

Country Report of Thailand
on
Encouraging Clean Energy Initiatives
at the 2nd AIPA Caucus
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It has been recognized worldwide that enormous utilization of fossil fuels has created various adverse effects on the environment, such as air pollution, acid rain, and green house gases. In light of this, interest in clean energy technologies in Thailand has been growing steadily over the past twenty years.

According to overall country report on energy initiatives, Thailand has recognized the significance of enhancing national energy security policy, particularly on the improvement of energy efficiency in order to reduce energy consumption and dependency, and on the search for alternative and renewable energy resources. Clean energy technologies are the answer.

Although fossil fuels still play an important role in the Thai economy, clean energy has been of interest to Thailand. Low emission technologies and renewable energy have been researched and developed to reduce oil imports. In order to ensure the national energy supply security and sustainable energy development, Thailand's energy policy has placed greater emphasis on diversification of energy supplies. As to energy security, Thailand has also reached the concurrence of the new ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) and its Annex on Coordinated Emergency Response Measures (CERM) which was signed on 1 March 2009, during the 14th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok. Furthermore, Thailand has prepared to reduce energy intensity by 8% within 2015 as targeted in ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2010 - 2015. In addition, Thailand also initiated ASEAN Coal Security Agreement (ACSA) by focusing on Clean Coal Technology policy.

Regarding an alternative and renewable energy, Thailand has had a 15-year plan for the development of alternative and renewable energy sources, called *Alternative Energy Development Plan 2008-2022*, which sets a target to increase the proportion of alternative energy mix to 20% in 2022. Under this plan, measures, such as, BOI tax incentive scheme, subsidy and soft loans will be implemented. Several programs have been set up to boost indigenous renewable energy resource development, in particular biomass, biogas, solar and small-scale hydro energy technologies. This strategy will also help reduce heavy dependence on oil imports and mitigate environmental impacts resulting from the use of fossil fuels.

From the BOI's statistics in 2009, total applications for investment in Thailand has hit the record high in 40 years of BOI's existence, totaling 1,573 projects worth 723 million baht. Ranking at the top of these applications are the projects on alternative and renewable energy development (wind, solar energy and natural gas).

On international cooperation, Thailand is preparing to seek for an official endorsement from the Parliament for the Statute of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). In this regard, Thailand will put IRENA rules into action by introducing it to the National Assembly according to Article 190 Chapter 2 in the constitution for immediate consideration and ratification by the Cabinet of Thailand.

With regard to the world's energy situation, the oil prices continue to be volatile and unpredictable and the supply of fossil fuels namely oil, gas, and coal are diminishing; Thailand as an ASEAN member country, therefore, supports clean energy cooperation with other ASEAN countries for the benefit of economic prosperity and for the betterment of the people's quality of life while cherishing the sound and safe environment under *ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC)*.

According to the ASEAN Action Plan 2010-2015 adopted in the 27th ASEAN Ministry Meeting in Mandalay, Myanmar in July 2009, Thailand supports Coal and Clean Coal Technology by promoting the development and the use of clean coal technologies in order to reduce the greenhouse gas and to facilitate intra-ASEAN coal trade towards enhancing regional energy security needs. The Coal Price Index will be served as database for coal trade in the region.

In conclusion, most of energy policies and actions in Thailand have been implemented in order to maintain national and regional energy security. Policies and measures relating to clean energy have been introduced as mandated in ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC). Thailand is also supportive to ASEAN and AIPA cooperation on Clean Energy Initiatives.