

Preface

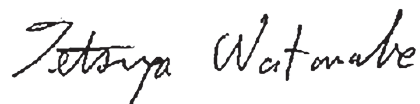
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East Asia face tremendous challenges in the future energy landscape, including transitioning to new architectures that ensure affordable, secure, and sustainable energy access through sound policies and technologies. Despite having been hit hard by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, energy demand growth is expected to rebound strongly in the East Asian Summit economies once they start recovering in 2023. The report exhorts leaders to carefully weigh their decisions and energy policy measures against the potentially higher energy costs and security risks in the post-COVID-19 era.

Since the outbreak of the Russian Federation–Ukraine war on 24 February 2022, global oil and gas prices have risen sharply. Oil market sentiments and concerns could last longer if the war continues and immediate alternative sources of supplies of oil and natural gas are lacking.

Most countries have pledged net-zero emission by mid-century. However, the war could discourage switching from coal to natural gas, a low-hanging mitigation opportunity for the fossil fuel-dependent region. Fossil fuel, especially coal, could stay in the Asian energy mix in some countries longer than previously anticipated. However, decarbonisation pathways must consider the various socio-economic and political circumstances that can help countries reach carbon neutrality. Thus, the Working Group for Analysis of Energy Saving Potential in East Asia has added a low-carbon energy transition (LCET) scenario to the report. The report analyses the energy outlook and saving potential in each East Asia Summit country to predict the medium- to long-term growth (2019–2050) of energy demand and supply.

The report contributes to mitigating problems related to energy security and climate change by increasing the understanding of the potential for energy saving through a range of energy efficiency goals, action plans, and policies, and the aggressive introduction of clean fuels and technologies into the carbon neutrality scenario. The report discusses several key insights for policy development.

Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy alone is not enough to develop sustainable energy in the East Asia Summit region. Thus, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia has considered including commercially available energy technologies such as carbon capture, utilisation, and storage; hydrogen; and ammonia fuels into the region's energy outlook modelling.



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