



Foreword

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) has remarkably achieved high economic growth. Its average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate was 7.79% during the period 2000–2016, the highest growth rate among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states during the same period. In 2016, its real GDP per capita was US\$ 2,352. This strong economic growth during the last six years was also accompanied by an increase in energy consumption by all sectors. Despite this, Lao PDR still lacks comprehensive national energy statistics, especially energy balances tables. Consequently, nobody has accurate information about energy demand and supply due to the information are spread out in different line agencies. Lao PDR established energy policies to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, best energy mix to maintain energy security, and so on, but these are not working because there is no official, historical, and consistent energy statistics.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR realizes the need to have accurate and reliable energy statistics to design appropriate energy policies and planning. Therefore, to fulfil the gap in energy data and statistics in Lao PDR, the Ministry of Energy and Mines requested the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to support its Department of Energy Policy and Planning (DEPP) in preparing accurate energy statistics in Lao PDR. ERIA and DEPP established a team in October 2017 and worked on data collection. In addition, energy consumption surveys were carried out for the transportation, industry, residential, and commercial sectors. During the project period, ERIA also conducted capacity building trainings to DEPP staff such as basic understanding of energy statistics.

On behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR, I am very grateful for the technical and financial support for this Energy Statistics Project. We will continue to consult ERIA to build the energy data to support energy policies and planning in Lao PDR.



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Dr. Khammany INTHIRATH

Minister of Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR