

13 Asian energy regulators commit to tackle climate change for the first time in Southeast Asia



The highly fruitful official opening of the first Southeast Asian energy regulators conference in Bangkok, "Regulators Respond to Climate Change" hosted by the Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand (ERC) on the 5th February 2010, has moved the region a step closer to a unified approach in mitigating the climate change. Attended by regulators from nations in Southeast Asia with the additions of experienced counterparts such as China, Korea and Japan discussing the situation under the theme "Regulators Respond to the Climate Change."

More than 350 participants including energy professionals and government bodies from Southeast Asian nations, as well as concerned government agencies, provincial governors, academics and NGOs joined the international conference on "Regulators Respond to Climate Change."

In addition to Dr. Wannarat Channukul, Minister of Energy, and Professor Emeritus Dr. Direk Lavansiri, Chairman of Energy Regulatory Commission, the international conference was participated in by respected names in the energy sector, including Mr. Kim Moon Hwan, Chairman of Korea Electricity Commission, Republic of Korea; Mr. Takehiko Matsuo, Director of Electricity



Market Division, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan; Mr. Rauf A. Tan, Commissioner of Energy Regulatory Commission, the Philippines; and Mr. Shi Yubo, Vice Chairman of State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Republic of China.

Dr. Wannarat Channukul, Minister of Energy, expressed his gratitude during the official opening ceremony, "I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand and all parties involved for recognising the important issue of Climate Change. It is indeed a global issue that impacts on all of us and could get worse in the future. Therefore, it is a challenge for every nation to confront it. And in order to solve the problem, co-operation among all of us is necessary to stave off any further catastrophe from climate change, which damages our natural resources, economy and society."

He further said "Today is truly an opportune moment. We are gathered here, bounded by one goal to find the best options, on which Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Southeast Asian region, can build regulatory procedure and strategy to face off climate change. We are here to create a cooperative network that will drive the development of the energy sector and reduce



GHG emission. This is not just the responsibility for one country, such as Thailand, but it rests on the shoulder of all Southeast Asian countries, including its 560 million people. I am confident that the full cooperation of Southeast Asian community will occur in 5 years and will bring us vast opportunities to develop our commercial undertakings and infrastructure.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Direk Lavansiri, Chairman of Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand, said "The energy sectors and communities around the world are clamoring for the reduction in green-house-gases (GHG) emissions, The role of the Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand (ERC) proclaimed by HM. the King under the Energy Act B.E. 2550 is to regulate electricity and natural gas business operations in line with the government policy. It also promotes energy sufficiency, stability, transparency and protects the rights of energy users regarding service fees and service quality. Our role is also to encourage healthy competitions in the energy business and guard against illegal energy business operations. Moreover, the ERC

promotes the wise use of energy and resources to conserve energy and protect the environment. The ERC has taken the initiative to bring together energy regulators in the Southeast Asian region to discuss the issues on hand, as well as strengthening its relationships and of course to find ways to resolve them through a cooperative approach."



The international conference on "Regulators Respond to Climate Change" by the Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand does not bring only the unity of the regulators in the Southeast Asian region but also further helps all the attendees to update themselves as well as exchanging expertise and experience in order to find the appropriate guidance and regulations for all nations within the Southeast Asian region.