

Preface

Until March 2020, before the spread of COVID-19, Cambodia had achieved strong GDP growth in the past 2 decades, with a yearly average growth rate of about 7.7%. Thanks to the government's policy reforms that attracted global foreign direct investment into the country. So far, energy has played a critical role in supporting economic activities and growth. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a global recession, and Cambodia is no exception. Its economy contracted by 3.1% in 2020 and recovered very well to grow by about 3% in 2021 and 5.3% in 2022. In 2023, the growth is expected to be around 6.5% (ADB, 2022). Because of the pandemic, the country's energy demand reduced by 5%–10%, and oil and electricity demand decreased largely by about 15%–20% in 2020–2022 compared to 2019.

The COVID-19 impact on energy demand prompted the rethinking of our future energy mix, including the types of fuel to meet the electricity demand and the demand in other sectors. For example, Cambodia revised its Power Development Plan 2020–2030, which foresees a larger share of gas consumption in the power generation mix. Its economic recovery from post-COVID-19 is expected from 2022 onwards. Thus, its energy demand is also expected to bounce back strongly. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other clean fuels will play a crucial role in the energy mix, especially in power generation, industrial, transportation, commercial, and residential uses.

Cambodia first published *Cambodia Energy Statistics 2015* with technical and financial support from the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). In collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Cambodia (MME). ERIA again updated the energy statistics as more data became available in 2019. This energy statistics update will be significantly important for energy policy planners in Cambodia as it will provide more energy data for its planners to prepare appropriate energy policies for the MME. It will also serve more energy stakeholders in Cambodia.

On behalf of the ministry, I am very thankful to Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of ERIA, who always showed kindness and support to ASEAN member states in policy research, including preparing the energy statistics update for Cambodia. Thanks to ERIA and MME staff experts who collected and updated the energy statistics. Lastly, on behalf of the MME, I sincerely thank ERIA for its excellent collaboration on many energy projects, building a solid foundation for energy policy planning in Cambodia.



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