income levels between developed and developing countries. In theory, price signal has played a central role in adjusting demand and supply for the market clearing. However, the energy commodity has been highly regulated and thus price signal may not be functioning as the way it used to be. The sensitivity of

price helps to reduce the energy demand although this may not be true, to a large extent, in a fully liberalized market. The findings clearly point to the effect of energy subsidies on energy prices wherein any increase in price helps to reduce energy consumption by less than unity.

On the other hand, income elasticity has a higher sensitivity than price. This could be attributed to the income effects on an individual who would like to consume more energy with his/her higher income through the purchase of vehicles and appliances. This income effect could apply to all end-user sectors in which the transportation sector is likely to have the greatest impact.

In this regard, it can be said that the subsidies will surely reduce the momentum of promoting energy efficiency and diversification of energy sources.

7. Policy Implications

The finding of price inelasticity of energy consumption in the country case studies implies that subsidies were applied in these countries, thereby preventing price increases from curbing energy demand. In this situation, price alone failed to affect energy demand. In view of this, it may be prudent for countries in ASEAN to take the following actions in order to curb the continuous growth of energy demand:

- Gradual removal of energy subsidies as a blanket policy,; rather than providing subsidies, said countries can focus instead on granting access to marginalized groups to energy uses; and
- Promotion of energy efficiency which is a key to curb energy demand in cases where consumers in countries showing high income elasticity or low price elasticity can purchase more energy-*efficient* products.

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