



17 JUN, 2025

Catalyst for regional economic growth

Borneo Post (Kuching), Malaysia



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DPM: Realising Asean Power Grid requires stronger political will, smarter investments



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KUCHING: The full realisation of the Asean Power Grid (APG) depends on stronger political will, deeper technical cooperation, and smarter investment strategies, said Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

Describing the APG as the "backbone of a truly integrated Asean energy market," the Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the region must embrace both infrastructure and governance frameworks to unlock its full potential.

"The Asean Power Grid is not just an infrastructure project, it is a vision. A vision of a region where electricity flows seamlessly across borders, where energy security is shared, and where the prosperity of one nation uplifts all," he said during a welcoming dinner for the 43rd Asean Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) here yesterday.

Fadillah, who is also Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, said the APG must be underpinned by harmonised regulations, transparent markets, and digital innovation to enable real-time regional power trading.

"In essence, the Asean Power Grid is about turning our diversity into strength. It is about leveraging our shared geography and complementary resources to build a future that is greener, more inclusive, and more secure."

He also expressed confidence in the upcoming signing of the enhanced APG Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the formal endorsement of the Terms of Reference for the Subsea Power Cable Development Framework.

He said the milestone, expected during the Asean Ministers on Energy Meeting in Kuala Lumpur this October, will undoubtedly propel regional energy integration forward.

"I am confident that the APG

Enhanced Memorandum of Understanding, coupled with the forthcoming Asean Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation 2026-2030 document, will profoundly deepen our region's power connectivity.

"This profound development will drive and act as a powerful catalyst for economic growth across all Asean Member States," he added.

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Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof



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(From seventh left) Fadillah, Abang Johari, and Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry secretary general Datuk Mad Zaidi Mohd Karli join SOME delegates for a photo call at the welcoming dinner. — Photo by Roystein Emmor

Engagement with int’l partners crucial to fast-tracking Asean’s clean energy transition, says Fadillah

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Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg had on May 25 outlined Sarawak’s ongoing efforts to support the Asean Power Grid, noting that the state has been exporting electricity to West Kalimantan for the past six years and is in the process of supplying power to Brunei.

Abang Johari also said Sarawak is studying the possibility of supplying electricity to Sabah

and connecting to Brunei as part of regional integration efforts.

Looking ahead, Fadillah said engagement with international partners over the coming days will be crucial to fast-tracking Asean’s clean energy transition.

“The expertise, technological advancement, and investment support from Dialogue Partners and International Organisations are vital as we navigate the complexities of decarbonisation, explore innovative energy

technologies and build a more robust energy infrastructure,” he said.

He also reaffirmed Malaysia’s commitment to increasing renewable energy capacity, improving efficiency and pursuing low-carbon solutions.

“We believe that by working hand-in-hand, sharing knowledge, and leveraging each other’s strengths, we can unlock the immense potential within our energy sectors and drive meaningful change.”