Chapter 1

Introduction

Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR

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Introduction

The preparation of the Lao PDR's energy statistics regulation is consistent with the objective of the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) to enhance energy data and statistics to support policy planning and actions for the energy-related sectors. In recent years, the MEM has emphasised the importance of accurate energy statistics to guide energy policy development. In this regard, accurate energy statistics are fundamental to establishing appropriate energy policies that could promote energy efficiency and conservation, deployment of renewable energy, affordable energy supply, maintenance of energy supply security, and investment in clean technologies and clean fuels.

Since 2015, the MEM has received technical support from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) to build a good foundation for energy data and statistics. For instance, the ministry produced its first national energy statistics in 2016–2017, covering energy supply and demand data from 2000 to 2015. Subsequently, in 2018–2019, it updated the energy statistics of 2016–2018 under ERIA's technical assistance. Thus, the MEM will need to update its energy data regularly in the future.

Lao PDR's current energy statistics include several estimated data due to unavailable data. The ministry tried to collect missing data from energy market players from various sectors to fill the data gap. However, it was not easy because of the absence of a mandatory basis or a collection system for energy data. Therefore, energy statistics regulation will help the MEM and its staff collect the missing data and replace the estimated data with actual ones. This will enhance the country's national energy statistics and contribute to establishing more appropriate energy policies. Thus, the MEM needs an energy statistics regulation to ask all energy stakeholders to cooperate and comply with the data acquisition per MEM's mandate.

This report describes the energy statistics regulation for the MEM but does not include legal wording (Chapter 2). This report also discusses technical matters on the mandatory data collection system for targeted energies such as coal, oil, electricity, and biomass, and data collection questionnaires and their definitions (Chapters 3 to 6). The regulation focuses only on supply-side energy players because collecting data from them is easier; they are fewer than those on the demand side. However, data on biomass will be gathered from the demand side. For instance, there are many kinds of non-commercial biomass such as fuelwood, especially in rural areas. This means that collecting biomass data from market suppliers is insufficient; hence, the biomass consumption survey in households was conducted under this project (Chapter 7).

Accurate energy statistics contribute to establishing appropriate energy policies and producing a reliable energy outlook. In this regard, the MEM should develop and enforce a mandatory energy data collection system.