



Chapter XII.

PHILIPPINE AGENDA TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The Philippines builds its diplomatic and international relations based on its national interest or the interests of the state. It is a universal policy to collaborate and cooperate with concrete and tangible intention of reaping values or benefits from the competencies and strength of other states or international and regional groupings. Most importantly, the Philippines exerts enormous effort to provide a conducive environment and seamless opportunities for local and foreign investors to appreciate.

The country is blessed with abundant natural wealth including untapped indigenous energy resources. With its strategic location and archipelagic character, it serves as an ideal trading hub in the Asia-Pacific region, a perfect base for business and a critical entry point of millions of people in the ASEAN market. It has one of the highest literacy rates in the region, with 93.9% of the population capable of being trained for essential skills and competencies. Its unique edge comes from the high level of English proficiency of the Filipinos. In fact, the Philippines is the third largest English-speaking country in the world and the top-ranked country in the world for Business English.

A. SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN RECENT YEARS

Aside from the recent Executive Orders and Memorandum Circulars that the government issued to make the environment attractive to investors (Refer to related government and DOE Issuances on Investment Facilitation at www.doe.gov.ph), the Philippine energy sector has a good track records in terms of engagement and collaboration with various international organizations. The following are some of the recent notable initiatives and successful collaboration:

1. Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (ASEP)

The Access to Sustainable Energy Program (ASEAP) is an EU-funded project aims to promote sustainable energy for all in the Philippines. It is a grant aid aims to help the country meet its rural electrification targets based on renewable energy, while promoting energy efficiency.

Its main objective is to assist the government in expanding its sustainable energy generation to meet the growing needs of its economy and provide energy access to the poor and marginalized sector in accordance with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP).

Specifically, it aims to generate more electricity from RE, increase in the efficiency of energy use, and increase access for the poor to affordable, disaster-resilient energy. As a result of ASEP's RE investments and the facilitation of RE investments by others through the ASEP interventions, at least 100,000 to 150,000 poor households in remote areas will be electrified, and/or utilize innovative energy solutions. Furthermore, 20 megawatts (MW) of new clean RE generation are to be installed, and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from the equivalent to that discharged by a 50-MW coal-fired power plant are to be avoided by 2020.

The program is broken down into three components, namely:

- a. Technical Assistance Component with three (3) sub-components:
 - i. Rural Electrification (RE)
 - ii. Energy Efficiency (EE)
 - iii. Cross-cutting Activities



- b. Investment Support component which the World Bank is implementing with three (3) subcomponents:
 - i. PV Mainstreaming
 - ii. PV Rural Network Solar
 - iii. TA to NEA, ERC, RE4RE, Bangsamoro, and Climate Resilience



ASEP Rural Electrification and Energy Efficiency Activities

- c. Call for Proposals which is implemented by the EU Delegation under direct management.

2. Development for Renewable Energy Applications Mainstreaming and Market Sustainability (DREAMS) Project

The Development for Renewable Energy Applications Mainstreaming and Market Sustainability (DREAMS) is a GEF and UNDP led-Project with strong collaboration with DOE, PEMC, LGU and most importantly the private sector. It envisions to lead to direct lifetime greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions of 2.445 kilotonnes (ktonnes) carbon dioxide (CO₂), and indirect CO₂ reductions ranging from 4,889 to 141,000 ktonnes CO₂.

The prime objective is to promote and facilitate the commercialization of the renewable energy (RE) markets through the removal of barriers to increase investments in RE based power generation projects.

The project has the following four (4) major components:

- **RE Policy, Planning and Financing.** The expected output will lead to the enforcement of the supportive policy and regulatory environment that will leverage increased investment in RE development and application at the local level.
- **Institutional Strengthening for RE mainstreaming.** The intent is to address the barriers associated with the need for improved capacity in the Philippines, mainly at the local level on RE issues and the development, operation and management of RE projects. The

outcome is envisioned to strengthen institutional capacity that will lead to increased RE investment at the local level.

- **‘Capitalized’ RE Market Development.** This component will address the barrier relating to the absence of a functional RE Market that represents tangible government measures to ensure compliance with the mandated utilization of RE generation and spur the growth of the RE industry. RE projects in the RE Market are to fall within standards of the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) that provide clarity on rules and regulations that qualify certain RE projects for RE Certificates (RECs)⁵⁴.

