

**Press Release**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013**

**THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF ASEAN ENERGY REGULATORS' NETWORK (AERN) IN BANGKOK WITNESSES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON ASEAN ENERGY NETWORKING**

The Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand (ERC) has made significant achievement as host of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of ASEAN Energy Regulators' Network (AERN) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Forum 2013 entitled "Interconnectivity and Cross-Border Trade," in order to aim to promote the regional collaboration on energy management which will give the rise to energy security in the region towards the vision of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). The Meeting, in which energy regulators from Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Vietnam participated, has outlined the Work Plan of AERN could be accomplished to enhance regional connectivity and sustainable development for AEC in 2015.

Prof. Emeritus Dr. Direk Lavansiri, Chairman of the Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand (ERC), said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of AERN and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Forum 2013 represented a major progress of AERN establishment and encouraged greater cooperation among ASEAN energy regulators to support the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) and Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) projects. He encouraged AERN members to collaborate on the finalization of TOR of AERN so that the Work Plan of AERN could be accomplished to enhance regional connectivity and sustainable development.

*"Thailand suggested additional area of cooperation on capacity building by organizing and sharing knowledge among energy regulators. Thailand's initiative and noted that, where there is expertise in a Member Country, such country may extend an offer to other countries to participate in the training courses or workshops. The Meeting also agreed to set up Country Updates on Regulatory Issues be one of the regular Agendas of future AERN Meetings to exchange information among Member Countries. Thailand also proposed that separate Working Groups should be formed to discuss the sub-activities among AERN Member Countries during the year, including activities related to the work of Head ASEAN Power Utilities / Authorities - HAPUA)." Dr. Direk said.*

Moreover, the Meeting welcomed the Director of Office of Europe and Asia Affairs, US Department of Energy (US DOE), as guest participant. US DOE presented the US-ASEAN Energy Cooperation Framework that was endorsed at the 30<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Energy (SOME) in 2012. He emphasized that four major focuses would be on Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Natural Gas and Civil Nuclear Power. He notes several workshops would be held in various countries on a back-to-back basis with the ASEAN meetings.

*“US DOE invited contributions from AERN members on ideas to expand the partnership dialogue. AERN members expressed interest in developing capacity building programs in regulatory areas jointly with the US and agreed to explore further cooperation between AERN and the US”,* said Dr. Direk.

As for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum 2013 on “Interconnectivity and Cross-Border Trade,” delegates presented cases on connectivity of energy network which could be beneficial for further energy networking projects in ASEAN member countries. The initiative will also lead to fair, transparent energy management at international standard, a vital factor for achieving sustainable energy security and development in the upcoming AEC in 2015.

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#### **About the Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand (ERC)**

The Energy Regulatory Commission of Thailand (ERC) is a regulatory body that regulates the energy industry to ensure standards are reliable, efficient, environmentally friendly and fair for all parties, namely consumers and operators. ERC aims to be consistently transparent in its operations and contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

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