

Asia Zero Emission Community Joint Statement

Tokyo, 4 March 2023

We, the Ministers of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam held the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo on March 4th, 2023, where we, as the AZEC partners, shared our ideas and the views on the challenges and opportunities of decarbonization and jointly committed to accelerating a clean, sustainable, just, affordable, and inclusive energy transition towards carbon neutrality/net-zero emissions in the Asian region building on the mutual trust cultivated over the years.

We recognize that accelerating the energy transition in the Asian region is key to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, including holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, and recalling the Paris Agreement will be implemented to reflect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances. We further recognize that the energy transition should allow for various and practical pathways tailored to meet the circumstances of each country, including in the Asian region which is experiencing rapid increases in the energy demand due to economic growth.

We share the following common views and will work together as the AZEC partners

- Recognizing the importance of tackling climate change as a common global challenge and advancing cooperation towards carbon neutrality/net-zero emissions while ensuring energy security,
- Recognizing Asia is projected to remain the engine of global economic growth and energy demand expansion and confirming the importance of promoting energy transition in a manner that is compatible with economic growth and resilience especially through innovation,
- Recognizing there are various and practical pathways towards carbon neutrality/net-zero emissions depending on the circumstances of each country including, but not limited to:

industrial structures, social contexts, geographies and stages and rates of development, and the importance of utilizing a diverse range of energy sources and technologies to design and implement such pathways.

Aligned to these views as well as our respective national policies and legislations, we will share information, have discussions and take actions through the AZEC platform, in the areas including but not limited to;

- development, demonstration, and deployment of decarbonization strategies, plans, businesses and technologies such as energy efficiency, renewables, hydrogen, ammonia, energy storage, bioenergy, carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS);
- financial support for investments in decarbonization infrastructure including the power grid and the development of clean energy supply chains, including for critical minerals and materials;
- development, harmonization, and securing interoperability of standards of decarbonization technologies, and strengthening of human resource capacity in the area.

In principle, AZEC will hold the annual Ministers' Meeting and regular Senior Officials' Meetings. We will also collaborate with international organizations and institutions such as the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the ASEAN Center for Energy (ACE) and others as required.

We understand that the contents set forth herein are not legally binding and we will cooperate with each other voluntarily.