



## **Joint Ministerial Statement**

### **The Twenty-First ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting Plus Three (China, Japan, Korea) (21<sup>st</sup> AMEM+3)**

**27 September 2024**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Twenty-First ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting Plus Three (China, Japan, Korea) (21<sup>st</sup> AMEM+3) was held on 27 September 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Phoxay Sayasone, Minister of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR. The Meeting also welcomed the Minister of Petroleum and Minerals of Timor-Leste as an observer.
2. The Meeting recognised the urgency of strengthening regional energy connectivity and building resilience in the face of evolving global challenges. The Meeting appreciated Lao PDR's chairmanship in strengthening regional collaboration, enhancing the collective capacity to respond to emerging challenges, and ensuring the region remains proactive in securing a sustainable and stable energy future. The Meeting also expressed appreciation for the vision and direction provided by Lao PDR in advancing these critical priorities.
3. The Meeting recognised the significant role of ASEAN+3 cooperation in navigating the evolving landscape of global energy challenges. As ASEAN continues to solidify its position as a central force in global economic growth, the Meeting emphasised the need for unified and strategic efforts to ensure energy security, sustainability, and resilience towards a low-carbon economy. The Meeting reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to deepening regional energy cooperation amid intensifying global geopolitical uncertainties, volatile energy markets, and supply chain disruptions. The Meeting further reaffirmed that regional collaboration is essential to accelerate economic growth and drive sustainable development in an era of rapid energy transitions, digitalisation, and emerging technologies.
4. The Meeting congratulated the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) on the successful publication and launch of the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEO8), which provides a comprehensive analysis of the region's energy landscape and future pathways. As ASEAN embarks on developing the new ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2026-2030, the Outlook serves as a critical reference, guiding the ASEAN Member States (AMS) in setting aspirational energy targets. Moreover, the Meeting reiterated the importance of fostering innovation, scaling up investments, and enhancing the sustainability of clean and modern energy infrastructures, services, and technologies. The Meeting emphasised the need to develop regional plans to adopt suitable emerging and advanced technologies and sustainable fuels to ensure a stable, secure, and resilient

energy supply as the region transitions towards a low-carbon energy future. The Meeting welcomed the progress of the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Interconnection Project (LTMS-PIP) and Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines Power Interconnection Project (BIMP-PIP) towards realising the shared benefits of cross-border power trading to the region.

5. The Meeting acknowledged the significant progress in implementing the current APAEC Phase II: 2021-2025. It encouraged the Plus Three Countries to continue their invaluable support as the region approaches its finalisation in 2025. The Meeting underscored the importance of drawing on the lessons learned from the current APAEC to shape the development of the post-2025 APAEC. It was emphasised that the new APAEC must be closely aligned with the region's dynamic energy landscape and the overarching objectives of the ASEAN+3 collaboration. The Meeting expressed deep appreciation for the ongoing commitment of the Plus Three Countries in shaping the post-2025 APAEC. It reaffirmed the importance of enhancing regional capacity, harmonising energy policies, and fostering strong public-private partnerships. These efforts are essential to ensuring that ASEAN+3 countries are well-positioned to lead the global transition towards a sustainable and low-carbon energy future. The Meeting looked forward to the launch of the establishment of the International Energy Agency (IEA) Regional Cooperation Centre at the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2024, and the Centre's role in advancing regional energy cooperation.

### **Energy Security**

6. The Meeting recognised the diverse pathways available to each country for enhancing energy security and resilience. The Meeting highlighted the vital role of regional energy interconnection in strengthening energy security and improving the efficiency of resource sharing. The Meeting also encouraged the adoption and scaling up of innovative low-carbon technologies, including hydrogen, fuel ammonia, small modular reactors, bioenergy, clean coal technology (CCT), and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCU/S) / carbon recycling, as critical elements in the region's transition to resilience and sustainable energy systems. The Meeting further acknowledged Japan's support in assisting AMS in providing access to advanced technologies, financial mechanisms, and capacity-building initiatives that support the development of clean and resilient energy infrastructure. The Meeting noted, as important initiatives that contribute to energy transition in Asia, the Japan-led Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) and relevant initiatives such as Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI) and the private-sector-led Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATF SG).
7. The Meeting acknowledged the region's reliance on oil imports and underscored the urgent need to mitigate the impacts of oil market volatility to safeguard energy security. In light of this, the Meeting welcomed the announcement of the upcoming Oil Capacity Building Programme on Energy Security, scheduled in December 2024 in Japan, co-organised by the ACE and the Japan Organisation for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC). This programme is expected to enhance knowledge and best practices sharing on managing oil supply disruptions through oil security and stockpiling policies. The Meeting further welcomed the plans to organise the 12<sup>th</sup> Oil Stockpiling Roadmap Workshop on 26 November 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
8. The Meeting recognised the Energy Security Forum (ESF) as a significant platform for

