

**Committee on Energy, Second Session
9-11 October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand**

**Side Event
Government-Business Dialogue on the Energy Transition**

**09:30-15:00 hrs, Friday 11 October 2019
Venue: BITEC**

Rationale and Background:

The energy transition pathway in Asia and the Pacific is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) assists its member States to quicken the pace of the energy transition and support achievement of goals for universal energy access, increasing renewable energy, improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Committee on Energy is ESCAP's foremost forum for high-level inter-governmental discussion on issues relating to the energy transition. The Second Session of the Committee on Energy will be held in Bangkok from 9 to 11 October 2019.

ESCAP recognises the important role that private industry will play in delivering the energy transition.

The 4th edition of the Smart Energy Transformation Asia (SETA) regional conference and exhibition, 'The leading meeting place for the ASEAN energy sector', is scheduled to be held in Bangkok on 10-12 October 2019. The event's focus on private-sector opportunities in the energy transition aligns well with the ESCAP Committee on Energy goals to promote energy sector development.

The timing of the conference, which overlaps the Second Session of the Committee on Energy, provides an opportunity for dialogue between government and business attendees of the two events. Attendees of SETA 2019 are invited to join the ESCAP Committee on Energy for an event to discuss the roles of business and government in the energy transition.

This meeting will join delegates of the two events to create a platform for businesses to provide their perspective on the energy transition to delegates and senior government officials from the region.

It will demonstrate the opportunity for engagement between government and private industry, and help attendees to identify solutions and strategies that will shape the energy industry in the coming years.

All delegates are welcome to participate at the Dialogue.

Objectives:

The event will promote dialogue between attendees to SETA 2019 and the members of the ESCAP Committee on Energy. It will demonstrate the willingness and enthusiasm for engagement between government and private industry and help attendees to identify solutions and strategies that will shape the energy industry in the coming years.

Expected output:

The session will contribute to a better understanding among attendees of the respective roles of business and government—and the willingness for collaboration—to achieve the energy transition.

Format and Duration:

Attendees of Smart Energy Transformation Asia 2019 are invited to join the ESCAP Committee on Energy for an event to discuss the roles of business and government in the energy transition.

The event will be structured as a round-table session. As the government of the host country, the Ministry of Energy, Thailand will formally open the proceedings by welcoming the guests and briefly present an overview of the Thai government's perspective on the energy transition. The following speakers will alternately present (i) the Committee on Energy's vision for with a high-level summary of Sustainable Development Goal 7 targets, and the Nationally Determined Contributions with implications for the energy sector; and (ii) an assessment of the problems faced by business in delivering the transition.

An open discussion, facilitated by the Ministry of Energy Thailand and prompted by questions taken on notice, will investigate the role of the government (regulation, support and other mechanisms) and private-sector (finance, technology and market innovation) in achieving the targets.

Tentative Programme

09:30—09:40 Welcome and introductions

- Dr Poonpat Leesombatpiboon
Executive Director, International Affairs Division
Ministry of Energy, Thailand

09:40—10:15 “The Committee on Energy’s vision for an energy transition” and “The changing energy sector – needs of the smart energy industry”

- Moderator: Mr Weerawat Chantanakome
Councillor & Advisor, Ministry of Energy of Thailand
- Ms Latha Ganesh
Senior Assistant Director, Energy Market Authority, Singapore
- Mr I-Chun Hsiao
Manager New Business Development, Asia-Pacific, Enel X
- Ms Margalita Arabidze
Deputy Head of Energy Policy Department
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia
- Mr Robin Hughes
Founder and CEO, Clean Vehicle Solutions (Asia) Limited
- Mr Ashok Mangotra
former Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, India
former Joint Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India
- Mr David Morgado
Senior Energy Policy Specialist, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

10:15—10:55 Round-table discussion with questions on notice

10:55—11:00 Closing Remarks

- Mr Hongpeng Liu
Director, Energy Division
UN ESCAP

11.30 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 15.00 Technical visit at Smart Energy Transformation Asia (SETA) regional conference and exhibition