



Photo Credit: USAID Southeast Asia Smart Power Program

ASEAN METHANE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that is 80 times more capable of trapping heat than carbon dioxide over the first 20 years it enters the atmosphere. Reductions in methane emissions can have a significant impact on mitigating global warming in the near term compared to equivalent reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

To build collective action for methane emission reductions among oil and gas (O&G) companies across Southeast Asia, the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) launched the ASEAN Energy Sector Methane Leadership Program (MLP) in June 2023. The initiative was endorsed by the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE).

OBJECTIVES

The MLP convenes O&G companies for collaboration with ASEAN institutions and international organizations to accelerate progress toward the Global Methane Pledge for reduced methane emissions of at least 30 percent by 2030 through:

- I. Interactive **MASTERCLASSES** for MLP partners on methane emissions management, featuring three progressive tracks covering topics from basic methane detection, measurement, and data management to more advanced abatement technologies, policy frameworks, and financing options.

2. Comprehensive **WORKSHOPS** for wider audiences, including ASCOPE members and national government representatives, for collaborative brainstorming sessions and group discussions to identify methane abatement projects and explore potential financing.
3. Targeted **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE** for project development to identify and synergize partnerships between project owners and potential financiers/funders.

MEMBERSHIP

The MLP is led by the USAID Southeast Asia Smart Power Program, serving as Secretariat, and ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), who chairs the Technical Working Group. In the program's first phase from June 2023 through December 2024, members include ACE, ASCOPE and:

- **O&G companies**, including Petroliam Nasional Berhad (Pertamina) of Indonesia, Petroliam Nasional Berhad (Petronas) of Malaysia, PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) of Thailand, PetroVietnam Exploration Production Corporation (PVEP), and Woodside Energy of Australia.
- **Energy sector associations** including the Asia Natural Gas & Energy Association and Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security.
- **International organizations** including the Environmental Defense Fund, United Nations Environment Program, World Bank, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Commercial Law Development Program, and USAID.

RESULTS

In MLP's first phase, the program:

- Achieved consensus among its members on the program's long-term value. In March 2024, the MLP Steering Committee agreed to extend MLP for a second 15-month phase that will accept additional partners for masterclasses scheduled from January 2025 to March 2026.
- Expanded membership and secured growing commitment to methane management through a total of 17 partner companies in June 2024.
- Trained more than 140 participants from leading O&G companies on strategies and best practices for methane abatement. Over 80 percent of participants in a recent masterclass demonstrated increased technical understanding based on a post-training assessment.



To learn more about the MLP, please contact the MLP Secretariat:

Dr. Amornwan (Mai) Resanond, Director of Clean and Sustainable Energy
 USAID Southeast Asia Smart Power Program

Email: aresanond@deloitte.com