

Thirteenth session of the Assembly
Abu Dhabi, 14-15 January 2023

Background Note
Ministerial Dialogue
Regional Energy Transition Outlooks: Southeast Asia Energy Transitions

1. Guided by IRENA's World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO), the Agency supports and closely works with different regions to chart and implement decarbonisation pathways tailored to regional needs and priorities, to achieve a climate-safe future in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and to foster the region's sustainable development.
2. One of the key regions of IRENA's engagement is Southeast Asia, which will experience some of the world's largest growth in energy demand over the next decades, while having a vast opportunity to realise its significant renewable energy potential. Today, the region stands at a crossroads. On the one hand, it can pursue a path of continued reliance on fossil fuels, most of which come from non-indigenous sources, increasing the region's emissions and exposure to volatile and increasingly expensive global commodity markets. On the other, the region could utilise its ample, affordable and indigenous renewable energy resources to lower energy costs and to reduce emissions.
3. As the region commits to ever more ambitious climate targets, including net-zero commitments, planning must begin now in earnest. While the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has ambitious renewable energy goals in the near-term, the region needs to think and plan for the long-term. It has a unique opportunity to develop a sustainable energy system based on renewable energy resources that can support socioeconomic recovery and development while addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, and accomplishing energy security, universalisation and affordability goals.
4. IRENA has engaged with ASEAN for almost a decade, aiming to support and accelerate the region's transformation in the context of the global transition to renewable energy. In October 2018, in conjunction with the ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in Singapore, ASEAN and IRENA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the realisation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) and to facilitate the scaling up of renewable energy deployment in the region.

5. IRENA's regional work since then has led to the establishment of a strong framework to build technical knowledge and capacity, as well as more conducive investment environments for renewables:
 - a. Providing technical knowledge through studies and reports, including the [Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN: Towards a regional energy transition](#), [Scaling up biomass for the energy transition: Untapped opportunities in Southeast Asia](#), [Indonesia Energy Transition Outlook](#), [Renewable energy for agriculture: Insights from Southeast Asia](#), [Renewable energy auctions: Southeast Asia](#), Malaysia Energy Transition Outlook (upcoming), Socio-economic impact of energy transition in Southeast Asia and Indonesia (upcoming)
 - b. Building capacity and providing a knowledge sharing platform, including through the IRENA-Singapore High-Level Forum ([First](#) and [Second](#)), [Regional Workshop on Renewable Energy Policy Support Mechanism](#), [Regional Workshop on Accelerating RE Investment in Southeast Asia](#), [Accelerating the Southeast Asian Energy Transformation](#), [COP26 Climate Dialogue with ASEAN](#)
 - c. Project Facilitation and Support through [Investment Forum Southeast Asia](#)

Objectives

The Ministerial Dialogue will provide a platform for a high-level discussion on scaling up renewable energy uptake in Southeast Asia, with a view to supporting its ambitions to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity. The session is expected to gather guidance in formulating the next phase of IRENA's engagement with ASEAN, based on key achievements and concrete impacts of various initiatives facilitated by IRENA across Southeast Asia and undertaken in collaboration with governments as well as regional partners.

Associated Publications

- [Renewable Energy Outlook for ASEAN: Towards a Regional Energy Transition \(2nd Edition\)](#) (2022)
- [Indonesia Energy Transition Outlook](#) (2022)
- [Scaling Up Biomass for the Energy Transition: Untapped Opportunities in Southeast Asia](#) (2022)
- [Renewable Energy Auctions: Southeast Asia](#) (2022)

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