

The 3rd Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Ministerial Meeting

Joint Statement

October 17, 2025, Kuala Lumpur

We, the Ministers of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on October 17, 2025, to hold the 3rd Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC) Ministerial Meeting, with Ministry of Economy of Malaysia and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI) serving as Co-Chairs.

Amid an increasingly uncertain global energy landscape, we reconfirm our commitment to accelerating efforts, in line with the CMA.5 decision on the global stocktake (GST). We recognize the urgent need for deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways. In this context, we recognize the value of AZEC principles, which emphasize the importance of achieving a “triple breakthrough” namely; addressing climate change, promoting inclusive economic growth and achieving energy security simultaneously and embrace the concept of “one goal, various pathways”, acknowledging that there are various and practical pathways achieving carbon neutrality/net-zero emissions by or around mid-century, considering each country’s unique circumstances. We reaffirm our commitment to accelerate our efforts to carry out energy transitions along our respective domestic pathways and circumstances, and to enhance cooperations in AZEC. We aim to contribute to the second GST.

We welcome the following progress that has been made since the 2nd AZEC Ministerial Meeting held in August 2024 in Jakarta and the 2nd AZEC Leaders Meeting held in October 2024 in Vientiane.

Implementation of sectoral initiatives

We welcome active discussions in AZEC Leading Action Forum (AZEC LEAF) held in May 2025 as a part of our efforts to implement AZEC Sectoral Initiatives, where efforts, challenges, best practices and measures for energy transitions were shared and exchanged, particularly on three major-emitting sectors; power, transportation, and industry. We acknowledge that AZEC LEAF serves as a useful platform to deepen the understanding of diverse circumstances in AZEC partner

countries and build up discussions to identify areas for cooperation in policy development and implementations and sharing best practices.

Progress monitoring and Review

We welcome the AZEC Progress Report produced by Asia Zero Emission Center (AZE Center) at Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), which summarizes the energy transition trend in AZEC partner countries as well as their recent policy developments and progress of tangible projects. To further facilitate cooperation among AZEC partner countries, we invite the International Energy Agency (IEA) to conduct an “Energy Transition Review for Enhancing Cooperation” on the basis of AZEC principles, while recognizing the importance of deepening the understanding of the particular challenges we are facing in our respective transition pathways, encouraging the exchange of best practices and experiences in energy policy developments and identifying areas for cooperation among AZEC partner countries.

Implementation of cross sectoral initiatives

We welcome the publication of the joint report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), ERIA and METI entitled “Decarbonizing ASEAN's Hard-to-Abate and High-Emitting Sectors -Transition Finance, Technologies and Policy Approaches”. Throughout the report, we reaffirm the potential of effective transition technologies and their applications, as well as the opportunities for international cooperation in both technology and finance to support a practical energy transition. We welcome the report by the IEA entitled “Scaling Up Transition Finance”. We also acknowledge the critical importance of clear policy signals to ensure project viability and establish credibility to prevent carbon lock-in when advancing transition finance, and that technology roadmaps can be useful in this regard. We welcome further intergovernmental dialogues which support these efforts.

We welcome the establishment of the AZEC International Conference to Develop Carbon Markets (AZEC-DCM) as a platform to deepen discussions aimed at materializing the AZEC solutions, with a particular focus on "Enhancing the competitiveness of industries through visualization of GHG emissions throughout the supply chain" and "Promotion of high-integrity carbon markets" outlined in the "Action Plan for Next Decade" adopted at the 2nd AZEC Leaders Meeting. We

acknowledge that active and fruitful discussions took place at the AZEC-DCM meetings held in May and August 2025, and that a report will be produced by ERIA.

We emphasize the importance of continued discussions and collaborations to realize AZEC solutions in line with circumstances in each AZEC partner country through AZEC-DCM.

Research analysis of sectoral and cross sectoral activities

We welcome the diverse range of research and analytical work undertaken by the AZE Center, including sector-specific studies, such as those on the ASEAN Power Grid, Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS), and the development of decarbonization roadmaps for AZEC partner countries. We also acknowledge the Center's cross-sectoral contributions, including publication of the 2nd version of Technology List and Perspectives for Transition Finance in Asia (TLP) and the voluntary carbon market ecosystem roadmap, which provides critical guidance for shaping national transition pathways.

We reaffirm our expectation that the AZE Center will collaborate with ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and play a central role as the intellectual and analytical engine of the AZEC Sectoral Initiative – supporting AZEC partner countries through information sharing, policy-relevant studies, and the implementation of collaborative projects that contribute to the development of effective, inclusive, and country-specific decarbonization strategies. AZEC partner countries will also explore collaboration in multilateral power trade in ASEAN that is mutually beneficial in order to realize the ASEAN Power Grid, including by facilitating the development and transit of cross-border subsea cables and land-based transmission lines in ASEAN.

Promoting tangible projects

We welcome the significant progress made by both public and private partners in some of the AZEC cooperation projects. We acknowledge ongoing energy transition initiatives in AZEC partner countries and welcome the development of new projects.

Public-Private Cooperation

We welcome the activities done by the AZEC Advocacy Group, led by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, Japan Business Federation, and ERIA, including

support to the AZEC Business Forum, which was held in collaboration with ASEAN Sparks, ASEAN Energy Business Forum (AEBF), and Cleaner Energy Future Initiative for ASEAN (CEFIA), held in the sideline of the 3rd AZEC Ministerial Meeting to serve as a significant platform for dialogue on key themes aligned with the major initiatives of AZEC.

Communication and Outreach

In order to achieve decarbonization throughout Asia, it is important to promote knowledge sharing, research study, and capacity building. In this regard we welcome collaborative projects, studies and workshops among AZEC partner countries such as the ASIA CCUS Network activities.

We highlight our collaborative work in communicating AZEC's principles and various actions to the public and stakeholders through exhibition, discussion and round table at Energy Asia in Malaysia held in June 2025. We also highlight events featuring AZEC such as Energy Asia in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore International Energy Week, ASEAN Energy Business Forum in Lao PDR, Sustainable Energy Technology Asia in Thailand, and Asia Clean Energy Forum hosted by Asian Development Bank to further encourage efforts both in governments and private sectors. We also welcome and further look forward to cooperation with related international institutions and organizations such as ACE, ASEAN Center for Climate Change (ACCC), IEA, and ERIA.

Way forward

We express our sincere gratitude to Malaysia for serving as Co-host of the 3rd AZEC Ministerial Meeting as well as to the Philippines for Co-hosting the next AZEC Ministerial Meeting in the Philippines and also to all delegates from AZEC partner countries for their participation.