

Southeast Asia – Advancing energy transitions through regional partnerships

The IEA's strategic partnerships in Southeast Asia support clean energy transitions through policy analysis, technical guidance and capacity building

> **The launch of the IEA's Regional Centre in Singapore marks an inflection point in our partnership with the Agency, underscoring our shared commitment to regional energy goals.**
>
> **Dr Tan See Leng**
> Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore

- **Viet Nam joined the IEA family as an Association country in 2026, following Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand**
- **The IEA Regional Cooperation Centre in Singapore, opened in 2024, is deepening engagement with governments across Southeast Asia**
- **A decade of Singapore-IEA Training Programme has enabled the training of more than 1 600 participants across the region, including on cross-border power trade**
- **The IEA is a strategic partner to ASEAN countries, supporting progress on renewables, energy efficiency and energy security, as outlined in the 2026 *ASEAN Energy Security Review***

Key facts

Southeast Asia is **projected to contribute** around

20%

of the **energy demand growth** by 2035 (Stated Policies Scenario)

Low-emissions energy is set to meet more than

30%

of **energy demand growth** to 2035 (Stated Policies Scenario)

In 2025, Southeast Asia **accounted for only**

2%

of **global clean energy spending**, well below its share in global GDP (4%), global energy demand (5%) and population (9%)

Sources: IEA (2026), World Energy Balances; IEA (2025) Global Energy and Climate Model; IEA (2026), World Energy Investment 2026

IEA Regional Cooperation Centre in Singapore

Opened in 2024 as the IEA's first office outside Paris, the Regional Cooperation Centre has strengthened IEA collaboration with governments across Southeast Asia. The Centre delivers policy guidance, technical assistance and capacity building on renewables, power trade, energy efficiency and access to finance. It has also expanded the reach and impact of the Agency's work and strengthened regional partnerships, helping translate cooperation into practical policy action.

Power trade and the ASEAN Power Grid

Stronger connections between Southeast Asia's power systems is essential for a secure and affordable clean energy transition. For a decade, the Singapore-IEA regional training programme has supported this ambition, reaching more than 1,600 participants. In 2026, training focused on subsea interconnections and renewable energy certificate trading, key building blocks of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG). The IEA also developed a practical implementation framework for the APG, addressing project development, investment and cross-border power trade. It assesses readiness across governance, regulatory, technical, finance and commercial dimensions. The IEA's March 2026 report, *Financing the ASEAN Power Grid*, examines investment needs and ways to make cross-border interconnection projects more attractive to investors.

Data and policy guidance for a fast-growing region

Rapidly rising energy demand, reliance on imported fuels and increasingly interconnected energy systems are creating new challenges for Southeast Asia. The IEA provides the data and analysis to help governments navigate these pressures while advancing their climate goals. Its *ASEAN Energy Security Review*, published in October 2026, assesses the region's energy security across electricity system reliability, clean energy supply chains and critical minerals, and sets out options to strengthen resilience through diversification, energy efficiency, infrastructure investment and deeper regional cooperation.

Energy efficiency and capacity building

The IEA works with ASEAN partners to strengthen energy efficiency policies and the capacity to implement them. Its Southeast Asia Energy Efficiency Policy Training Week, last held in Hanoi in December 2025, connected policymakers from across the region. In 2026, a dedicated training event in Bangkok brought together the institutions and professionals shaping the future of buildings efficiency, providing practical, country-specific insights into policy gaps and opportunities to advance energy efficient and grid-interactive buildings. The IEA has also worked with the ASEAN Centre for Energy to examine opportunities for improving truck fuel economy standards across Southeast Asia.

New members and deepening partnerships

In February 2026, Viet Nam joined the IEA family as the fourth Association country in Southeast Asia. Viet Nam accounts for the region's second-largest energy system, and the collaboration is already supporting technical exchanges on renewable energy integration and power-system modernisation. The IEA is also deepening engagement with Malaysia and the Philippines. For the Philippines, the 2026 ASEAN Chair, the IEA published the *Energy Transition Review for Enhancing Co-operation: The Philippines' Power Sector*, focused on integrating variable renewables into the power sector, and convened a follow-up workshop to take its recommendations forward.

Opportunities for engagement

- **Reducing energy intensity**
  The IEA is helping the region, and Viet Nam in particular, implement high-impact energy efficiency measures that can curb energy use and improve resilience to future shocks.
- **Overcoming financing barriers**
  The IEA will help governments develop financing solutions through analysis of energy investment flows, financing costs and approaches tailored to national circumstances.
- **Electrification for energy security**
  Building on the *World Energy Outlook 2026*, the IEA will support the region across the power sector, from renewable energy integration to strengthening power-system modelling to shaping corporate renewable electricity procurement.
- **Building the clean energy workforce**
  At the Philippines' request, the IEA will help map the skills needed by its renewable energy sector, supporting long-term, people-centred employment planning.

This work is supported by the **Clean Energy Transitions Programme,** the IEA's flagship programme for taking action to achieve a clean energy transformation worldwide.

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