ASEAN School of Regulation Formally Inaugurates in Malaysia to Accelerate Regional Power Connectivity and Clean Energy Investment

- *Supported by Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Union (through the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package [SCOPE]), the Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the new permanent institution opened its doors at the Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Putrajaya Campus on 23 November 2026.*
- *The inauguration marks the launch of the 2026 Summer School for Energy Regulators in ASEAN (23-27 November) which will equip regional officials with technical expertise to advance the ASEAN Power Grid.*

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA, 23 November 2026



Rising renewable energy adoption, new technologies, and expanding cross-border electricity trade are making ASEAN's power systems increasingly complex. Navigating challenges like tariff pricing, market design, and grid integration requires strong, harmonized regulatory frameworks to attract investment while keeping electricity reliable and affordable.

Guided by its motto, "Shaping Regulation, Powering ASEAN," the ASEAN School of Regulation (ASR) aims to strengthen regulatory capabilities, promote knowledge sharing and foster closer cooperation among ASEAN Member States in support of the region's energy transition.

Following its high-level endorsement at the 44th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in Manila in October 2026, the ASR formally inaugurated its operations on 23 November 2026 at the National Energy Centre, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Putrajaya Campus, Malaysia.



The inauguration marks the ASR's transition from the concept stage into a permanent, ASEAN-owned regional centre of excellence. The opening ceremony brought together senior representatives from ASEAN energy regulators, international development partners, and academic institutions for high-level roundtables focused on ensuring the School's long-term institutional sustainability, deepening strategic partnerships, and scaling international investments in regulatory capacity across the region.



His Excellency Marc Abensour, French Ambassador to Malaysia, addressed attendees during the joint partnership address segment.

"Today marks an important milestone in ASEAN's journey towards stronger regional cooperation in energy regulation and, more importantly, our collective commitment to building regulatory capacity across the region.

We gather not simply to inaugurate an institution, but to begin translating that shared regional ambition into reality."

— Puan Siti Safinah Salleh, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Commission of Malaysia

Immediately following the inauguration, the School convened its flagship 2026 Summer School for Energy Regulators in ASEAN from 23 to 27 November 2026, welcoming over 30 energy regulators from nine countries across Southeast Asia.



The inaugural cohort of the School attended their first learning session for the week.

Bridging the Regulatory Gap for the ASEAN Power Grid

As Southeast Asia accelerates its clean energy transition, mobilizing large-scale private capital and expanding cross-border electricity trade require transparent, predictable, and harmonized regulatory frameworks. The ASR directly addresses this institutional need by serving as a dedicated regional platform for regulatory leadership, applied research, and practitioner exchange.

Through its multi-year curriculum and targeted technical programmes, the ASR will advance three strategic priorities: promoting greater regulatory harmonisation across ASEAN Member States, including regulatory frameworks and grid codes, to facilitate cross-border electricity trade; strengthening market and tariff regulatory frameworks to foster private sector investment while safeguarding consumer interests; and enhancing regulatory capacity through practical training in renewable energy integration, grid flexibility, energy storage and digitalisation.



"As the host regulator, the Energy Commission of Malaysia (Suruhanjaya Tenaga) looks

forward to contributing our regulatory experience, facilitating knowledge exchange and working with our ASEAN counterparts and partners to ensure that the School remains responsive to emerging challenges. While the ASR has its home in Malaysia, its purpose and future belong to ASEAN. Its long-term success will depend on the active participation, expertise and shared ownership of regulators across the region."

— Puan Siti Safinah Salleh, Chief Executive Officer, Energy Commission of Malaysia

The ASR will be hosted by Universiti Tenaga Nasional Research and Development (UNITEN R&D) and implemented through the Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP), a multi-donor programme managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The ASR is supported by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Union (EU) through the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package (SCOPE).





AFD Regional Director Victoire Vandeville and Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN, Her Excellency Marina Rafti, addressed the gathering via video message.

The ASR is further strengthened by close institutional alignment with key regional bodies, including the Energy Commission of Malaysia, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) of the Philippines as the Chair of the ASEAN Energy Regulators' Network (AERN), and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE). Their active engagement ensures that the School's curriculum and research remain directly anchored to national regulatory realities and ASEAN's broader regional energy cooperation agenda.

The inaugural Summer School was delivered in collaboration with the Australian Energy Regulator (AER), International Energy Agency (IEA), Florence School of Regulation (FSR), Eliga Grid International and the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP).

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Notes to Editors

About the ASEAN School of Regulation (ASR)
Endorsed at the 44th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) in October 2026 and hosted by UNITEN R&D in Putrajaya, Malaysia, the ASEAN School of Regulation is a permanent regional institution dedicated to strengthening regulatory leadership, advancing the ASEAN Power Grid, and enabling sustainable energy investment across Southeast Asia. Learn more: https://www.energytransitionpartnership.org/projects/the-asean-school-of-regulation/

About the Energy Commission of Malaysia
The Energy Commission (Suruhanjaya Tenaga - ST) is a regulatory body responsible for regulating the energy sector, particularly the electricity and piped gas supply industries in Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Labuan. The Energy Commission ensures that the provision of electricity and piped gas to consumers is secure, reliable, safe and reasonably priced.

- More information: www.st.gov.my/
  For media inquiries: media@st.gov.my

About the Energy Regulatory Commission
The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is an independent quasi-judicial and regulatory body that regulates the Philippine energy sector. It is mandated to promote competition, encourage market development, ensure customer choice, discourage/penalize abuse of market power in the restructured electricity industry, and ensure the adequate promotion of consumer interests. At present, the ERC is responsible for monitoring and regulating an industry valued at PhP 4.19 trillion, comprising 142 distribution utilities, 262 generation companies with 741 generation facilities, 160 retail suppliers, 576 WESM participants and one transmission concessionaire.

- More information: *erc.gov.ph*
  For inquiries: *info@erc.ph*

About the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)
The ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) is an intergovernmental organisation driving multilateral energy cooperation and policy coordination among ASEAN Member States. Formally established on 1 January 1999 in Jakarta, Indonesia, ACE serves as the regional energy think tank, catalyst, and knowledge hub for ASEAN. Hosted by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, ACE's office is located in Jakarta, Indonesia. For more information: aseanenergy.org.

- More information: aseanenergy.org
  For media inquiries: communication@aseanenergy.org.

About UNOPS-ETP

The Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) is a multi-donor partnership formed by governmental and philanthropic partners to accelerate sustainable energy transition in Southeast Asia in line with the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. ETP provides technical expertise to support the governments of Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines in transitioning toward sustainable energy systems and enhancing energy security.

- More information: http://www.energytransitionpartnership.org
  Media inquiries: udanik@unops.org

About ESCAP

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission promotes cooperation among its 52 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Media inquiries: suphutthamongkhon@un.org (Sompot Suphutthamongkhon, ESCAP Outreach Coordinator)