



PRESS RELEASE

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ASEAN Centre for Energy and National Research Institute for Rural Electrification Sign MoU: New Partnership Introduced at the 10th World Water Forum 2024



Photo 1. (left-right) Dr Andy Tirta, Manager of ACE on behalf of Dr Nuki Agya Utama, Executive Director of ACE and Prof. Xu Zhifeng, Director General of NRIRE/HRC, introduced the signed partnership in the 10th World Water Forum 2024

Bali, 22 May 2024 – The ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the National Research Institute for Rural Electrification (NRIRE) / Hangzhou Regional Center (Asia & Pacific) for Small Hydro Power (HRC), Ministry of Water Resources, People's Republic of China, have formalised their cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU was officially signed by **Dr Nuki Agya Utama**, Executive Director of ACE, and **Prof. Xu Zhifeng**, Director General of NRIRE/HRC.

At the 10th World Water Forum 2024 held today, **Dr Andy Tirta**, Manager of ACE on behalf of Dr Nuki Agya Utama, Executive Director of ACE and **Prof. Xu Zhifeng**, Director General of NRIRE/HRC, introduced the partnership to further engage key stakeholders in the forum. This symbolic ceremony underscored the importance of the collaboration and its potential impact on regional energy and rural electrification initiatives.



Dr Nuki Agya Utama stated, "*This MoU represents a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance renewable energy development and rural electrification in the ASEAN region. By collaborating with NRIRE/HRC, we can leverage each other's expertise and resources to achieve our shared goals of sustainable energy and socio-economic development.*"

Prof. Xu Zhifeng echoed this, saying, "*Our partnership with ACE is crucial for advancing small hydropower and other renewable energy projects in ASEAN Member States. Together, we can drive innovation, improve technical training, and promote sustainable energy solutions that benefit both China and ASEAN.*"

The MoU reflects the mutual commitment of ACE and NRIRE/HRC to collaborate, working towards definitive agreements for the implementation of joint projects. The agreement outlines various collaborative activities, including multilateral training courses, research programs on renewable energy, and the development of hybrid power generation technologies. These activities aim to support the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) and enhance disaster mitigation and resilience capabilities.

The MoU signing marks a milestone in the pursuit of sustainable energy solutions and the strengthening of ties between China and ASEAN. The collaboration is expected to drive significant advancements in rural electrification and renewable energy, benefiting the socio-economic landscape of the ASEAN region.

About ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)

Established on 1 January 1999, the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) is an intergovernmental organisation within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) structure that represents the 10 ASEAN Member States' (AMS) interests in the energy sector. ACE supports the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC), a blueprint for ASEAN energy sector. The Centre is guided by a Governing Council composed of Senior Officials on Energy from each AMS and a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat as an ex-officio member.

The three key roles of ACE:

- As a catalyst to unify and strengthen ASEAN energy cooperation and integration by implementing relevant capacity building programmes and projects to assist the AMS develop their energy sector.
- As the ASEAN energy data centre and knowledge hub to provide a knowledge repository for the AMS.
- As an ASEAN energy think tank to assist the AMS by identifying and surfacing innovative solutions for ASEAN's energy challenges on policies, legal & regulatory frameworks and technologies.

Keeping the region's improvement, sustainable and harmless to the ecosystem is a fundamental concern of the ASEAN energy sector. Hosted by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, ACE's office is located in Jakarta, Indonesia. For more information on ACE website: aseanenergy.org

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