

Statement
Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation
Organization (GEIDCO)
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GEIDCO commits to promoting energy transition in a clean and green way, to facilitate the sustainable development of human economy and society. In order to implement the UN 2030 Agenda, GEIDCO proposed the “Global Energy Interconnection Action Plan for Promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (Action Plan), which was released at a high-level symposium co-hosted by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and GEIDCO in New York in November 2017. Secretary General Antonio Guterres remarked that the UN will incorporate GEI into the 2030 Agenda action plans.

As an engine of global economic growth, the Asia-Pacific region is confronted with the problems of unbalanced development and environmental pollution caused by the rapid growth of energy demand. Energy transition can help to solve these problems. In order to promote the Asia-Pacific energy transition and interconnection, GEIDCO and ESCAP conduct a research which focuses on Southeast Asia, working jointly with ASEAN Centre for energy (ACE). I will give a brief introduction of the research on behalf of the three parties.

The first part is a brief introduction of the joint research.

ESCAP and GEIDCO have started cooperation regarding to the Asia-Pacific Region Energy transition since 2016. To further deepen the research, the ACE, ESCAP and GEIDCO signed an agreement and set up a joint working group in November 2017.

The study is following the guide of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 7 (SDG 7) , Global energy interconnection (GEI) and the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025. It tries to answer how to promote the energy transition, how to solve the accessibility to electricity and the roadmap of energy interconnection.

The joint working group has conducted several meetings in Beijing, Jakarta and Bangkok and involved in discussion with experts from ASEAN member countries. Through the close cooperation and joint efforts of all parties, we have made progressive achievement.

This study has several features. In terms of cooperation, three parties play their own roles in policy, technology, coordination and other aspects of expertise, complementing each other. It forms an open study platform with close collaboration. In terms of research contents, firstly, the study covers 35 years, aligning with the global development goals listed in the Paris Agreement and making a forward-looking analysis on the medium and long term trends and overall vision. Secondly, not only ASEAN countries but also the surrounding countries such as, China, Bangladesh and so on are analyzed to improve the benefits of clean energy allocation. Thirdly, it analyzes potential contributions of key technologies, such as ultra-high voltage, VSC and so on, which could promote energy interconnection. Fourthly, it studies power supply mix considering the developments of the demand side and the supply side. Last but not the least, it provides quantitative analysis results on the social and environmental benefits.

The second part of my speech is the key study results.

Based on our research, we find that ASEAN has the basic conditions for accelerating clean development as well as building an energy interconnection

In terms of socio-economy, sustained economic growth and political stability of ASEAN have become a highlight of the world. Countries enact energy policies and measures to support clean energy development. In terms of energy resources, ASEAN has rich clean energy resources. In terms of technology, the cost of clean energy development is decreasing. By 2025, wind and PV power generation would become more competitive than fossil fuels. UHV, VSC, smart grid and other mature key technologies increasingly improves with more and more practical cases. In terms of energy development tendency, the energy structure is becoming clean dominant. The final energy consumption is evolving to be electricity-centered.

The second key result is that overall vision and major missions of building ASEAN energy interconnection are proposed.

To build the interconnection, the priority is the clean energy development considering centralized and distributed exploiting way based on the characteristics of resource endowment. The interconnection among the region and the neighboring countries will be strengthened using advanced transmission technologies. The aim is to build a green, low-carbon, reliable and flexible platform which expand the range of clean energy configuration.

By 2050, EHV or UHV backbone networks will be formed in ASEAN. A large-capacity interconnection among ASEAN, China and South Asia will be also considered to achieve the complementarity of hydro, solar and wind power. More clean energy could be consumed in a larger area.

There are three key areas that need to be emphasized in order to realize the vision: First one is to accelerate clean energy bases development. Second one is the promotion of cross-border/cross-regional power projects. The improvement of regional power policy and cooperation mechanisms are also important tasks.

The third key result is that we evaluate the comprehensive benefits of building ASEAN energy interconnection.

From simplicity to complexity, energy interconnection should be steadily stimulated in ASEAN. By 2030, the grid interconnection between major countries is expected to be completed. By 2050, we hope to complete a green & low-carbonized energy interconnection in ASEAN, which will create significantly benefits. Firstly, the security of electricity power supply and the problem of access to electricity will be solved. Then, it will stimulate energy transition and support economic growth. At last, regional integration could be promoted.

Ladies and gentlemen, these fruitful outcomes show that the construction of energy interconnection meets the people's interests. It is expected that the cooperation among ESCAP, ACE and GEIDCO can provide a good plan and roadmap for a sustainable and resilient societies, and to provide a model of cooperation in international energy research. We are willing to work together to promote the energy interconnection development in ASEAN, Asia-Pacific region and the world, to make contributions to accelerating energy transition, and realizing sustainable economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region!