The outcome resulting from the outputs from this component will be a “capitalized” RE Market and an accompanying RE registrar that will contribute to an increased share of RE based power capacity, and an increased number of RE project developers at the local level.

- **RE Commercialization.** This component will address barriers related to the lack of successful RE projects in the Philippines. The expected outcomes are the following:
 - Increased confidence of local RE developers that leads to an enhanced uptake of RE projects at the local level; and
 - Increased number of RE projects using proven and emerging RE technologies thus boosting successful replication.

3. *Building Low Emissions Alternatives to Develop Economic Resilience and Sustainability (B-LEADERS)*

The B-LEADERS project was implemented to strengthen the capacity of the Philippine government and its key partners to plan, design, and implement low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS). This project builds on the successful work of the USAID Climate Change and Clean Energy Project (CEnergy). B-LEADERS’s goal is to further strengthen the competency of the Philippine government and its key partners to plan, design, and implement Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) contributing to the formulation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in the energy and transport sectors, and to a certain extent, the forestry/land use sector.

To achieve this goal, the project was implemented under two complementary tasks:

- In-country capacity building on low emission development and
- Increased investment in clean energy (CE) projects.

Aside from the earlier mentioned WB, UNDP, GEF, EU and USAID, other development partners had collaborated with the Philippine energy sector from the past years. The list includes the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Asian Development Bank, Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the UK. Possible collaboration with the above development partners will be discussed during the annual meeting of the Department with the donors.

B. STRATEGIES TO PUSH FOR NATIONAL INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

1. Participating in the Major Regional Groupings

For the Philippines to achieve its energy requirements, multilateral and bilateral cooperation is essentially mandatory. For multi-lateral arrangement, important forums are calendared annually in the schedules of the President, Economic Ministers, Energy Ministers and Senior Officials (Undersecretary level).

The Philippine government is represented by the Department in several energy sector organizations in the international arena. These include the following: a) Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), b) Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), c) East Asia Summit (EAS), c) Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other organizations under the UN System, e) Free Trade Areas, k) multilateral, regional and bilateral on energy-related meetings, among others.

In these regional organizations, the mechanism by which energy cooperation initiatives are conceptualized, adopted and implemented, follow a hierarchy of discussions. The Energy Ministers' Meetings provide political guidance and directions on the development and implementation of key priority initiatives and work programs within a region as directed/instructed by the Leaders (Heads of States/Governments). In said meetings, the Secretary of Energy is the Philippine representative who heads the Philippine Delegation during interactive discussions among Energy Ministers.

On the other hand, the Senior Officials on Energy (SOEs), represented by Undersecretary or Assistant Secretary level, deliberate and endorse initiatives in scheduled formal meetings (e.g. APEC Energy Working Group Meeting/ ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy or EWG/SOME) for adoption of the Energy Ministers. The SOEs gives guidance/directions to Working Groups (WGs), Specialized Bodies, Sub-Sector Networks (SSNs), Experts' Groups (EGs), Task Forces (TFs), Workstreams (WSs) and Clusters Groups (CGs), as well as, steer the SOE meetings during presentation of cooperation initiatives. In this meeting the Senior Official on Energy (SOE) Leader is the Philippine representative.

The different EGs, SSNs, WSs, TFs, WSs, CGs and other specialized organizations conceptualize specific projects for consideration of the SOEs wherein the Department is represented by Focal/Alternate Focal Persons (F/AFP) from concerned line units. The attendance of said F/AFP in this undertaking will be valuable as discussions on power and electricity, oil and gas, coal, nuclear, renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy resiliency and energy security policies will cover the area of their respective expertise. As a practice, meetings of the SOEs are usually convened prior to Ministerial and Leaders' Meetings.

The following are the major regional forum that the Philippine energy sector actively participates. These fora serve as platform for significant discourses on collaborative efforts, policy issues and concerns that effect regional growth.

Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- In ASEAN, energy cooperation is carried out through implementation of the current ASEAN Plan of Action on Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2025: Phase I (2016-2020). As the existing Plan period nears completion, drafting of Phase II covering 2021-2025 is ongoing.



