

**Indian Mission to ASEAN
Jakarta**

ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy (7-8 February 2022)

Inaugural Ministerial Session- 7th February 2022

The ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy, organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India in collaboration with by the ASEAN Centre for Energy (Jakarta) and The Energy and Resource Institute (New Delhi) on 7-8 February 2022. The High Level Conference hosted an inaugural Ministerial Session, 5 technical sessions and a closing session focused on the theme: “Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market”.

Secretary, MNRE welcomed the high level dignitaries from ASEAN member countries to the inaugural Ministerial session and set the context for the conference. H.E. Mr. Tun Lean, Secretary of State, Ministry of Mines and Energy of Cambodia, the current chair of ASEAN and H.E. Shri Bhagwanth Khuba, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy and Fertilizers, Government of India delivered special addresses in which they talked about renewable energy plans and achievements of ASEAN and India and stressed on the need for carrying forward India-ASEAN cooperation in the field of renewable energy to facilitate energy transitions to fight climate change.

The Ministerial session was addressed by H.E. Mr. Dato Sen Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md Hussein, Minister of Energy, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Dr. Daovong Phonekeo, Minister of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR; H.E. Mr. U Aung Than Oo, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Alfonso G. Cusi, Secretary, Department of Energy, Philippines, H.E. Mr. Supattanapong Punmeechaow, Minister of Energy, Thailand and H.E. Mr. Ego Syahrial, Secretary General, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia. The dignitaries talked about the renewable energy ambitions, progress made and priority areas for their countries and reiterated their commitment to taking India-ASEAN cooperation in the sector forward.

All Ministerial participants, in their addresses, acknowledged the threat posed by climate change and reiterated their intention to transition to renewables to build a sustainable future. The Ministers stressed on the need for further strengthening of India-ASEAN cooperation in the renewable sector.

H.E. Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, International Solar Alliance (ISA) briefed the Ministers on the vision and plans of the ISA and potential benefits for ASEAN member countries joining the alliance.

H.E. Shri R.K. Singh, Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Government of India delivered the keynote address and said that India and ASEAN can work together to develop an entire ecosystem for renewables that promotes knowledge sharing, capacity building and technical assistance; and also explore joint initiatives for the development of renewable energy manufacturing hubs in the region. He applauded ASEAN efforts to achieve the development of an ASEAN Power Grid and said that India foresees opportunities to expand this grid integration beyond ASEAN to the Indian sub-continent in line with the “One Sun One World One Grid” initiative. He reiterated India’s commitment to work together with ASEAN to establish a strong relationship in the renewables sector based on the foundation of historical and cultural ties between ASEAN and India.

The closing session put a way forward for deeper collaboration between ASEAN and India. In a session conducted by Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute(TERI), H.E. Mr Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and H.E. Mr. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community shared their vision. The Secretary(East) elaborated on the areas of possible collaborations between ASEAN and India in the New and Renewable Energy Sector. The DSG underlined that ASEAN and India have same agenda for scaling up Renewable Energy. In this endeavor he appreciated India’s initiative of One Sun One World One Grid and looked forward to deepen collaboration between ASEAN and India.

The conference was open to all and witnessed significant interests from more than 20 countries and more than 1000 participants.

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The details of the Sessions

Highlights on Technical Sessions:

Technical Session 1: Renewable Energy Transition in India

The session discussed the challenges being faced by the industry in the energy transition and how various factors including government policies, innovations and market forces are becoming enabler for achieving the Net Zero target in India and ASEAN.

Technical Session 2: Integration of Grid among ASEAN Countries

The panel discussed about the status of grid connectivity in the Indian subcontinent and South-East Asia, challenges faced in the past and possible challenges in future and looked for possible ways to interconnect grids in both the regions. The role of Green Hydrogen towards faster transition was also discussed.

Technical Session 3: Distributed RE Innovation & Applications

The session emphasized upon the importance of involvement of communities for successful implementation of projects. How a success of a renewable energy project is measured plays a great role in increasing acceptability of a project at the community level.

Technical Session 4: Efficient RE Power Project Designing & Capacity Building

The session discussed the role of efficient renewable project design and stable policies in the cost reduction, viability and sustainability. Experiences from project execution in India and ASEAN Member States were also shared during the session.

Technical Session 5: Regional Cooperation and Sharing of Experiences

In the session panelists from various organisations including UN ESCAP, International Solar Alliance focused upon how experiences from different regions can be shared so as to reduce the leaning gap across the globe. The session concluded that the role of effective institutions, collaboration at all levels can be crucial in achieving the Paris Climate Goals.