



The statement delivered at the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum  
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## **Country statement: Lao PDR**

**by**

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**The Second Asia and Pacific Energy Forum**

**April 4, 2018**

Country: Lao PDR

- Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers from Asian and Pacific region.
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.
- It is my pleasure and honor being invited to attend the Second Asian-Pacific Energy forum and I would also like to express my appreciation for the warm hospitality accorded to us.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Asia-Pacific Region is one of the fastest growing economic region, although the development gap still exists, in over all our region has well performed which reflect in the economic growth in every member countries is maintained. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to governments of all member countries for your endeavors for the development of your nations but in fact impacts to development of the region collectively as well.

Honorables,

Today, at this forum, we are together to show our affirmation to drive our energy sector to the same direction in enhancing sustainable use of energy and create resilient society.

Lao PDR is similar to other developing countries with population of less than 10 million people, socio-economic development of which is mainly relied on the natural resources to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty. Apart from our cultural and natural beauty of our country which is appealing to foreign visitors, geologic features of our country also bestow conditions for hydroelectric power development. Currently more than 6,000 MW of our estimated potential of 23,000 MW are developed and put into operation to contribute to national socio-economic development.

Since establishment in 1975, Lao PDR have progressively improved the living conditions of population and now we aim to ending the poverty. However, from generation to generation majority of our population living are primarily based on agriculture activities, thus we are very conscious of environmental impacts in all scale of infrastructure developments in our country.

Colleagues and friends,

The Government of Lao has always focused on the sustainable development as a key issue, in this context, we have attached great important to mainstreaming Sustainable Development Goals attaining to our 8<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

In our energy sector under Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Law of electricity has been revised in 2017, we have put efforts forward on our energy development planning integrating with other sectors in order to optimally allocating national natural resources, including other sources of energy into energy mix to improve energy diversity, energy security and affordability. Our A5 Energy strategy is: Affordable Accessible Abundant Alternative Energy. In addition, we work closely with international development agency to develop and adopt the Policy on Sustainable Hydropower Development in Lao.

Sustainable hydropower principle is not only applied to our nation, we recognize and respect the riparian rights of our neighbors. To develop Hydropower projects within territory of Lao PDR in Mekong basin, we strictly follow the commitments we have with our member countries and Mekong River Commissions to promote sustainable development of Lower Mekong Basin.

We are proud of our success in hydropower development progress. This success may not be possible without our neighbor's continued supports though the development of IPP for both domestic supply and export based on the Memorandum of Understanding or energy cooperation agreement. Recently, Lao PDR and Myanmar have jointly entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on power cooperation including power trading between two countries. In Furtherance, the Lao-Thai-Malaysia under ASEAN energy cooperation have implemented the first phase of the LTMS Power Integration Project to supply cross border power up to 100 MW through existing interconnections in 2017.

These are the success that Lao PDR proud of that Lao renewable energy has contributed in reducing the use fossil fuel generation in our neighboring countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As my personal understanding on "resilient society" that we are moving into, I do not consider that such "society" mean the society to be happen in any individual nation but the "society" in the greater scale, regionally where we harmoniously share solidarity, support, and mutual benefit to create a connected and together-developed society that we can integrate and harness the natural resources of the region to the best regional benefit. In this context Lao PDR is pleased to work with you to develop the Renewable Energy potential as a "Sustainable Battery of Asia" to power the development of the region.

I would like to urge all of you to spend time and share your knowledge with the participants in this Forum in order to have common understanding and constructive comments, suggestions for the development of the mechanism. I wish us a successful Forum and thank you.