enhancing regional collaboration to address global energy price fluctuations, supply disruptions, and geopolitical risks while advancing its goals of transitioning to a low-carbon economy. This year, the Forum will emphasise the importance of accelerating the adoption of emerging technologies, fostering innovation in energy infrastructure, and enhancing regional cooperation to build a more resilient and sustainable energy future. The Meeting strongly encouraged ASEAN+3 Countries to actively engage in the Forum by sharing policies, best practices, and expertise to drive collective progress and reinforce regional energy security in the face of evolving global dynamics. The Meeting appreciated Malaysia's planned hosting of the 21<sup>st</sup> ESF in November 2024.

9. The Meeting recognised the ongoing role of coal in ASEAN's current energy mix, providing stability and reliability to the region's energy supply. The Meeting underscored the importance of a just and inclusive energy transition, where all energy resources, including coal, are managed responsibly to facilitate the shift towards carbon neutrality.
10. The Meeting appreciated the Plus Three Countries that has supported the advancement of Clean Coal Technology (CCT) and/or CCU/S development in ASEAN, including the study developed by ACE in collaboration with Japan Carbon Frontier Organisation (JCOAL), JOGMEC and Mitsubishi Research Institute (MRI). The Meeting also looked forward to the completion of the joint study with Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on ASEAN Coal Transition Technologies (ASCOTRECH), that will develop workshops and studies on the policy, technology, and financial strategies on coal transition technologies. The Meeting further looked forward to other potential support from the Plus Three Countries on potential CCT and/or CCU/S initiatives.
11. The Meeting highlighted the role of hydrogen as an emerging new alternative technology towards low carbon economy. The Meeting noted the joint study on ASEAN Low Carbon Energy Technologies Roadmap (ALERT) Phase I: ASEAN's Long-term Strategy on Hydrogen and Ammonia by ACE and ERIA supported by Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan, to building hydrogen economy.
12. The Meeting noted the potential of nuclear energy as an alternative energy source to ensure energy security and achieving carbon neutrality. The Meeting emphasised the need for strengthening international cooperation to build human resources capabilities on nuclear science, technology and regulatory framework, including aspects of nuclear safety and security. The Meeting suggested to explore cooperation to assess the potential of civilian nuclear energy utilisation beyond large power generation to ensure reliability of nuclear energy, including small modular reactor (SMR) for remote areas, hydrogen production and industrial heat.
13. The Meeting acknowledged and appreciated the ongoing collaboration between ACE and the Korea Electrical Safety Cooperation (KESCO) to improve electrical safety management for New and Renewable Energy (NRE) facilities in the ASEAN region. The Meeting further recognized the successful completion of the Training Programme on Electrical Safety Management, held from 7 to 11 July 2024 in Korea, which aimed to share Korea's expertise in electrical safety with public officials and key stakeholders from ASEAN countries. The Meeting look forward to the continued collaboration with KESCO under this area.

## **Oil Market and Natural Gas Forum and Business Dialogue**

14. The Meeting noted the dependency of AMS on oil and gas products and emphasised the growing urgency to deepen regional cooperation in mitigating supply disruptions. The Meeting agreed to intensify efforts in capacity building and knowledge sharing, particularly in enhancing supply chain resilience and diversifying energy sources.
15. The Meeting acknowledged that ensuring stable and increased deliveries of liquefied natural gas (LNG) is essential for both energy security and the broader energy transition in ASEAN. The Meeting underscored the necessity of sustained investment in LNG infrastructure, including storage, transportation, and distribution networks, as these investments will be pivotal in supporting the region's shift towards a low-carbon energy future while ensuring reliable energy access.
16. The Meeting welcomed Malaysia's plan to host the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Oil Market and Natural Gas Forum and Business Dialogue in November 2024, which will place a strong emphasis on sharing best practices related to oil and gas policies and exploring new business opportunities. The Forum and Business Dialogue will also focus on advancing the critical role of oil and gas in ensuring energy security while supporting the region's energy transition. The Forum and Business Dialogue will discuss strategies for leveraging the oil and gas sector to meet current energy demands and long-term sustainability goals, focusing on how the industry can contribute to a balanced and secure energy future for ASEAN+3.

