

**INTERVENTIONS BY THE DELEGATION OF SINGAPORE AT THE
THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,
24 - 26 FEBRUARY 2021**

Agenda Item 2: Energy Security and Resilience in the context of the Coronavirus disease crisis

- Good morning Madame Chair and fellow delegates. Thank you for the opportunity to intervene. First of all, we would like to extend our appreciation to the UNESCAP secretariat for their wonderful work and strong support for the Singapore International Energy Week. We fondly recall the last time when we were in the UNESCAP office in Bangkok two years ago and we had the opportunity to meet Madame Executive Secretary and Director Liu.
- Energy security and resilience is an important aspect as we consider sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In the longer term, we are optimistic that our energy demand would rebound as our economy recovers from the COVID 19 pandemic. We are also expecting an increase from various sectors, including the growth of data centres, agri-tech facilities and electric vehicles.
- Two years ago, we had announced the Singapore Energy Story and our “Four Switches” which would provide the blueprint towards greater sustainability. The “Four Switches” are: (i) natural gas; (ii) solar energy; (iii) regional power grids; and (iv) low carbon alternatives. These represent Singapore’s commitment to diversification as well as the role of cleaner energy in our energy mix.
- Against the backdrop of a growing energy demand and the transformation of the energy systems in the region, we note the impact of renewables in shaping the trajectory of the region’s energy sector. Hence, it is crucial to take into consideration the growing role of renewables and clean energy technologies in enhancing the region’s energy security and resiliency. We welcome the secretariat’s role in facilitating greater discussion on these fronts.

Agenda Item 3(a): Review of the progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 in Asia and the Pacific

- Thank you, Madame Chair, for the opportunity to intervene once again. I would like to provide some quick remarks and to follow-up from my earlier comments.
- We announced our ambition to be a “Bright Green Spark” at the Singapore International Energy Week last year, where we would seek to green our energy production and consumption, and to be an inspiration to urban societies across the world, in the areas of energy generation and management system.
- This year, we launched the “Singapore Green Plan 2030”, which is our whole of nation approach in advancing sustainable development over the next decade. This supports our commitments under the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement. In addition, it is a demonstration of how we intend to put green development at the centre of our recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Singapore will be accelerating the deployment of solar energy in our energy mix, by five-fold. By 2025, we aim to achieve solar deployment of 1.5 GWp, which can meet around 2% of our 2025 projected electricity demand and generate enough electricity to power more than 260,000 households a year. By 2030, we aim to achieve at least 2 GWp, which can meet around 3% of our 2030 projected electricity demand. To complement the acceleration of our solar deployment, Singapore aims to also achieve 200 MW of energy storage systems deployment beyond 2025.
- Given our lack of available land space for the large-scale deployment of solar, Singapore has also been investing in research and development as well as test-bedding to improve the performance our solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Beyond the installation of solar panels on the rooftops of our public housing, we are also piloting a floating PV project, which would see solar panel installations on water surfaces at our reservoirs.
- According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) report which was released last year, every \$1 million invested in renewables or energy flexibility creates at least 25 jobs, which is three times more than regular fossil fuel investments. We welcome the opportunity to work with countries to accelerate renewable energy deployment in the region.
- Thank you.

Agenda Item 3(c): Regional roadmap on power system connectivity: entitled “Promoting cross- border electricity connectivity for sustainable development”

- We would like to thank UNESCAP for their important work on regional energy integration. The strategies highlighted in the roadmap provide interesting insights and are very relevant for our work. Indeed, regional connectivity is key in enhancing the region’s access to energy and advancing the deployment of renewables in the region.
- In 2020, we announced our intention together with Lao PDR, Thailand and Malaysia to work together on the LTMS Power Integration Project (LTMS PIP). Singapore is honoured to be the Chair of the LTMS Working Group this year. With the support from our fellow members, we hope to advance the work on technical, commercial and policy aspects of achieving multilateral electricity trading in this region. The LTMS PIP is expected to provide up to 100 MW of cross border electricity, for a period of two years from 2022-2023.
- While such regional power connectivity are still in its infancy, we note that there are also several similar work streams and sub-regional initiatives. For example, the work done under Heads of Power Utilities in ASEAN (HAPUA). As such, it would be useful to explore synergies for cooperation and to refrain from duplicating efforts.