

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE FIRST DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON ENERGY MEETING AND INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

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1. The First Dialogue between the ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) was held on 28 September 2017 in Pasay City, the Philippines, during the 35th AMEM and its Associated Meetings from 25-29 September 2017. H.E. Alfonso G. Cusi, Secretary of Energy of the Philippines on behalf of the AMEM Chaired the Meeting and co-chaired by Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA.
 2. H.E. Alfonso G. Cusi, Secretary of the Department of Energy of the Philippines officiated the first AMEM-IRENA Dialogue and highlighted the importance of the first Dialogue in charting out the commitment of ASEAN's target for increasing its renewable share to 23% by 2025. He emphasised the importance of Research and Innovation in achieving the target and the collaboration with IRENA is timely in providing better and more sustainable energy for the people.
 3. Mr. Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General of IRENA welcomed the convening of this first AMEM-IRENA Dialogue as a valuable opportunity to strengthening long-term cooperation between ASEAN and IRENA with a view to scaling-up renewables in the ASEAN region. Mr. Amin underlined that the region possessed abundant renewable energy resources which could be harnessed to assist the region in fuelling economic growth, meeting growing energy demand, achieving greater energy security and meeting climate objectives. The Director-General emphasized that the Agency stood ready to work closely with ASEAN and support its efforts to meets its regional aspirational target and accelerate its transition to a sustainable energy future which is both technically feasible and economically attractive.
 4. The Ministers recognised that IRENA is the global intergovernmental organisation mandated to promote the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, and that it supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy.
 5. The Ministers thanked IRENA for the strong collaboration that has been made in the past in promoting and disseminating policies and measures on renewable energy in the ASEAN region through various activities such as joint study and capacity building between IRENA and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) on Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN - a REmap Analysis.

6. The Ministers and the Director-General of IRENA agreed that advancing the energy transition towards a low-carbon, clean, secure, affordable and sustainable energy future for ASEAN, through a reduction in energy intensity and an increase in the deployment of renewable energy options, would yield significant benefits for ASEAN, in terms of improved energy independence and enhanced the climate resilience, and bring long-term societal and economic prospects.
7. The Ministers and the Director-General of IRENA also agreed that an ASEAN-wide aspirational renewable energy target can serve to escalate investments in renewable energy systems in the ASEAN Member States (AMS), and facilitate the integration of energy infrastructure and markets at the regional level.
8. The Ministers and the Director-General of IRENA recognised that establishing a strategic partnership on renewable energy development between ASEAN and IRENA is very important and that it would help drive policies and efforts for realising the sustained growth of renewable energy for energy security and environmental sustainability in the ASEAN region.
9. The Ministers and the Director-General of IRENA agreed to pursue and deepen this dialogue through strategic actions in promoting and supporting the development of policies and measures for renewable energy.
10. With this, the Ministers and the Director-General of IRENA agreed to undertake the following cooperation:
 - To continue and enhance co-operation with a view to advancing the energy transition towards a low-carbon, clean, secure, affordable and sustainable energy future for ASEAN through strategic actions in promoting and supporting the development of renewable energy sources;
 - To develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the long-term co-operation between ASEAN and IRENA to support the realisation of the APAEC 2016-2025, and to facilitate the regional energy transition process of scaling up renewable energy deployment in ASEAN;
 - To institutionalise regular high-level dialogues between ASEAN and IRENA through the platform of the ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME); and
 - To establish close collaboration with Renewable Energy Sub-sector Network (RE-SSN), focusing on specific initiatives with respect to renewable energy planning or roadmap development, system integration, innovation, renewable energy costing, project facilitation and financing, as well as social and economic benefits in line with IRENA's work programme and the actions undertaken by RE-SSN taking reference from the Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN - a REmap Analysis
11. The two sides expressed their sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for the warm hospitality accorded to the delegations and the excellent arrangements made.
12. The Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Director General of IRENA agreed to convene the next AMEM-IRENA Dialogue in Singapore in 2018.