During the 37th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting held on 2-6 September 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand

- A final draft of the Plan shall be presented at the 38th SOME on 24-28 August 2020, for endorsement/adoption by the 38th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) on 02-06 November 2020. The APAEC Phase 2 will serve as blueprint for transition of ASEAN's energy landscape to a sustainable future. In pursuit for sustainable development, the successor Plan will define a renewable energy (RE) target in terms of power capacity to be incorporated in the ASEAN RE Roadmap 2025, define a target and develop a plan for achieving a more ambitious energy intensity reduction level by 2025, and identify an innovative mechanism to mobilize private sector investment for energy transmission infrastructure development in ASEAN, among others. APAEC Phase II will be complemented by the 6th ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEO6), providing the complementary modelling and forecasting analysis needed as basis for the strategies, outcomes and targets of the successor Plan.
- For the benefit of ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the region, identified initiatives were jointly undertaken in seven (7) programme areas of the APAEC' namely; a) ASEAN Power Grid; b) Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline; c) Coal and Clean Coal Technology; d) Energy Efficiency & Conservation; e) Renewable Energy; f) Regional Energy and Policy Planning; and, g) Civilian Nuclear Energy. It may be noted that the APAEC has an aspirational target of reducing energy intensity by 20% in 2020 and further to 30% by 2025 based on 2005 levels. On renewable energy, the target is to increase share to 23% in the total primary energy supply (TPES) by 2025.
 - With the assistance of various Development Partners (DP's) and International Organizations (IO's), notable milestones have been accomplished in the afore-cited programme areas towards greater energy security, integration of regional energy infrastructures and creating responsive policies in the context of sustainable development.
 - The Trans-ASEAN Pipeline programme area has a cross-border infrastructure established consisting of 13 pipelines with total length of 3,631 km, connecting six (6) countries, and eight (8) LNG regasification terminals (RGT) with combined total capacity of 37.85 million tons per annum (MTPA). To increase utilization of natural gas as an alternative fuel, the ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE) is tasked to implement the recommendations of the study on Small-Scale LNG and LNG Bunkering. Continuing activity will include the development of technical database that covers gas infrastructure such as gas pipelines, gas processing plants, LNG liquefaction and RGT terminals.

- The Coal and Clean Coal Technology programme area is focused on the promotion of clean coal technologies (CCT). Japan, as key partner provides support for capacity building activities focusing on clean coal technologies, carbon capture and storage, upgrading of low rank coal as well as the conduct of studies. Future strategic work will be on influencing and engaging the use of coal to power up requirements of countries while addressing environmental challenges.
- Recognized as the most cost-effective way of enhancing energy security, addressing climate change and promoting competitiveness, adoption of energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) measures has reduced regional energy intensity to a level of 24.4%, surpassing the 2020 target. In line with the Minister's directive, a higher target of 32% has been set for APAEC Phase II. Continuing activities will also focus on harmonization of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for lighting, Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on testing methods of EE standards for air conditioners and study on financing mechanism design for projects.
- In pursuit of the aspirational target to increase the component of renewable energy (RE) to 23% by 2025 in the ASEAN energy mix, the AMS have been deploying various technologies such as solar, hydro, wind, and geothermal. Increased utilization of RE was initially based on policies to reduce dependence on petroleum products but later evolved to mitigate impacts of climate change. As reported in 2018, the share of RE in the TPES stands at 12.4%. To raise utilization of renewable energy, a new target of 35% share in the regions collective installed capacity was set for APAEC Phase II
- Aside from closely monitoring the implementation of the different Work Plans in implementing the APAEC, the Regional Energy and Policy Planning programme area works to better profile the ASEAN energy sector internationally through annual publications on ASEAN energy cooperation. Part of its deliverables are the periodic publication of the ASEAN Energy Outlook, Energy Statistics, Policy Review and Analysis.
- In line with the strategic goal of the Civilian Nuclear Energy programme area to build capabilities in policy, technology and regulatory aspects, the Philippines, as chair of the Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-Sector Network, organized and hosted a capacity building seminar on Regional Cooperation on Nuclear Security and study visit at the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute back to back with the annual meeting of the Network in Manila from 20-23 May 2019. The Network will focus its next activities on public acceptance of nuclear energy by developing a public acceptance strategy as well as conduct of perception survey and sharing of experience on public engagement.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. It envisions to ensure that goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders.
- APEC operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. Member economies participate on the basis of open dialogue with utmost respect to the views of all participating economies. In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus. However, unlike in ASEAN, there are no binding commitments or treaty obligations required. Commitments are undertaken on a voluntary basis and capacity building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.

