

PRESS RELEASE

S.A. 2022/09/21_67 (HQ)

TNB CEO CALLS FOR ACCELERATION OF EFFORTS TOWARDS AN INTERCONNECTED ASEAN POWER GRID

- ASEAN to gain from multiple benefits of APG
- APG can help tackle challenges from threats posed by climate change & energy crises
- TNB investing RM21 billion in its Grid of the Future

ASEAN power utility companies need to accelerate collaboration towards achieving an interconnected ASEAN Power Grid (APG) in support of the region's collective goal of reaching Net Zero as member countries urgently shift to cleaner and more sustainable energy.

In making this call, **Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB)** President and Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Indera Ir. Baharin Din said, "Its progress is one that must be accelerated for many urgent reasons."

The APG, one of the region's largest and most visionary shared projects, aims to fully integrate the Southeast Asia power grid system. It has been 25 years in the making.

Baharin explained that as ASEAN is projected to become the 4th largest economy in the world by 2050 and given its booming population -- growing at a rate faster than China, the region is "most at-risk in facing the impact of global warming."

"As ASEAN takes actions to safeguard its communities from the on-going and future threats posed by the climate crisis, the APG project can deliver benefits on multiple fronts and combine ASEAN's strengths to tackle these challenges head-on," he said at Enlit Asia 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday (20 September 2022). The event is one of the most influential gatherings for the ASEAN Power Sector.

Baharin stressed that an interconnected grid like the APG is crucial in helping ASEAN member countries leverage resources from their neighbours during times of crises, as well as providing the opportunity to trade and leverage on the pricing of resources at other times.

Given the current effects of high fuel prices, he said that it is imperative that "a more balanced fuel mix will enhance regional energy stability & security and the APG can offset the risks & potential cost implications of these fuel shocks."

As ASEAN's power utilities accelerate their transition to a sustainable future, the sharing of RE sources through this regional marketplace (APG) will spur incremental inflow of private

investment into ASEAN as well as drive innovation and growth of clean energy in the region, he added.

Noting that ASEAN would require around US\$190 billion per annum to transition to net-zero, he said the APG project would allow member economies to optimise their required investment and encourage the flourishing development of innovative business models for interconnectors.

He said these positive economic spillovers would also translate into more electricity infrastructure investment, as well as the development of New Growth areas for technological adoption. Among them are cutting-edge technologies in high voltage, direct and alternating current; transmission system devices; and power storage applications that would lead to growth alongside the APG expansion.

Based on the experience from the successful commencement of the Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS PIP) this year, Baharin expressed confidence that ASEAN power companies can work towards achieving the APG.

“We are in a good position to design a power trade framework that hopefully will match each country’s electricity industry structure and provide a win-win situation for all.”

He pointed out that TNB, in its holistic approach to responsible Energy Transition, recognises that the ASEAN interconnection is key. “Thus, we are committed to expediting the progress of the APG.”

In this respect, TNB has allocated RM21 billion investment in its Grid of the Future program for the period starting 2022 to 2024 to enhance its transmission and distribution network readiness and reliability.

“On a regional level, we are proactively identifying transmission grid locations that will improve market integration and we will work closely with local authorities to develop these.”

Referring to Europe’s grid interconnection which took decades to be developed, he said, “Given the time horizon required to plan and build the necessary regulatory, financial and physical infrastructure, the region must act swiftly to accelerate these efforts.

“This cannot happen alone by one company or one nation. We must each play our part in our shared journey towards a greener, more equitable, and resilient future.”

Released in Kuala Lumpur on 21 September 2022 at 10:00 am

*Kindly forward all press enquiries to Hanim Idris at 019-2617617 /
Grace Tan 016-6626229 / Faiq Haikal 013-3889606
or email us at media@tnb.com.my*



Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) President and Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Indera Ir. Baharin Din at Enlit Asia 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday (20 September 2022).



TNB President and Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Indera Ir. Baharin Din