

Dr Chansaveng BOUNGNONG
Opening address

Agenda: Opening Address by RPTCC-29 Chairperson, Lao PDR

Good morning!

Excellencies,

- Mr. Toru Kubo, Director of Energy Division, Southeast Asia Department, ADB;
- Delegates from GMS countries and colleagues from international organizations and competent energy authorities.

It's a great honor to be a chairperson in this meaningful event. I, on behalf of Ministry of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates from GMS countries and colleagues from international organizations, competent energy authorities to attend the 29th Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee during 5-6 July 2022 in Siem Reap (Cambodia).

Distinguish guests,

Colleagues,

The Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee (RPTCC) plays the role to manage regional power trade in the Greater Mekong Subregion and provides recommendations on overall policy in this area. It also facilitates the exchange of information on energy sector plans and projects, so far, several of activities have been done by the committee with good collaboration among the GMS members and supporter organizations, although we have had very hard time to implement due to COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the first face-to-face meeting after COVID situation, I'm very glad to see all of you here and I'm very appreciated for your continual contribution to pursue our cooperation on energy sector. Continuing to the last 28th meeting of RPTCC held in virtual, hosted and chaired by the Laos PDR, some issues are still needed to be raised in this meeting particularly the country updating of GMS members with regard the power sector development, cross border interconnections, cross border power trade, role of renewable energy, energy storage, energy efficiency in GMS energy transition plan. We will discuss on technical assistant what support GMS countries with their respective energy transition plans, and we will also hear presentation in terms of energy transition, energy storage, energy efficiency, decarbonization and other from our colleagues.

Colleagues,

Currently, Lao PDR is implementing the 5 years Power and Mines Development Plan from 2021-2025 and Strategy power development plan to support national agenda which includes supporting energy cooperation with neighboring countries in the platform of increasing power exchange by grid-to-grid, defining tariff to facilitate investment in industry to increase domestic consumption, also to promote domestic investment in order to create jobs and boosting economic, defining and increasing electrical vehicles to reduce importing oil from outside

country, improving modernized transmission line and substation throughout the country in order to respond for generation, domestic distribution, and export to neighboring countries. In addition, in implementation of 5 years plan, we also focus on energy efficiency, these will also support to power interconnection among GMS countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At we are in the stage of Energy Transition Era that is marked by the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy system, in this context, the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR, as Chairman of the 29th RPTCC, would like to reiterate the RPTCC's commitment in promoting regional power trade, promote low carbon and renewable utilization as important step forward to energy transition.

Again, I would like to thank delegations of GMS countries, especially Cambodia as a host country, colleague from ADB, International organizations, wishing our Meeting a great success with open vies among us and wishing you all good health and success!

Thank you.

May I now invite Mr. Toru Kubo, Director, Energy Division, Southeast Asia Department for welcome address please.

[Mr. Toru Kubo Welcome Address by ADB: GMS Energy Transition Task Force (ETTF) in Facilitating Decarbonization – Opportunities and Challenges in Greening GMS Energy Systems.]

Thank you very much Mr. Toru Kubo for the welcome address, especially for the opportunities and Challenges in Greening GMS Energy Systems. We appreciate the work on GMS's countries to promoting regional power trade, promote low carbon and renewable utilization as important step forward to energy transition.