

**Ministerial Perspectives on Energy Transition and Regional
Cooperation**

Country/ Organization Statement and Discussion

By

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Myanmar**

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*Your Excellency, Dr. Siri Jirapongphan,
Minister for Ministry of Energy, Thailand, our gracious host,
Your Excellencies Honorable Ministers,
Madam Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of ESCAP,
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

Good Morning!

On behalf of Ministry of Electricity and Energy of Myanmar, I am so honored to be part of such a wonderful occasion here today. It gives me great pleasure and very pleased to send my greetings to all who have come to attend this “Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum”.

First of all, I highly appreciate and acknowledge the tremendous efforts of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for organizing this Forum and Ministry of Energy and Government of Thailand for hosting this event.

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

In line with the Sustainable Development Goal 7, Myanmar has been working on various pillars of sustainable energy developments in meeting domestic energy demand needs.

Myanmar is currently one of the lowest energy intensity countries in the region, with per capita consumption of about 380 kWh per annum. Our country had an electrification rate of less than 30 % a couple of years ago. However, electrification rate has now increased to 40 % household, rural electrification rate is 51%. We are working stronger to reach our common goal of universal access to energy and particularly Myanmar commit to access to electricity to all by 2030,

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As you may all aware, Myanmar has been traditionally relying on biomass, of about 70 % in the total primary energy mix, which is the main source of energy for rural households for cooking and heating purposes. In terms of power mix, hydropower is by far the most widely used to be 60 to 70 % of the mix. But as we are working on providing sustainable and reliable energy supply, the use of natural gas has increased in the power generation mix. The percent share of electricity generated by gas fired power plants has increased to about 50 % of total generation last year. Accordingly, demand for gas has been dramatically increasing and Myanmar is constrained on additional gas supply for the near future. In order to bridge gas supply-demand gap, we have embarked to conduct LNG business which will suffice the gas requirements for electricity and industrial sector developments.

Myanmar is abundant in hydro, solar and gas resources and we are planning to utilize all resources in our future energy mix. They are all

relatively cleaner in nature and our coal generation is only less than 1% in total generation mix. Therefore, Myanmar has relatively low carbon footprint in existing generation mix. Myanmar is committed to adopt COP21 Paris agreement and ASEAN Energy Renewable Goal to address environmental aspects in energy developments.

Developing natural gas is very important for reliable and affordable clean energy supply and we are continuing to explore and develop domestic gas resources both offshore and onshore areas. Some of them are still frontier and prospects remained unexplored. Therefore, we will have to invite potential investments in E&P business of Myanmar by bidding rounds very soon.

In terms of renewable energy, we are also looking into more renewable energy development options including solar, wind and biomass. We have recently ground breaking for 40 MW of solar power plant in Minbu, central Myanmar, as a part of 170 MW total capacities. Moreover, mini-grid solar power and solar home systems are also being developed widely in the remote areas across the country.

For accelerating household access to clean cooking and heating, Myanmar has tried to develop LPG value chains and infrastructure. We have issued different licenses for LPG importation and retail business which has led to LPG demand increases. We are currently using LPG about 5000 tons per month which is forecasted to increase dramatically after new LPG terminals under construction are completed. We encourage for supply LPG upto one million household by year 2020. This will help to reduce the use of trees as source of energy and the process will act as catalyst for conserving the environment.

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Cross border electricity connectivity is also viewed as an option of energy transition for a paradigm shift in energy systems. We are engaging talks with neighbouring countries on options for electricity trade. We believe this will enhance regional cooperation for energy security but there are still a number of challenges to address including legal frameworks, transmission systems interconnection and financial issues etc.

For the energy efficiency, we try hard the losses reduction in transmission and distribution system. Transmission losses is quite achievable to 3% and distribution losses could be reduced from 25% in past decade to now 12%. Our target is to be single digit so as to upgrading the distribution network. On the other hand, quality, reliability, stability of electricity supply and efficient services are being enhancement for consumer' satisfaction.

Electricity tariff in Myanmar are among lowest in the ASEAN region. It has caused much inefficiency. As tariff rates need to reflect reliable cost of power, we are now reviewing electricity tariff structure that can ensure sustainable and affordable energy supply for all users in the country.

Energy efficiency can be one of the key solutions for low income households to elevate their quality of life. Myanmar, being a late comer in the energy development, it will be very beneficial for us and the region to consider energy efficiency to achieve sustainable and affordable energy goals. We believe a great deal of economic value could be created by improved energy intensity and energy saving and that should be incorporated into our energy policies both in Myanmar and in the region.

New technologies in generation, distribution and transmission sectors should also be envisaged in our energy policies to achieve more affordable, sustainable and cleaner energy developments in the region for the long run.

In conclusion, Myanmar is willing to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 7 in cooperation with the regional countries and UN Energy. Myanmar has proved our interest and commitment to Energy transition in Asia and Pacific Goals to ensure access to sustainable energy throughout the years of our activities which are all in line with the regional plans and goals. With cooperation, I believe we can all achieve affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in the future and I wish the meeting be successful and fruitful for all participants today.

Finally, I would like to once again extend my heartfelt gratitude to United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for organizing this event and last but not least, I would like to thank Ministry of Energy and Government of Thailand for hosting this 2nd Asian and Pacific Energy Forum and kind hospitalities to us.

Thank you very much to you all.