

Statement delivered at 7<sup>th</sup> AMER, Bangkok, November 3, 2017

Mr Chairman, fellow panelists, Energy Ministryers,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, kindly allow me to pay my tribute to Thailand's legendary Monarch Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, an ardent advocate of sufficiency economy for a sustainable future. Let me also take the opportunity to thank, on behalf of my delegation and personally, the host, Kingdom of Thailand and the co-host, the United Arab Emirates for having organized this important 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable in such a beautiful and interesting city--Bangkok. The hospitality is matchless.

AMER is an excellent platform to bring together policymakers and other stake holders to address the challenges facing the exporters and importers of energy in this region and find common grounds--win win solutions--for shared economic prosperity not only across the region, but for the less fortunate citizens of our countries and the unborn generations. A common strategy can maximize the gains and minimize the risks for all during the uncertain times that often come our way.

The center of gravity of the world is moving inexorably towards Asia. It is emerging as a major power house of global economic growth and the driver of energy services--significantly influencing the demand and supply pathways. While global warming is increasingly setting the boundary conditions, technological innovations--and I dare say, breakthroughs, will usher a new world in not too distant future.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Bangladesh is both a small and a large country. Imagine the populations of Germany, France, Denmark and Norway put in a land, a quarter the size of

France. That is Bangladesh with a population of 160 million. Although we are net importer of energy, mother nature has been generous in bestowing us with fertile land. We are self-sufficient in food production except for occasional shortfalls. Our economy is growing at 7+ rate per annum. Human development indices show stronger gains than our peers. Since 2009, we have achieved significant reduction in poverty including energy. Over 80 percent of the households have now access to electricity and we plan to cover all households by 2020. Although our per capita consumption is less than 400 KWh per capita per annum compared to 10000 KWh for the OECD countries, we intend to achieve the status of middle income country by 2021 with much less of energy consumption.

Along with the strategy of expanding supply we are focusing on energy efficiency, conservation and responsible use of energy. This is not limited to the value chain of energy services but is targeted to address the indirect uses—the inputs that go agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors. The axiom is simple—to do more with less.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Bangladesh is an interesting case—finding the right balance between incentives for production and consumption of hydrocarbons. With our existing natural gas fields soon to deplete, we need a market that provides enough incentives to encourage exploration both onshore and offshore but at the same time not too burdensome for the current consumers. To meet our present and projected deficit, we are implementing projects for importing LNG and as well introducing imported coal in our energy mix while making sure our carbon foot print—now only **0.4** metric ton per capita per annum as opposed to 20 metric tons for the developed countries, does not increase significantly. Nonetheless, we are emphasizing the use of renewable energy – over 4.2 million households in Bangladesh, in other words, over 18 million people receive essential services from stand-alone solar home systems. It is the largest in the world.

Bangladesh is actively engaged in energy trading with its neighbor India and hope to enlarge cooperation beyond.

While we engage in discussions on energy in the comforts of Shangri-La hotel, we shouldn't lose sight of the plight of hundreds of thousands of refugees who are pouring into Bangladesh from Myanmar. We need to put our heads together so that they can return home and get back to normal life.

It's our hope that together we shall find a more sustainable road to development and provision of energy services for all.

Thank you for giving me a patient hearing. I wish 7<sup>th</sup> AMER all success..