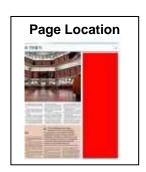


Asean well-positioned to become global RE leader, says expert

Sentiment Positive Frequency Daily **Outlet Country** Malaysia **Outlet Language English** Circulation 67,983 **Impressions** 135,966 **PR Value** 40,790 5 Page





RICH NATURAL RESOURCES

Asean well-positioned to become global RE leader, says expert

KUALA LUMPUR: The Asean region is well-positioned to become a global leader in renewable energy (RE), driven by its rich natural resources and increasing commitment to sustainability.

ProfDrTiongSiehKiong, director of the Institute of Sustainabile Energy at Universiti Tenaga Nasional, said countries like Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia benefited from abundant sunlight, making solar power a crucial resource for the region's energy transition.

Laos, meanwhile, relied predominantly on hydropower, with 49 out of its 57 power plants dedicated to this renewable source, Tiong explained in arecent opinion piece. He said there is strong geot hermal energy potential in the Philippines and Indonesia, both situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, while wind energy adoption is growing in coastal areas of Vietnam and Prof Dr Tiong Sich Kiong in Malaysia, Tiong said the government backing for RE was gaining momentum with Rad300 million allocated under the 2025 Budget to the National Energy Transition Facilitation Fund to increase the share in the RE power mix to at least 70 per cent by 2050 — up from the current 27 per cent.

considerable promise in bioenergy, particularly through the conversion of agricultural waste into powersolutions was rural areas.

Asean has set a target to raise the RE share in its energy mix to 23 per cent by this year, with a longer-term goal of achieving net-zero emissions between 2050 and 2060.

However, Tiong said structural challenges remained, as high capital costs for renewable infrastructure—solar farms, wind turbines, and hydroelectric facilities—continued to be a major barrier.

He said transitioning from fossif fuel-based systems required complex and costly upgrades to existing infrastructure.

Tiong emphasised that reliance on foreign technologies, limited domestic innovation and fragmented energy policies across member states had slowed momentum.

domestic innovation and fragmented energy policies across member
states had slowed momentum.

He said policy inconsistency
was a major impediment, adding
that while some countries are progressing, others remain reliant on
coal and gas, undermining regional
integration.

memt.

"By investing in RE infrastructure, fostering technological innovation, and enhancing regional coperation, Asean holds the potential
to emerge as a global leader in RE,
advancing towards a cleaner and
omer sustainable future for all its
members," he said.