Welcoming and Opening Statement
The 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER)
Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong
Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand
Thursday 2 November 2017  08.35 - 08.45 hrs.

Excellencies, /  
Asian Energy Ministers, /  
Ladies and gentlemen, /  

Sa-Wad-Dee Krub

It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome all of you / to the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable / which is held in Bangkok, Thailand / with United Arab Emirates as our co-host. /  

As the host country, / I am proud that Thailand was given the opportunity to host this prestigious meeting / which is considered to be one of the significant events taking place this year. / Please allow me to express my / sincere appreciation....
sincere appreciation / to all the Asian energy ministers and executives from international organizations / for taking your valuable time to travel here. / Let me officially welcome you to Bangkok, Thailand, / the land of smiles. / 

The topic of today’s roundtable is / “Global Market in Transition: From Vision to Action” / which perfectly reflects the current global energy situation. / As the world is moving towards the period of energy transition, / every nation, especially in Asia, / would have to find practical measures to aid this transition. / 

In order to meet the topics of discussion, / I would like to address on 3 main points / to use as a guideline for today’s discussion. / The points include (1) Global and regional energy situation / (2) Energy Transition and (3) Thailand and the transition /
Ladies and gentlemen,

(1) Global and Regional Energy Situation

At present, the growth in energy consumption comes mostly from developing countries such as non-OECD countries. This growth is a result of an increase in population, migration and urbanization as well as the improvement of quality of life. It is without a doubt that the world still needs to rely on the use of fossil fuel.

Asia is considered to be one of the regions with the highest share of global energy consumption. The growth of energy consumption accounted for two-third of the world. This is due to the growth in large economies such as China and India as well as countries
with rapid economic development / like countries in Southeast Asia. / Meanwhile, Asia still possesses energy resources including oil and natural gas. / This make us to be the region that comprises of both major energy importers and producers / which will signify how Asia is crucial for global energy market / and should play a leading role in shaping global energy directions. / As this era is seen to be “The Asian Century”. / According to the forecast made by International Energy Agency, / global energy demand will increase by 30% in 2040 / and the biggest energy supply comes from renewable energy. / It is estimated that the share of renewable energy in power generation / will reach 60% with the majority comes from wind
and solar. / As for fossil fuel, natural gas is predicted to grow the fastest / with the consumption rising by 50% . / From this particular trend, / we are moving towards energy transition era, / from the world that is driven by fossil fuel / to the world that is dominated by clean energy. 

Ladies and gentlemen,

/(2) Energy Transition

(2) Energy Transition /

In the past 10 years, / our world has gone through many changes and the same goes for energy sector. / This is due to one of the major challenges, namely climate change. / The Paris Agreement on Climate Change is an agreement that directly affected energy sector / where two-third of greenhouse gas emissions comes from. / Therefore,
various countries pay attention to transforming their economy into green economy by focusing on finding clean and sustainable energy options in order to become low-carbon society.

Moreover, technological development has grown rapidly. There are various disruptive technologies in energy sector not only electric vehicle and energy storage system but also renewable energy technology development which help lower the investment cost. In addition, there is the upcoming trend of self-producing and self-consuming energy or “Prosumer”. With all these developments, global energy consumption will begin to change. The use of fossil fuel, though still very important, will gradually decline while renewable energy includes other forms of clean energy will grow.
deployment of clean energy technologies as well as energy efficiency will also play an increasingly important role.

Energy markets in transition are also inevitable. Once the production and consumption trends changed, traditional energy markets had to adapt to the challenges and to the new emerging technologies. The current energy markets, whether oil or gas, are becoming more competitive since there are new players entering the market. At the same time, uncertainties in the markets are high because of new energy-saving technologies, the arrival of electric vehicle or clean energy consumption trend. This will lower the demand for energy consumption.

From the challenges and changes that I have mentioned, energy transition is
unavoidable. / In order for this transition to go smoothly, / the government’s role and action in setting directions and devising policies is necessary. / Furthermore, how can we create a favorable environment for private investment in energy sector? / I am strongly confident that a dialogue between energy producing and energy consuming countries / in strengthening a partnership to achieve the transition that is balanced, stable / and, most importantly, beneficial to both parties will be pivotal. / 

Ladies and gentlemen, / 

(3) Thailand and the transition / 

It has been a year since Thailand has lost His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej / or “Father of Thai Energy Development”. / His Majesty laid a solid foundation for the country’s energy
development / by actively encouraging the use of alternative energy. / Also, he pioneered „ The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” / which the government upholds as a principle / for the management of the country’s natural resources. / With his Majesty’s the King’s principle in mind, / Thailand by the Ministry of Energy has formulated „ Thailand Integrated Energy Blueprint” / as a main plan in driving the country towards energy security, / economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. / Additionally, the government has set a policy called „ Thailand 4.0” / as an attempt to revive the economy, increase the country’s competitiveness and escape the “middle-income trap” / by transforming the country’s economic structure to value and innovation-based
economy. The government also gives priority to the policy on the development of Thailand’s Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) to support the investment and economic development.

To be in line with Thailand 4.0, the Ministry of Energy has launched “Energy 4.0.” This policy is composed of 4 major energy areas including promotion of electric vehicle such as E-Tuk Tuk, energy storage system, hybrid power generation from renewable sources, and smart city and smart grid.

From the above mentioned policies, Thailand is in a transition period where we aim to drive our energy sector towards an increasing modernized and smart future. This will be a pressing challenge for us
on how to manage the country’s energy system / to have a secured, cost-competitive and environmentally-friendly source of energy. /

Ladies and gentlemen, /

I wish that the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable / will be successful and able to achieve all anticipated outcomes. / I truly wish that this roundtable meeting will bring about / the beginning of a firm cooperation and

/creative energy.... creative energy initiatives / which not only strengthen regional energy security / but also push forward our region to play a leading role in the global energy arena. /

Last but not least, / there will be another important energy-related workshop organized / back-to-back with the AMER 7. / The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Workshop under the theme of /
“ACD Energy Action Plan: Towards Global Energy Challenges” will be held here in this venue on November 4th and I would like to invite you all to stay longer and partake in this event.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the honorable ministers and heads of international organizations for attending this roundtable meeting. I would like to thank our Ministry of Energy, the United Arab Emirates and IEF in arranging this important forum. I also take this opportunity to announce the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable officially opens.

Thank you