

**JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
OF THE 14th EAST ASIA SUMMIT ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING**
20 November 2020

“Energy Transition Towards Sustainable Development”

1. The Fourteenth East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (14th EAS EMM) was hosted virtually by Viet Nam on 20 November 2020. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dang Hoang An, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for energy from the EAS participating countries from the ASEAN Member States (AMS), Australia, the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. The Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community was also in attendance.

Energy Sector Response to the Pandemic and Contributions to Sustainable Recovery

2. Recognising that the energy sector of the EAS region has been and will continue to be significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, both in the short and medium term, a special session to discuss the energy sector’s response to the pandemic and contributions to sustainable recovery was held among the EAS energy ministers and international organisations, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). The Ministers acknowledged the need to pursue realistic, pragmatic, and sustainable energy policies to achieve economic recovery and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They reaffirmed the importance of creating stable supply and affordable clean energy that supports economic activities and daily life, including the utilisation of all energy sources and technologies during the outbreak.

3. The Ministers recognised the central role of ASEAN in the EAS and the commitment of ASEAN to continue to promote the EAS as an integral component of the evolving ASEAN-centred regional architecture, as reaffirmed by the EAS Leaders during the 15th East Asia Summit held in November 2020. With this in mind, the EAS Ministers congratulated the ASEAN Senior Officials and its Sub-Sector Networks and Specialised Energy Bodies for the newly adopted ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II: 2021-2025, which aims to accelerate energy transition of the ASEAN region and strengthen energy resilience through greater innovation and cooperation in the next five years. The Ministers also noted the adoption of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan, which identifies consolidated strategies and measures towards recovery and highlights the opportunity to promote green growth and build back better by facilitating transition to sustainable energy.

Continuous Efforts Towards a Sustainable Energy Future

4. The Ministers welcomed the continuous efforts made by the EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) to foster the EAS energy cooperation towards a sustainable energy future. They were pleased with the implementation of concrete initiatives under the three (3) ECTF work streams as well as the other initiatives involving the promotion of hydrogen society, mobility decarbonisation, natural gas, and carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS). The Ministers expressed their expectation that in parallel with the APAEC Phase II: 2021-2025, EAS energy cooperation would be further enhanced, both at the senior policy-making level and at the research or working levels, for more effective use of knowledge and experience, innovative solutions and best practices that would improve deployment and help widen innovation among the EAS participating countries.

5. In the *Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Work Stream*, the Ministers noted the progress of activities implemented under the initiatives on distributed energy systems (DES), energy savings potential, and roadmap formulation to promote energy efficiency (EE) technologies for EAS participating countries. In particular, the Ministers noted the successful conduct by Japan of the third round of energy audits at Tablas Island, Philippines, which showcased DES as an important policy option to respond to the increasing availability of small power generation and intelligent grid technologies. The Ministers also noted the release of the EAS Energy Outlook 2019/2020 prepared by the ERIA, which also covers analysis on necessary energy investment up to 2050. They looked forward to the results of the consumer survey of willingness-to-pay (WTP) for higher shares of renewables electricity supply that is underway for select EAS countries, with Phase 1 already initiated for households in Viet Nam.

6. The Ministers noted that the EE&C work plan for 2020/2021 is expected to include, among others, the conduct of: (i) the next round of energy audit for interested AMS, (ii) analysis of COVID-19 impacts to energy demand and supply, (iii) review of economic growth rates in the EAS countries between 2020-2023, and, (iv) second phase of the WTP surveys with a special focus on consumers in three additional AMS, namely: Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

7. On the *Biofuels for Transport and Other Purposes (BTOP) Work Stream*, the Ministers noted the completion of the joint research to evaluate CO₂ emission reduction via mobility electrification and alternative biofuel introduction in EAS participating countries. To validate the recommendations of the study, policy dialogues involving government officials and industry representatives in India, Indonesia and Thailand were undertaken. The Ministers noted the plan to further conduct a study on analysis of EAS future mobility fuel scenarios, which is expected to consider sustainable use of biofuels and other alternative vehicles fuels for the period 2021-2024.

8. On *Renewable and Alternative Power Generation*, the Ministers welcomed the successful organisation of the Webinar on Wind Power for Energy Transition in July 2020, which included sessions on development of wind projects and policy as well as wind power industry and technology, and the plan to organise the 5th EAS Clean Energy Forum, which would also include new topics on green recovery through deployment of high renewable energy shares as well as dam security and hydropower sustainable development. The Ministers further noted the conduct of two pre-feasibility studies under this work stream, on solar photovoltaic with energy storage system (PV+ESS) concluded in Malaysia in November 2019, and, on wind power which is ongoing in Brunei Darussalam since April 2020.

Promotion of Innovative Technologies and Low Carbon Society

9. The Ministers expressed appreciation to Japan for its continued advocacy on the development of hydrogen and mobility decarbonisation technologies to promote low carbon economies in the EAS region. The Ministers noted the plan for a research project on potential “Well-to-Wheel” impacts in ASEAN countries under the ASEAN-Japan cooperation. The Ministers also noted the convening of the Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting 2020 held virtually on 14 October 2020.

10. The Ministers recognised the continued role of natural gas and clean coal technologies in helping transition the region’s economies towards a low carbon future while improving energy security and underlined the importance of mobilising finance.

11. The Ministers reiterated the importance of promoting the utilisation of liquified natural gas (LNG) and development of infrastructure to support LNG markets in the region. The Ministers acknowledged the support of Japan and the United States for the EAS members in terms of capacity building in the LNG value-chain; finance mechanisms in LNG infrastructure and related services; and, development of conditions for the relaxation of destination restrictions. The Ministers noted the conduct of the LNG Producer Consumer Web Conference 2020 on 12 October 2020.

12. On the initiative to promote carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) and carbon recycling, the Ministers noted the importance of CCUS and carbon recycling in supporting the goals of decarbonisation, recovery and economic growth. The Ministers welcomed the cooperation initiative led by Japan and ERIA to establish the “Asia CCUS Network”, which is expected to realise the partnership that would help implement knowledge and experience sharing and research activities in the EAS region.

13. The Ministers welcomed the inaugural ASEAN-US Energy Storage Forum, which was co-hosted by Singapore and the United States at the 13th Singapore International Energy Week, to deepen cooperation on energy storage systems and to enhance the uptake of renewable energy in the region.

14. The Ministers noted the progress of implementation of the rolling 3-year Roadmap on EAS Mid-Term Energy Policy Research for 2019-2021 and appreciated the contributions of ERIA towards energy policy research activities under the EAS energy cooperation platform. They welcomed the successful convening of the 3rd East Asia Energy Forum (EAEF 3) focusing on CCUS on 17 November 2020 organised by ERIA and Viet Nam and noted the “Reflections from the 3rd East Asia Energy Forum (EAEF3)”.

15. The Ministers looked forward to the next EAS EMM Meeting to be held in 2021 in Brunei Darussalam.

The delegations from EAS participating countries, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Centre for Energy expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Viet Nam for hosting the virtual meeting.
