

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mekong-Australia Policy Dialogue:  
Energy & Electricity Futures for ACMECS members  
15 December 2020**

**AGENDA**

Version 20.1 DRAFT (14 Dec 2020)

	<b>REGISTRATION or CONNECTION</b>
<i>Please note timezones</i>	<p>0830 Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon 0900 Bangkok, Vientiane, Hanoi, Phnom Penh (ICT) 1000 Singapore, Perth 1300 Canberra (AEST)</p>
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>PRESENTATIONS &amp; PANELS (Online plenary)</b>
0915-0930 ICT	<p><b>Opening remarks and Introductions</b> by the Head of Delegations from Thailand and Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Kulit Sombatsiri, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Thailand 5 min</li> <li>▪ Mr Paul Stephens, Acting Ambassador, Australian Embassy, Thailand 5 min</li> <li>▪ Photos 5 min</li> </ul>
0930-1005 ICT	<p><b><u>Energy Transformations</u></b></p> <p>Chair: Cambodia, H.E Rottanak, Minister attached to the Prime Minister, and Managing Director of Electricite du Cambodge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Australian Energy Market Operator</b>, Audrey Zibelman, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, AEMO 12 min</li> <li>▪ <b>Australia-ASEAN Power Link</b>, Dr Fraser Thompson, Director and Chief Strategy Officer, Sun Cable 12 min</li> </ul>
1005-1020 ICT	<b>Coffee break</b>
1020-1122 ICT	<p><b><u>Energy Cooperation and Prospects for ACMECS Member States</u></b></p> <p>Chair: Thailand, Dr Weerawat Chantanakome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Scene-setting</b> Tarek Ketelsen, Executive Director, AMPERES 12 min</li> </ul> <p>Panelists [<i>no power points</i>]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cambodia, H.E. Keo Rottanak 5 min</li> <li>▪ Lao PDR, H.E. Dr Daovong Phonekeo, Deputy Minister of Energy &amp; Mines 5 min</li> <li>▪ Myanmar, Daw Mi Mi Khaing, Director-General, Department of Electric Power Planning, Ministry of Electricity &amp; Energy 5 min</li> <li>▪ Vietnam Representative 5 min</li> <li>▪ Thailand, Dr Poonpat Leesombatpiboon, Executive Director, International Affairs Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy 5 min</li> </ul>

1122-1146 ICT	<p><b><u>Emerging Technology Solutions</u></b></p> <p>Chair: Vietnam Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Distributed Energy Resources</b>, Ms Kate Ryan, Executive Director, Energy Policy WA, Government of Western Australia 8 min</li> <li>▪ <b>Hydrogen the Hero?</b> Ms Penelope Howarth, DFAT Energy Focal Point, Research Fellow – Zero Carbon Energy for Asia Pacific, ANU Energy Change Institute 8 min</li> </ul>
1146-1200 ICT	<b>Morning wrap-up</b> by The Asia Foundation
1200-1330 ICT	<p><b>Lunch</b> hosted by Government of Australia in each Mekong capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phnom Penh (COVID-19 restrictions, all virtual)</li> <li>▪ Vientiane, Crowne Plaza</li> <li>▪ Myanmar (COVID-19 restrictions, all virtual)</li> <li>▪ Bangkok, Banyan Tree, South Sathorn Road</li> <li>▪ Hanoi, Pan Pacific Hotel</li> </ul>

<b>Session 2</b>	<b>DISCUSSION (Country-specific offline)</b>
1330-1500 ICT  YGN/NYT 1300+ SNG-PER 1430+ CBA 1700+ (AEST)	<p>Reflections on Session 1 presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ACMECS member perspectives</li> <li>▪ ACMECS partner perspectives (Japan, China, ROK, Germany, USA etc)</li> <li>▪ International organisations perspectives (ACE, ESCAP, IEA, WBG, ADB)</li> <li>▪ Forward agendas for sustainable energy and electricity futures</li> </ul> <p><i>* Discussions in each capital supported by The Asia Foundation</i></p>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>POLICY OPTIONS (Online plenary)</b>
1500-1545 ICT	<p><b>Final reflections, including from discussions in capitals</b></p> <p>Chair: Lao PDR, H.E. Daovong Phonekeo, Deputy Minister of Energy &amp; Mines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Phnom Penh 5 min</li> <li>▪ Vientiane 5 min</li> <li>▪ Nay Pyi Taw 5 min</li> <li>▪ Hanoi 5 min</li> <li>▪ Bangkok 5 min</li> <li>▪ Responses from presenters 10 min</li> </ul>
1545-1600 ICT	<b>Key take away messages</b> , summarised and presented by The Asia Foundation
1600-1610 ICT	<b>Next steps</b> suggestions from Australia
1610-1620 ICT	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Australia</li> <li>▪ Thailand</li> </ul>

