



# The Energy Situation in ASEAN Post Covid-19

**Thursday, September 10 | 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. WIB**

## **Online Workshop**

Co-hosted by ERIA and IEEJ

### **Event Description**

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a global recession and ASEAN is not an exception. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that the world economy will likely contract at -3 percent while ASEAN 5 (Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippine and Indonesia) is likely to contract at -0.6 percent in 2020, much worse than during the 2008–09 financial crisis. Covid-19 has damaged all economic activities, resulting in unprecedented effects on global energy demand leading to significant over-supply of oil and gas which will drop in price. Due to the drastic decline in energy consumption, daily global emissions also dropped by 17% in the first quarter of 2020 compared with 2019 levels. However, economic recovery could see the levels of CO2 emissions bouncing back very quickly. Indeed, global data from late May shows an all-time high for levels of CO2 as countries start to reopen their economies.

Importantly, the pandemic may change the global energy landscape with implications for energy geopolitics, decarbonization policy, structural oil demand restraint, and technology innovation. Amongst all the post Covid-19 challenges, ASEAN faces grave uncertainty regarding the energy landscape, especially in terms of energy policy. Perhaps there can be a silver-lining in terms of how ASEAN navigates its energy transition if ASEAN leaders can embrace policy changes towards renewable energy (RE) and clean technologies. However, many countries in ASEAN lack capacity to provide sufficient stimulus packages and may have already experienced difficulties in addressing rising unemployment, slow domestic demand, and the depletion of national savings. The scale of the economic impact will largely depend on how long the pandemic continues in the region. The longer it takes, the deeper the impact. Without proper economic stimulus packages, economic recovery will be slow, and the impact will be enormous.

Covid-19 is also an opportunity for leaders to act boldly to (1) increase sustainable energy investment in stimulus/economic recovery packages, (2) revise energy policies such as removal of fossil fuel subsidies that discourage renewable investment, and (3) introduce more clean energy technologies to decarbonize emissions. On the other hand, complacency and lack of bold actions will result in energy consumption and emissions strongly bouncing back after Covid-19. Thus, it is very important for ASEAN leaders to support an energy transition from fossil fuel-based systems to cleaner energy systems. This transition will promote jobs as well as environmental and social benefits for long-term sustainability. However, uncertainty about the benefits of green investment, i.e. whether they are effective and fast enough to protect jobs and economy, will steer ASEAN leaders back into traditional economic stimulus.

The workshop aims to share insights amongst academics, experts, and government officials on the possible changing energy landscape after Covid-19 in ASEAN in regards to both energy and the environment. Speakers will examine issues related to the changes in global energy markets affecting ASEAN, and how long the foreseen impacts will last into the future. For post Covid-19 economic recovery, will there be a shift of priorities in energy policy development? And will some energy policy changes enable ASEAN to pursue a green recovery? Or will it be the other way around: a lower priority on the energy transition?

## AGENDA

11:00–11:20 | *Welcome and Introduction*

*by Prof. Jun Arima, Senior Policy Fellow for Energy and Environment, ERIA*

*by Dr. Ken KOYAMA, Senior Managing Director, Chief Economist, IEEJ*

11:20–12:25 | *Energy Situation & Policies for Post COVID-19*

*by Dr. Han Phoumin, Senior Energy Economist, ERIA*

*by Dr. Ken KOYAMA, Senior Managing Director, Chief Economist, IEEJ*

*by Dr. Nuki Agya Utama, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Energy*

*by Dr. Twarath Sutabutr, Inspector General, Ministry of Energy, Thailand*

*by Dr. Saleh Abdurrahman, Senior Advisor to the Minister for Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia.*

*Panel discussion moderated by Prof. Jun Arima, Senior Policy Fellow for Energy and Environment, ERIA*

12:25 | *Conclusion by Mr. Shigeru Kimura, Special Advisor to President on Energy Affairs, ERIA*

\*Agenda is subject to change.