



Remarks
by
H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand,
At the opening session of
the 2nd Asian and Pacific Energy Forum,
at UNCC, Bangkok
4 April 2018 from 09.10 – 09.19 hours

Mr. Chairman,
Ministers, Excellencies,
Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Participants.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to warmly welcome all participants to the 2nd Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, organized at a timely moment soon after the high-level Global SDG7 conference and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).

2. **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of energy for development. Energy is intrinsically interconnected with the majority of other SDGs.** Energy is an essential enabler for poverty reduction, food security, health, education, water, climate action and much more. Therefore, SDG7 has been designated for energy and include the three interlinked targets: universal energy access; renewable energy deployment; and increasing energy efficiency.

Mr. Chairman,

3. If we are to achieve sustainable development, our energy usage must also be sustainable and environmental friendly. The world is thus in an era of energy transition, transforming itself from the world dominated by fossil fuel to the world driven by cleaner energy. Countries in Asia and the Pacific are determined to transform their economies into green and clean economies by

focusing on finding climate-friendly and sustainable energy options and to further promote the progress towards achieving SDG7. Against the backdrop of an energy transition era, let me share some key elements that Thailand finds crucial for realizing SDG 7.

4. **First**, as the Asia-Pacific region is projected to account for two thirds of global energy growth between now and 2040, **energy diversification should be our primary goal** to ensure a sustainable supply of energy to meet such strong demand. In Thailand, the Power Development Plan or PDP2015 (*under review*) sets guidelines on fuel diversification in electricity generation to reduce the country's reliance on natural gas and distribute the fuel share towards other sources such as renewable energy and cleaner sources of energy.

5. **Second**, energy transitioning to achieve the SDG7 requires significant progress on both demand-side management and increased supply of cleaner energy sources. Therefore, **an integrated energy policy is a must**. Thailand's **Integrated Energy Blueprint** is a master plan in advancing the country towards energy security, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability, while accounting for oil, gas, renewable energy, energy efficiency and power sector, based on His Majesty the late King Bhumibol's *Sufficiency Economy Philosophy*.

Mr. Chairman.

6. **Policy coherence is important. Thailand 4.0** Policy is our long-term national strategy to transform Thailand into a value-based economy to get out of the middle-income trap and to deal effectively with disparities and the imbalance between the environment and society. To be in line with Thailand 4.0 Policy, SDG7 and the Paris Agreement, the Ministry of Energy has launched **Energy 4.0** Policy to raise the standard and improve the efficiency of energy usage by relying more on clean energy and improving the quality of life of the people. Furthermore, the Policy also aims to promote four major tasks, namely, (1) the use of Electric Vehicles or EV such as *e-Tuk Tuk*, (2) smart cities and smart grid projects, (3) hybrid power generation from renewable sources, and (4) R&D on energy storage. In moving forward the *Energy 4.0* policy, Thailand welcomes international cooperation in exchange of information, R&D and technology transfer, as well as investments from overseas.

7. To deal with our ever changing environment, we should **develop a better understanding of opportunities and challenges that arise from increasing disruptive technologies.** Governments should develop a vision for a sustainable energy future that addresses multiple energy policy challenges and tracks its progress towards national goals. The key success factor is effective and predictable government policies. More importantly, **energy policy, regulation, finance and market mechanisms must be adapted in harmony** to support this challenging energy transition.

8. **Last but not least, partnership is a key catalyst for the implementation of SDG7 as well as all other SDGs.** Thailand believes in achieving SDGs through shared responsibility and collective efforts with full engagement and contribution from all stakeholders. Governments, on the other hand, need to strengthen their cross-sectoral processes and partnerships at all levels in order to maximize the benefits of energy transitions. In Thailand, the private sector is a key player in the energy sector. Combining the resources of the private and public sectors through partnerships for renewable energy and energy efficiency finance can generate positive impacts. The private sector can further play important roles as providers of technologies and innovations relevant to achieving SDG7.

Mr. Chairman,

9. **Partnership is also important at the regional and international levels. International cooperation can facilitate a more efficient energy transition.** In terms of cooperation in energy connectivity, the ASEAN and Greater Mekong Subregion programmes are among the most advanced in the region. Our long-term ASEAN bilateral power purchase and connectivity project under ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation became a role model that can be upgraded to a successful multilateral connectivity project. The first phase of the Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project, building on the nine interconnection projects has already been completed. In addition, projects such as Lao PDR-Malaysia-Thailand and the upcoming Thailand-Lao PDR-China agreements on cross-border power and transmission project will help improve people's quality of life and sustainable

economic growth. Such endeavours at the regional level are important stepping stones, paving the way for sustainable energy cooperation at the global level.

10. Thailand therefore commends UN ESCAP for organizing this timely, high-level gathering for policy makers to meet and engage in a comprehensive policy *dialogue*, serving as a *springboard* towards how best to achieve energy security through the different transition pathways of the countries in the Asia and the Pacific.

11. To this end, Thailand stands ready to work with the **United Nations, its relevant agencies and other Member States** to reinforce our energy cooperation, increase access to energy resources and achieve a balance in our future energy choices. Through the greater involvement and engagement of all Member States, I am confident that the Asia and the Pacific region will rise above the challenges now before us and attain energy security in a sustainable and environmental friendly manner.

Mr. Chairman,

12. **Energy is essential for development, and sustainable energy is essential for sustainable development.** Energy is a top-drawer item for all stakeholders. Achieving sustainable energy for all will require an investment in our collective future. By using energy more efficiently and sustainably, we can build a society that is more sustainable and inclusive, a society in which no one is left behind.

13. I wish this **Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum** every success in its deliberations, paving the way for closer energy cooperation in the region and beyond.

I thank you for your kind attention.