**Background to the dialogue:**

The Mekong sub-region's prospects for economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic depend in part on continued progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7): "Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all."

Australia and Thailand will co-host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mekong-Australia Policy Dialogue to examine sustainable energy and electricity futures, and how Mekong countries and their partners can work together to capitalise on new opportunities.

Each Mekong country has varying energy priorities, opportunities and challenges reflecting differing economic, social and geographic contexts, while at the same time energy systems are increasingly interconnected. Yet, technological change is altering the way energy is produced, moved, consumed and stored. Renewables and enhanced connectivity are among the options offering pathways to a sustainable and balanced energy future.

ASEAN energy cooperation is already extensive. This meeting will focus on energy cooperation between ACMECS member countries (the ASEAN Mekong 5). The ACMECS Master Plan 2019-2023 lists Energy Infrastructure and Connectivity (1.3), Smart Cities (3.1), and Energy Efficiency and Promotion of Renewable Energy (3.2) as goals.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Mekong-Australia Policy Dialogue will share recent innovations and deliver recommendations on the opportunities for ACMECS members to establish more efficient and sustainable energy and electricity systems.

**Purpose:** The dialogue will allow representatives from ACMECS member states, and their partners, to better understand the fast-moving changes in the sub-region's energy and electricity sector. It will propose options for meeting the sub-region's energy needs in ways that promote sustainability, align with the SDGs, and ensure resilience in the context of climate change. The dialogue will identify specific policy options for attaining these outcomes.

**Format:** The event will be a track 1.5 dialogue bringing together ACMECS government officials, development partners and private sector representatives, with selected inputs from researchers and experts. Participants will benefit from new analysis and data, and discuss implications for ACMECS and its cooperation with development partners.

**Themes:** The Mekong-Australia Policy Dialogue will be framed around key developments, challenges, and opportunities in the sub-region's energy and electricity sector. The dialogue will be forward-looking, while drawing on the lessons and findings from research of current trends.

The central themes will include:

- Pathways to achieving **universal, reliable electricity access**;
- Pathways to increasing **sub-regional electricity connectivities**; and
- **Energy "game-changers"?**

**Participants:** Dialogue participants will include:

- **Relevant officials from ACMECS member governments** – Senior officials from each participating country. Ideally, member governments will provide representatives from both their Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Energy;
- **External partners** – Including Australia, United States, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, New Zealand, European Union, United Kingdom, Asian Development Bank, World Bank Group and the United Nations;
- **Private sector representatives** – Professionals with a background addressing energy issues in the sub-region; and
- **Researchers and experts on energy/electricity, climate change and the SDGs** – Researchers involved in the inputs below, and other relevant experts.

**Research and Practice Inputs:** In preparation for the dialogue, the organisers will work with experts from the ACMECS sub-region and beyond to produce policy-relevant data and analysis.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Overview of future energy and electricity needs and scenarios across the Mekong sub-region;
- Discussion of sub-regional energy and electricity innovations;
- Analysis of new developments in technology and cooperation; and
- Policy options for ACMECS member policy-makers.

**Logistics:**

The Asia Foundation (TAF) will organise the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mekong-Australia Policy Dialogue as a “blended event”, whereby participants in each ACMECS member will be linked to their fellow participants in neighboring member countries via the Zoom online platform.

**Session 1**, all five groups participating as a plenary via the online platform. **Session 2**, following group lunches, will engage in country-specific discussions. **Session 3**, final online plenary during which the five country representatives will report back on their individual discussions and/or reflections.