## **New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C)**

17. The Meeting appreciated the Ministry of Energy of Thailand for organising the 18<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) Forum which was held on 24 July 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting acknowledged the commendable efforts by ASEAN+3 countries in advancing EE&C measures, particularly in the end-use sectors of industry and transport, which are the most energy-intensive sectors. The Meeting recognised these sectors as pivotal in transitioning towards a low-carbon energy future. It emphasised the significant progress made in ramping up the deployment of RE within these areas. The Meeting underscored the importance of broader collaboration in adopting innovative approaches to create an enabling environment for clean energy investment as a necessary step for the region to lower the costs of clean technologies to drive a more sustainable and resilient energy transition.
18. The Meeting expressed appreciation for Korea's ongoing support of implementing the ASEAN+3 Mitigation Cooperation Programme, a collaborative effort between the Korea Energy Agency (KEA) and ACE. This programme has been crucial in advancing regional mitigation efforts, promoting sustainable energy practices, and strengthening cooperation amongst ASEAN+3 countries. The Meeting noted the accomplishments in 2023–2024, including the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN–Korea Capacity Building Workshop in the Industry and Transport Sectors and, the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Action Plan Working Group (APWG) Meetings. The Meeting looked forward to the progress report in the next Meeting.
19. The Meeting acknowledged the significant progress of the ASEAN – Japan Energy

Efficiency Partnership (AJEEP) under Scheme 4 and Scheme 5 in advancing the regional energy management certification scheme and carbon neutrality goals. The Meeting noted the continuing efforts towards finalising the common standard module for the Sustainable ASEAN Energy Management Certification Scheme (SAEMAS), including conducting country visits to ensure its comprehensive adoption across the AMS. The Meeting noted the ongoing plans to conduct carbon neutrality analyses in selected AMS for 2023-2024 under the AJEEP Scheme 5, particularly in the industrial and building sectors, which will further support ASEAN's transition to a low-carbon energy future.

20. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the successful conduct of the 6<sup>th</sup> Government-Private Forum on the Cleaner Energy Future Initiative for ASEAN (CEFIA), held on 23 July 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting recognised the significant progress made in CEFIA's flagship projects and highlighted the increasing involvement of the private sector in supporting the adoption of decarbonisation technologies and initiatives. The Meeting underscored the critical role of CEFIA as a pivotal platform for mobilising transition financing and further encouraged both public and private sector investment in energy transition projects. The Meeting welcomed Japan's proposal to host the 7<sup>th</sup> CEFIA Government-Private Forum in Japan in February 2025. The Meeting encouraged the continuation of CEFIA's flagship projects to support the implementation of the post-2025 APAEC and to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach to advancing ASEAN's clean energy goals.

### **Clean Energy Roundtable Dialogue**

21. The Meeting acknowledged the successful conduct of the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Clean Energy Roundtable Dialogue, held as part of the China-ASEAN Clean Energy Week (CACEW) from 18-24 September 2023 in Haikou, Hainan Province, China. The dialogue focused on "Decentralised Power System Development and Consumption," which is vital for diversifying energy sources and enhancing regional energy resilience. The Meeting also acknowledged the comprehensive capacity building and collaborative efforts demonstrated during the CACEW 2023, including the China-ASEAN Clean Energy Capacity Building Programme, the ASEAN-China Clean Energy Enterprise Dialogue, and the ASEAN-China Clean Energy Think Tank Dialogue, which collectively contributed to enhancing the capacity of AMS and fostering regional cooperation in the field of clean energy.
22. The Meeting welcomed the plans to organise the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN+3 Clean Energy Roundtable Dialogue in November 2024 in China, to be co-organised by ACE and China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI). The programme will focus on the cross-border electricity trade to discuss the critical policy and technical breakthroughs needed to advance regional integration of cross-border electricity initiatives across ASEAN+3, including the integration of variable renewable energy (vRE) into the cross-border electricity system.
23. The Meeting noted the launching of the *ASEAN Offshore Wind Development Roadmap*, developed by ACE and CREEI. The Meeting noted the findings of this study, which emphasises the need for strengthened regional cooperation between and amongst governments, enterprises, and research institutes to foster a collaborative innovation system for wind power development in ASEAN.

24. The Meeting acknowledged the progress in the development of the ASEAN-China Clean Energy Cooperation Centre (ACCECC) following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ACE and China's ACCECC Affairs Managing Agency (AMA) last year. The Meeting emphasised ACCECC's objectives in strengthening energy cooperation between ASEAN and China, fostering deeper collaboration and knowledge exchange. The Meeting recognised the ongoing discussions aimed at refining the technical and organisational arrangements for ACCECC to develop a comprehensive concept note that will guide its strategic direction and operational framework. Furthermore, the Meeting supported to adopt flexible methods, such as taking steps, in building ACCECC, and promote the signing of the regional intergovernmental documents while continuing to carry out pragmatic energy cooperation.

### **Next Meeting**

25. The delegations of the ASEAN+3 Countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and ACE expressed their appreciation to the Government and people of Lao PDR for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the 21<sup>st</sup> AMEM+3.
26. The Meeting agreed to meet again in 2025 in Malaysia for the 22<sup>nd</sup> AMEM+3.