

Press Release



East Asian Energy Experts Share Best Practices

Phnom Penh, July 31, 2012 --East Asian leaders and experts in energy efficiency held two days of discussions to identify best practices to promote energy saving and enhance energy security in the region.

The 2nd East Asia Summit Energy Efficiency Conference begins on July 31, 2012, hosted by the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, Cambodia (MIME) in cooperation with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).



In his opening remarks, Prof. Hidetoshi Nishimura, Executive Director of ERIA, stressed that the main objective of the conference is to share views and best practices in energy efficiency among policy makers, academia and private sector. He added that the outcome of the discussions will be reported to the upcoming East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (EMM6), scheduled in September, as well as ASEAN Summit meetings.

Since establishing a new Energy Unit in April this year, as well as running the Working Group on Analysis of Energy Saving Potential to estimate potential savings and reductions from efficiency improvements, ERIA is looking to broaden its research and cooperation activities in the EAS region.

Presiding on the opening of the conference, H.E Suy Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy, Cambodia (MIME) said that in order to achieve 100% electrification for all villages from different sources in 2020 and 70% by grid quality electricity in 2030, Cambodia's prioritized actions includes energy auditing of major industries, Stove Efficiency Projects to reduce fuelwood demand and renewable energy and solar PV power in remote areas for health center, school and public administration buildings.

Since the 1973 oil crisis, Japan has one of the highest levels of energy efficiency in the world, according to Mr. Shinichi Kihara, Director, Office of International Energy Strategy Agency for Natural Resources and Energy. He emphasized that “Ensuring greater energy savings is a fundamental challenge for all countries to bring about continuous economic development.” Japan is recovering from the Fukushima power plant accident where electricity saving mechanism was introduced last summer, including mandatory usage restrictions placed on large consumers and voluntary action by household consumers, backed by nation-wide setsuden or save power campaign.

As the starting point to good energy efficiency policy, Dr. Shigeru Kimura, IEEJ, Japan / Leader of ERIA Working Group on Energy Saving Potential in East Asia pointed out that the EAS region, especially ASEAN countries, has to develop detailed energy consumption data. The region’s continued reliance on fossil fuels to meet **increased energy demand** will be associated with **significant increases in** and there is a need to deploy **advanced energy efficient and low emission technologies** (including clean coal technology and biofuels) for the simultaneous achievement of socioeconomic and environmental development goals and improvement in energy security. **Monitoring of the implementation of the action plans is also essential.**

Contributing to regional cooperation in energy efficiency, Mr. Chris Zamora, ASEAN Centre for Energy, introduced programs such as certification of energy managers, certification of end-users, energy management gold standard and providing training and assisting managers in promoting efficiency for 720 energy managers, 108 local trainers, 16 local auditors and 11 country experts.

More than 200 participants from public, private sectors and civil society from East Asia and other countries attended the meeting.

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