

Opening Remarks

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“Translating Targets into Actions”

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Excellency, Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjabana, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Excellencies Ministers from UN Member Countries.

Honourable Representatives from United Nations Regional Commissions and Experts, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

- Good morning and Welcome to Thailand for the 10th International Forum on Energy in Sustainable Development.
- First of all, I would like to thank ESCAP, and all the United Nations regional commissions, for organising this important international conference on sustainable energy here in Bangkok under the theme “Translating Targets into Actions”. We know the world must move rapidly to sustainable energy. This theme is well-chosen

as it will focus our attention on moving from ideas to implementation. It is very encouraging to see so many eminent leaders, experts and practitioners in energy convening at this conference to develop ideas and solutions for the future.

- Plans are being developed across the world in support of the universally agreed goals under the “United Nation’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement. The global energy transition is a key component of this work, and the success of the energy transition is essential to achieving our goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

- Implementing the 2030 Agenda will require “**collective action**” in every country” including Thailand.
- Thailand’s position to foster the progress of Sustainable Development Goal on Energy sector, or SDG7, is second to none in the region.
- Thailand is recognized as a “regional best practice leader” for the scale-up of “renewables”, “clean energy” and “energy efficiency”.
- We have “the largest installed capacity” of solar, wind and biomass in the South East Asia region.
- According to energy data from the first quarter of this year, Thailand achieved 16.25 % share of renewables in our final energy consumption.
 - We have 3,380 MW of biomass installed capacity and close to 3,000 MW of solar installed capacity for “power generation”.

- We also have “biofuel usage” as transportation fuels of around 9 million-liters per day, taken both biodiesel and bioethanol usage into account)

One of the key drivers of SDG7 achievement is to have the clear government energy policy

- The energy policy that Ministry of Energy of Thailand is currently driving forward is called “**Energy for All**” policy. This is the community people-oriented energy policy that is in-line with the decentralization, decarbonisation, and prosumerization concepts.
- The Energy for All policy is designed to encourage the local community to take part in renewable energy businesses, such as
 - Becoming the biomass/biogas feedstock providers to the bio-based power plants
 - Becoming the shareholder of community-renewable energy power plants
 - Becoming the prosumers by generating the power energy for their own consumption, such as installing household solar rooftop
- The aim of this “energy for all” policy is to help improving the well-being of grass-root community people by raising their income or saving their energy cost from participating in the renewable energy business.

Another key driver is to develop the energy plans with “firm targets”

- According to our renewable energy plan, so called “**The 2015-Alternative Energy Development Plan**”, we set the target to increase the share of renewable energy in our final energy consumption to reach 30% by the year 2036.
- This renewable energy target covers the use of renewables for power generation, heat generation and transportation fuels.
- In addition, our “**2015-Energy Efficiency Development Plan**” set the target to have energy intensity reduction by 30% within the year 2036
- For power energy plan, Thailand has recently launched “**The 2018-Power Development Plan**”, which set the target to have at least 20% share of power energy generation coming from renewable energy resources, including the existing large hydro. This target year is 2037.
- Thailand also formulated an energy plan, so called “**The Smart Grid Master Plan**” with the aim to *enhance more integration of renewable energy into the power grid system, especially for the intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.*
- The smart grid plan will focus on how to improve the power grid efficiency, reliability, and flexibility by exploring the development of microgrid system, effective energy management system, renewable energy generation forecast system, and the energy storage technology.

Apart from the Government, the “*private sector*” is a real driver for implementation who bring the investments and skill to push SDG7 into reality.

- Bearing in mind the importance of private sector’s role, the Ministry of Energy has launched several financial incentive schemes, from time to time, to boost the business investment on renewable energy and energy efficiency

- Some examples are :
 - the Feed-in-premium and Feed-in-Tariff schemes for renewables power generation
 - the ESCO revolving fund for energy efficiency promotion program.

- With the realization of incoming energy transition era driven by **innovation and disruptive technologies**, we should also take into account the digitalization and emerging innovative energy technology for policy planning and implementation.

- One example would be the development of peer-to-peer power energy trading platform that could support distributed green energy generation system.

- Thailand has *a vision* for a sustainable energy future that addresses the multiple energy policy challenges and will be the realization of our national goals and commitments that is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7) of the United Nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

- Thailand stays firm to move renewables system integration into a reality. We will need rapid acceleration

of partnerships and cooperation across the energy sector.

- For your information, 2019 provides a wonderful opportunity since it marks the year that Thailand will assume the Chairmanship of ASEAN.
- Last month Thailand hosted the “*37th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting*” at which Ministers discussed many achievements in ASEAN’s energy sector. Thailand has been actively supporting the development of the ASEAN Power Grid. This sub regional power interconnection project will allow power trade among ASEAN neighbors, increase energy security and boost the share of renewable energy in our energy mix, while Thailand vows for being a regional energy connector.
- The Government of Thailand has been working with ESCAP to further strengthen Thailand’s energy policy by increasing the capacity of policymakers in developing *evidence-based* policies in sustainable energy. ESCAP is also in discussion with the Government of Thailand to provide technical support for developing policy measures to achieve SDG7 and the Paris Agreement.
- I look forward to this forum offering strategic direction on how to build on our region’s *success to date*, continue the shift from *visions to actions* and address key opportunities and challenges through *best practices sharing* in order to manage the transition toward a *cost-effective* system integration of renewables to support a low-carbon economy.

- It is our responsibility to plan and implement the energy transition in a way that ensures we achieve optimum results for people, planet and prosperity.
- For this, I wish you successful deliberations over the next two days. I have no doubt that, by working together, we can further strengthen our region's cooperation on energy.
- Please enjoy your time in Bangkok.
- Thank you.