



## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**by**

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**at**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Energy Forum (APEF2)**

**4 April 2018 at 10.15-10.20 hrs.**

**UNCC, Bangkok**

***(5 minutes)***

**Excellencies, Ministers and Ambassadors from**

**Member States and Associate Members,**

**Madame Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under Secretary-General**

**and Executive Secretary of ESCAP,**

**Honorable Delegates**

**Distinguished Participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A pleasant good morning and welcome to Bangkok...

On behalf of the Ministry of Energy of the Royal Thai Government, I wish to thank the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for inviting the Ministry of Energy to co-host the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum organized here in Bangkok. It is an honor to deliver a keynote address for this esteemed gathering.

Enhancing energy security and developing policies and strategies to attain the Sustainable Development Goals are major concerns and challenges for all Member States in the ESCAP region, therefore in this meeting we may wish to deliberate the progress achieved since the First Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, which was held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, in 2013, and aspirations for regional cooperation for energy transition towards sustainable and resilient societies.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Against the backdrop of expected rising energy demand, the energy *diversification* should be the prime goal to all member states to ensure sustainable supply of energy to meet such demand towards SDG7. In **Thailand**, the electricity supply is being carried out under the Power Development Plan or PDP2015 (*under review*) that sets guidelines on **fuel diversification** in power generation with a reason 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. Our .Bioenergy is the dominant renewable energy source in end-use sectors equal to about 75% of all renewable generation in the country.

**For Regional Energy Cooperation**, our long-term ASEAN bilateral power purchase and connectivity project under ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation became a role model that has been upgradable to successful Multilateral Connectivity Project such as **Lao PDR-Thailand-Malaysia or LTM** project and *in-coming Thailand-Lao PDR-China* Power Purchase project for a betterment of the people's quality of life, electrification and economic growth in the long run.

Though our region still possesses energy resources including oil and natural gas and comprises of both major importers and producers, from the current trend, we are moving towards *energy transition era*, from the world that is driven by fossil fuel to the world that is dominated by cleaner energy.

Moreover, under the *Paris Agreement on Climate Change*, two-third of greenhouse gas emissions come from energy sector. Therefore, various countries pay attention to transforming their economy into green economy by focusing on finding clean and sustainable energy options in order to become low-carbon society.

## **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To deal with challenging new and innovative energy future, policy makers 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 to reach such goals is the government's effective and predictable policies. More importantly, energy policy, regulation, finance and market mechanisms must be adapted in harmony to support this challenging energy transition that can bring solution from “policy” to “action”.

For Thailand and its *energy transition*, the Ministry of Energy's “*Thailand Integrated Energy Blueprint*” is a main plan in driving the country towards energy security, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability for oil, gas, RE, EE and power sector, under his Majesty's the King's principle ‘*Sufficiency Economy Philosophy*’. Furthermore, the government's **Thailand 4.0** Policy has been announced to revive the economy, increase the country's competitiveness and escape the “middle-income trap” by transforming the country's economic structure to value and innovation-based economy. Currently, the government's priority policy on the development of Thailand's **Eastern Economic Corridor** (EEC) has been introduced to support the investment and economic development particularly on hi-tech and innovative industries. **Thailand would like to invite all Asian and Pacific Investors to our EEC program with high incentives.**

To be in line with Thailand 4.0, the Ministry of Energy has launched “**Energy 4.0**” Policy. This policy is currently composed of 4 major energy areas including promotion of electric vehicle including *E-Tuk Tuk*, energy storage system, hybrid power generation from renewable sources, and smart city and smart grid. In driving the *Energy 4.0* policy towards success, Thailand needs international cooperation in exchange of information, R & D and technology transfer, as well as investments from overseas.

Thailand's implementation of *National Bio-economy Strategy* is very successful where existing economic crops and agricultural residue would be used to develop high-value products. The current government policies in promoting renewable energy not only enhance energy security but also increase the revenue for the *well being* of the citizen and at the same time solving environmental problems. We are

pleased to work with all Member States in joint activities for the development of Bio-economy of our region.

From the mentioned policies, Thailand is in a *transition period* where we aim to drive our energy sector towards an increasing **modernized and smart future towards cleaner use of energy**. This will be a pressing challenge for us on how to manage the country's energy system to have a secured, cost-competitive and environmentally friendly source of energy in line with SDG7.

**Excellencies, Honored Members and Distinguished Delegates,**

As Thailand will assume the **ASEAN Chairman in 2019** and earnestly moves towards the targets of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, I believe achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires shared responsibility and collective efforts with full engagement and contribution from all stakeholders, including national and regional cooperation, and inclusive of government, private sector, civil society and community. Moving forward takes guts and *political will*.

Thailand would like to thank to the UN ESCAP for her great effort in organizing this very important high-level gathering as a neutral platform of policy makers to meet and discuss via comprehensive policy *dialogue* as well as a *spring board* towards energy security implications of transition pathways between Asian and the Pacific Members for a common understanding and mutual benefits toward achieving the sustainable development goal.

Thailand stands firm to cooperate with the **United Nations, its relevant Agencies and Member States** to reinforce our energy cooperation, leading to strengthen our energy security through greater effort in increasing access to further utilize energy resources and explore its balance as our future *energy choices*. I do believe, greater involvement and engagement of all Member States will definitely make the Asia and the Pacific rise above the challenges.

I thrust that this **Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum** would further pave the way for closer energy cooperation in the region and the World.

I wish the Forum every success!

Thank you very much.

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