

Session 2 – Introduction on Climate Change (NDCs) and Renewable Energy Development in China and ASEAN. (current situation, trends, needs, challenges, etc.) of ASEAN countries.

(current situation and trend)

1. From the perspective of an inter-parliamentary organization, looking at the current situation and what is needed for ASEAN countries to achieve climate goals and sustainable development, especially focusing on policy and planning.

While rich in renewable energy potentials, this region is challenged by the lack of a uniformed approach amongst ASEAN member states with regard to achieving climate goals and sustainable development. This includes the lack of a common guideline in policy making and planning in the South East Asian region. While it is worth acknowledging that ASEAN countries do realize that to fully depend on fossil fuel is not feasible; and ruinous to the environment. And so AMS have been searching for alternative energy sources that are sustainable both in terms of its provision and its effect on the environment. Given the diverse political, regulatory and policy framework, and natural resources, the energy policy and renewable energy strategy of each of AMS consequently varies from one member to another.

To date, each AMS has been developing its own renewable energy targets, and has been making considerable progress to achieve their set targets. As of 2014, renewable energy made around 9.4% of ASEAN's total primary energy supply (according to the Habibie Center, 2017).

As such, to AIPA as a forum for ASEAN Parliamentarians, we believe that it is important at this phase to revitalizing a platform for communication amongst member Parliaments. Here I'd like to refer to AIPA's vision as a centre of communication and information for Member Parliaments, where we aim to become a more relevant hub, facilitating coordination and collective effort between different stakeholders in the renewable energy sectors (i.e. state owned enterprises; private companies, academia and civil society) and to bring ASEAN closer to its people.

2. (needs and challenges)

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, quoting a 2017 publication by the Habibie Center in Jakarta highlights that ASEAN region has a rising demand for energy by 80% between 2013 and 2040 due to its growing population and economy. Nevertheless, the region's dependency on fossil fuel energy has raised concerns as it creates environmental degradation. While Southeast Asian countries are rich in renewable energy potential such as wind, hydro power, tidal, solar energy and geothermal, nevertheless, they have been underutilized and underdeveloped because of under investment. The same report identified the following barriers might be the cause of unfavourable environment for that investment which is essential for the renewable energy sector to take-off in AMS: Brunai Darsussalam

- 1) Absence of clear policy framework;
- 2) lack of infrastructure;
- 3) fossil fuel subsidy;
- 4) regulatory uncertainty;

Cambodia

- 5) lack of clarity & information on renewable energy market characteristic and regulatory framework;

- 6) import tariff rate for renewable energy technology,
- 7) lack of financial support

Indonesia

- 8) Infrastructure barriers
- 9) Limited funding support
- 10) Technical barriers
- 11) Lack of awareness, and public support

Lao

- 12) Administrative or regulatory challenges/ lack of intra-governmental agents coordination and between government – private sector
- 13) Lack of financial support
- 14) Lack of skills and awareness,
- 15) Technical challenges

Malaysia

- 16) Conventional energy subsidy
- 17) Import tariff for renewable energy technology
- 18) High cost of capital and lack of financial access for developers

Myanmar

- 19) Lack of specific renewable energy regulations
- 20) Conventional fuel subsidy
- 21) Lack of financial support
- 22) Fragmented institutional framework

Philippines

- 23) Lack of financial support and competency
- 24) Lack of coordination and knowledge sharing
- 25) Lack of social awareness and acceptance

Singapore

- 26) Limited renewable energy sources

- 27) Regulatory barriers
- 28) The need for local capability building
- 29) Lack of public understanding and acceptance

Thailand

- 30) Lack of data and assessment on renewable energy potentials
- 31) Weak governance
- 32) High cost to develop renewable energy projects
- 33) Technical and geographical conditions

Vietnam

- 34) Gap between policy and implementation
- 35) High transaction cost
- 36) Lack of technological infrastructure
- 37) Lack of information and awareness

Moreover, taking into consideration different aspects facing the region in developing renewable energy (i.e. socio-cultural/ education; economic, and geographical diversity in the region, among other factors), and also gaps within national scope between the main cities and less developed and remote community, where at the grass roots level we find quite a significant indifference for environmental issue, we do realize the importance of capacity building programs in this regard. It should be aimed towards assisting countries in ASEAN to first formulate a specific and tailor made Awareness Raising measures targeting both parliamentarians and their constituency, taking into consideration the current indifference at the grass roots level mentioned earlier, with a midterm goal to try to get people more engaged with environment, climate issue.

Furthermore, with regard to Energy Security and alternative energy issue, AIPA has always call on ASM to create greater public awareness on the energy situation and the usefulness of alternative energy and teh promotion of cleaner and lower emission technologies in producing and utilizing alternative energy. This takes us back to the issue regional diversity and gaps and the need of an extensive capacity building program.

Considering all of the above we also realize that it is very important for China and the US as partners to ASEAN to set standard to the international community, provide and/ or facilitate information sharing forum, communication forum, where good practices or success story can be shared. While we believe that there is no "one size fits all" solution, but rather country specific approach, it is hence very important to keep Member of Parliaments in AMS informed on what's going on related to this issue in the region. Because even with so much improvement in the communication and information technology and the amount of information circulating around us on the urgency of the climate issue and environmental degradation, there are still those who are not on the same page as

to how crucial this issue is. This brings the question that perhaps for Member of Parliaments is how to change this skepticism without being too preachy. Thank you.
