Chapter 1

Introduction

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) held an energy efficiency and conservation (EEC) workshop – 'The Second Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Policies in ASEAN' – on 23 April 2019 in Manila, Philippines – in collaboration with the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ). ERIA also held a bilateral meeting with the Department of Energy Philippines (DOE) to discuss ERIA's support to the department regarding the preparation of the EEC implementation road map in the Philippines. Subsequently, ERIA submitted the scope of work to DOE's Energy Utilization and Management Bureau (EUMB) – 'Preparation of Energy Efficiency Roadmap for the Philippines' – which contained EEC fundamentals. These fundamentals comprise a (i) review and preparation of a legislative framework of EEC sub-decrees, (ii) strengthening of energy service companies (ESCOs), (iii) growing of energy managers, (iv) installation of a standard and labelling system, (v) mandatory collection system of energy consumption data from designated factories and commercial buildings, and (vi) enhancement of education and campaign.

Also, based on the 'Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act', signed on 12 April 2019, the DOE sent ERIA an EEC road map, covering various action plans for the final energy consumption sectors in two periods: medium term (2019–2022) and long term (2023–2040). Upon the EUMB/DOE's request, ERIA revised the existing scope of work to be consistent with the action plans of the road map. ERIA experts visited Manila to attend the project's first working group meeting on 29 November 2019 and confirm the contents of the revised scope of work to EUMB. After the first working meeting, the contents of the scope of work were fixed: (i) important points of the EEC Act; (ii) review and revision of the existing document, namely, 'Guidelines on Energy Conserving Design of Buildings'; (iii) introduction of highly efficient vehicles; (iv) preparation of energy efficiency indicators (EEIs) of commercial buildings.

The EUMB, however, decided to make a change and requested ERIA to shift to more EEI studies. Based on EUMB's request, ERIA revised the scope of work again and submitted it to the DOE in January 2020. The revised scope of work contains the following: (i) important points of the EEC Act, and (ii) support to the DOE to prepare the EEIs in the commercial and road transport sectors, including EEI lectures and pilot energy consumption surveys.

ERIA was supposed to hold a second working meeting in Manila from 30 March to 1 April 2020 to kick off the two energy consumption surveys to be conducted by local consultants. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia, ERIA postponed such a meeting to the middle of 2020. After that, the DOE requested ERIA to expand the scope of work to include EEI preparation in the industry and household sectors with energy consumption surveys. In this regard, ERIA and the DOE held a virtual meeting on 24 July 2020 to discuss the scope of work with detailed reviews. Finally, both sides agreed to the following contents of the EEC project for the Philippines in 2020–2021:

- preparation of the EEIs of commercial buildings, including energy consumption surveys
- preparation of EEIs of factories, including energy consumption surveys

- change of the project name to 'Preparation of Energy Efficiency Indicators of Commercial Buildings and Industrial Factories in the Philippines'
- change of project term from October 2020 to February 2021

ERIA and the DOE discussed the following during a virtual meeting on 8 September 2020 to kick off this project:

- introduction of questionnaires to be used for the energy consumption surveys in the industry and commercial sectors, with illustrations of expected output from the surveys
- terms of reference for local consultants to conduct the surveys
- list of candidates from local consultants.

After the meeting on 8 September, the DOE identified two local consultants and requested them to submit their proposals, including cost estimations, to the DOE and ERIA. But both consultants informed the DOE and ERIA that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy consumption surveys would be difficult to implement because enumerators could not visit commercial buildings and factories to conduct surveys and collect energy consumption data. Thus, ERIA decided to postpone the surveys for the following year (2021) after the COVID-19 pandemic eases.

By January 2021, COVID-19 was still ravaging the Asian region. Thus, ERIA proposed to the DOE that the surveys be conducted under a new project in 2021–2022, pending any improvement in the pandemic situation. Meanwhile, the DOE agreed to implement the following activities under the current project:

- conduct a capacity building training on EEC (25–28 January 2021)
- prepare an EEC guidebook.

Again, ERIA organised a virtual meeting on 22 March 2021 to discuss with the EUMB/DOE the contents of the capacity-building training. The training was planned for April 2021. However, the capacity-building training could not be conducted due to the busy schedule of the DOE. Finally, the project supporting the EUMB/DOE in 2019–2020 was reduced only to the preparation of an EEC guidebook in commercial buildings. This should be a useful guidebook that will complement the DOE's Guidelines on Energy Conserving Designs of Buildings in implementing EEC in the Philippines.