**Follow-up of Sustainable Energy Transition in ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting**

The Sustainable Energy Transition has become a focus in initiatives to tackle climate change and reduce dependence on limited conventional energy sources. ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) is vital in energy transition acceleration in the region through a cooperation framework. The meeting is a medium for ASEAN member countries to share experiences, policies, and initiatives to encourage the use of renewable energy and promote energy sustainability in the region.

Energy ministers from ASEAN countries attend AMEM, an effective forum for formulating joint strategies in the sustainable energy transition. One of the vital follow-ups generated by the AMEM is the increase in renewable energy investment. ASEAN countries are committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and biomass energy through cross-border collaboration and cooperation. This will make a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel dependence reduction.

AMEM also promotes energy efficiency increase across the ASEAN. ASEAN member states share experiences and best practices in energy efficiency policy implementation, including energy-saving programs in the construction, industry, and transport sectors. An energy efficiency increase will reduce overall energy consumption and generate significant economic and environmental benefits.

AMEM also encouraged the development of new and innovative energy technologies. Collaboration in renewable energy research and development, including energy storage and smart use, is an important focus of the meeting. ASEAN countries support each other in the latest technology adoption and knowledge and experience sharing to boost the renewable energy industry growth in the region.

AMEM also promotes cooperation in the affordable and sustainable energy access provision for the entire ASEAN people. This effort involves energy infrastructure development, including a reliable and integrated power grid, and energy provision in remote areas. ASEAN countries can promote inclusive economic growth and reduce the energy gap between urban and rural areas by increasing access to affordable energy.

AMEM is also working with the private sector and international partners to achieve the sustainable energy transition goal. AMEM facilitates technology transfer, investment, and financing for the development of renewable energy infrastructure in the ASEAN region through strong partnerships. It involves cooperation with international energy companies, financial institutions, and development agencies, which contribute to the capacity development and the implementation of renewable energy projects in ASEAN countries.

AMEM also pays special attention to the social and environmental aspects of the energy transition. In this context, efforts are made to engage local communities, build awareness about the benefits of renewable energy, and ensure a positive impact on the environment and social sustainability. Education and training are also a focus in preparing a competent workforce in the renewable energy sector.

The impact of the follow-ups to the sustainable energy transition in AMEM is significant. ASEAN countries have accelerated renewable energy development and energy efficiency in various sectors through regional cooperation. This contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, new job creation, economic growth, and diversifying energy sources.

The sustainable energy transition in AMEM also strengthens ASEAN's position as a regional leader in renewable energy development. This enhances ASEAN's image and attractiveness as an investment destination in the energy sector and expands cooperation opportunities with international partners. ASEAN countries can benefit from increased investment, technology transfer, and sustainable knowledge exchange.

The follow-up to the sustainable energy transition in AMEM is an important step towards cleaner, sustainable, and affordable energy use in the ASEAN region. ASEAN can achieve Sustainable Energy Development Goals, maintain environmental sustainability, and provide economic and social benefits for the entire ASEAN Community by strengthening cooperation among countries, the private sector, and international partners.

In this ASEAN Chairmanship, the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry will encourage all ASEAN members to declare NZE targets in the 41st AMEM in August 2023. This will be the basis of the ASEAN NZE (Net Zero Emissions) roadmap that can be used as an action plan for a just, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy transition with the no one left behind principle by the economic and social conditions as well as priorities of each ASEAN country. (DA/FW)

Sources:

ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) - ASEAN Energy Website

ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2021-2025 - ASEAN Energy Website

ASEAN Energy Outlook 2021 - ASEAN Centre for Energy

Youth Declare Support for Sustainability Pillars at 42nd ASEAN Summit in 2023 - ASEAN 2023 Website