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Malaysia can buy hydropower from Laos by 2018 — KeTTHA

BY ADELA MEGAN WILLY

PUTRAJAYA: The governments of Malaysia, Thailand and Laos yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate the implementation of cross-border multilateral power trade of up to 100mw between Laos and Malaysia, through Thailand.

The MoU will pave the way for Malaysia to purchase up to 100mw of hydropower from Laos transmitted through Thailand by 2018, said the energy, green technology and water ministry (KeTTHA) in a statement yesterday.

The document was signed by

KeTTHA Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Thailand's Energy Minister General Anantaporn Kanjanarat, as well as Laos' Energy and Mines Vice Minister Viraphonh Viravong.

The ceremony took place after the 34th Asean Ministers on Energy Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, said KeTTHA.

The multilateral power trade is the initial stage of the Asean Power Grid initiative, which is a flagship project under the Asean Vision 2020, and aims to enhance energy security in Asean through the establishment of a network of interconnections between Asean

member states, it noted.

"The signing of the MoU also marked Malaysia's commitment to increase the share of renewable energy in its fuel mix by 2020 as part of the mitigation action to reduce carbon emission in the power sector," it said.

As the fuel mix of Malaysia is dominated by coal and gas, the government is committed to rationalising this as per the commitment made in the Paris Agreement at end-2015.

"The initial capacity of 100mw could be increased in the future and would positively balance our fuel mix to be more environmental friendly," KeTTHA added.