

Preface

We all know that member countries of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) have varying energy priorities, opportunities, and challenges. In contrast, our energy systems are increasingly interconnected. But we have a high potential for possible future expansion of power grid interconnection.

With the outcome of this study, we need to continue exploring how we move the regional grid inclusively towards a more accessible, affordable, and sustainable future power sector through the transmission highway concept.

Moreover, ASEAN Member States have been instrumental in the region's first steps towards regional power trade through its efforts to advance some initiatives, such as the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP) as part of the game.

For this, much appreciation and thanks go to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Indonesia, TEPCO Power Grid (TEPCO PG) Incorporated, Japan, and the expert team in conducting this important study for our region. Sincerest appreciation also goes to all ACMECS member countries for their continued support and contribution to this effort for mutual benefit, understanding, and cooperation on future transmission systems.

Having achieved the successful outcomes of this study, we can foresee clearer activities, particularly a continued multilateral spirit of cooperation under the ACMECS framework.

I believe the success of this project will help enhance the regional power trade and make it more secure, stable, and sustainable while promoting opportunities for the energy market, trade, and investments for our mutual benefit.

Definitely, we need supporting policies from the governments and a technical platform from ERIA to help ACMECS countries and partners encourage successful multi-stakeholder collaboration.

On behalf of the Ministry of Energy of Thailand, I would like to thank the working group members again. And I hope that, with the continued support from ERIA and TEPCO PG, we will move the study's outcomes to the attention of higher authorities as a next step.

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ERIA's energy unit prepared this report. The main authors are Shigeru Kimura and Keisuke Ueda. Other principal contributors are Kin Sothea, Pauk Kyaing Sahm, Parinya Eakponpisan, and Masaharu Yogo. They each provided essential contributions to the current power system situation in ACMECS countries and various other chapters. This study could not have been realised without many people's invaluable support and contribution (please see details in the list of Project Members).

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