



17 SEP, 2019

Malaysia eyes higher electricity output from renewables sources

New Straits Times, Malaysia

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KUALA LUMPUR: Plans for the development of solar and other renewables remain less well developed in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Indonesia and Malaysia sourced 12 and 15 per cent of their total electricity output from renewable sources, respectively, last year, based on EIU estimates. "Malaysia aims to raise this proportion to 20 per cent by 2025, and Indonesia to 23 per cent by 2025 and 31 per cent by 2050.

"However, these figures look relatively modest compared with efforts elsewhere, and the two countries' governments do not appear to have committed wholeheartedly to shifting their energy

mix," it said in its latest report.

The EIU said Southeast Asia had traditionally relied on fossil-fuel-fired power generation to drive its growth.

It estimates that combustible fuels accounted for 82 per cent of total power generation last year in the region's six largest economies. Yet there are signs that this may be changing.

"In the face of pressure to reduce carbon emissions — as well as a shift in the cost of producing electricity from renewable sources relative to coal — policymakers in some countries are reassessing power policies."

The EIU said progress towards more sustainable energy strategies had varied substantially among the members of the As-



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sociation of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Although fossil fuels still dominate the energy mix in most of the grouping's economies, Singapore and Thailand have at least relied more on natural gas, which produces less carbon dioxide (CO₂) when burned.

By contrast, coal — often regarded as one of the dirtiest forms of fuel both in terms of CO₂

emissions and more toxic pollutants — continues to play a major role in many of the region's economies.

The EIU estimated that last year, coal-fired plants accounted for 31.3 per cent of electricity generation in Vietnam, 42.5 per cent in Malaysia, 45.4 per cent in the Philippines and 52 per cent in Indonesia.

Asean had set a target in 2015

for renewables to account for 23 per cent of the region's energy mix by 2025.

"This target stands out as being relatively modest by global standards, but it will be tough to meet. Even in power generation, which forms only part of the total energy mix, renewables accounted for just 17.6 per cent of total generation last year by our estimates," said the EIU.



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SUMMARIES

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