- APEC's structure is based on both a "bottom-up" and "top-down" approach. Four core committees and their respective working groups provide strategic policy recommendations to APEC Leaders and Ministers who annually set the vision for overarching goals and initiatives. The working groups are then tasked to implement these initiatives through a variety of APEC-funded projects. The Energy Working Group (EWG) is one of most important Working Groups established a year after APEC was created in 1989.
- The EWG is a voluntary, regionally-based forum operating under the APEC umbrella with participation by all 21 APEC-member economies. Launched in 1990, the EWG meets formally twice a year to discuss developments and progress on energy policy issues, helping further APEC goals to facilitate energy-related-trade and investment and seeks to maximize the energy sector's contribution to the region's economic and social well-being, while mitigating the environmental effects of energy supply and use.

The Energy Working Group (EWG)

The EWG is composed of policy officials and technical experts from APEC Member Economies who work with experts in other APEC fora, academia, private industry, and regional and international organizations to build the capacity of APEC Member Economies aimed at:

- Strengthening regional and domestic energy security and resilience across the region;
- Lowering the carbon intensity of energy supply and use;
- Promoting the diversification of fuels and sources; and
- Training a gender-inclusive energy workforce.

The EWG's Work incorporates guidance from APEC Economic Leaders, Ministers and Energy Ministers to form a solid foundation for APEC energy cooperation, including:

- Work towards the APEC aspirational target of reducing aggregate energy intensity by 45 percent from 2005 levels by 2035 through collaboration on analysis of available energy efficient technologies, energy efficiency standard harmonization and peer review on energy efficiency.
- Make further progress toward rationalizing and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing energy access to those in need
- Work towards improving resiliency of energy infrastructure to natural disasters and climate change within the region through APEC Initiative for Enhancing the Quality of Electric Power Infrastructure and conducting vulnerability assessment on energy infrastructure.
- Support community-based low carbon development in the region through APEC Low-Carbon Model Town Project, APEC Energy Smart Community Initiative Knowledge Sharing Platform, and APEC Cooperation Initiative for Jointly Establishing an Asia-Pacific Urbanization Partnership
- Implement Oil and Gas Security Initiative to address the challenges faced and to improve security exercises, as well as create favorable conditions for trade and investments to support a diversified, flexible, and integrated natural gas market in the APEC region through APEC Regional LNG Trade Facilitation Initiative
- Implement APEC Green Energy Finance Initiative to ensure financial sustainability of green energy development in the region
- Strengthen cross-fora collaboration and public private partnership on APEC energy issues

APEC Energy Ministers' Meetings (EMMs) provide the Energy Working Group (EWG) with political guidance and directions regarding the development and implementation of its key priorities, initiatives and future work program. They also provide an opportunity for the EWG to report and receive feedback on the progress of its ongoing work program, and enable Ministers to share dialogue on key energy issues with each other, with EWG Members and with the APEC business community through the EWG Business Network.

Significant agenda items are discussed in EWGs, among them are the short- and long-term measures to implement the Energy Security Initiative (ESI) which is based on the directives set by the APEC Energy Ministers.

Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)

- The Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) initiative was established in 1994 by the four countries as a shared strategy to accelerate socioeconomic development of the less developed and geographically remote areas in the member countries. From its inception, the cooperation program adopted a public-private approach to development with private sector serving as the engine of growth and the public sector taking an enabling role.
- The BIMP-EAGA covers the entire sultanate of Brunei Darussalam; the provinces in Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku and Papua in Indonesia; the states of Sabah and Sarawak and the federal territory of Labuan in Malaysia; and the entire island of Mindanao and the island province of Palawan in the Philippines.
- The BIMP-EAGA Power and Energy Infrastructure Cluster (PEIC) formulated a nine (9) year (2017-2025) PEIC Roadmap to promote the optimum use of sub regional energy resources by increasing energy access especially in rural areas and optimize the use of domestic energy resources, as well as to improve regional energy security for the different sub-sectors such as Power Interconnection, Renewable Energy (RE), Rural Electrification and Sub-Regional Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) rolling pipeline projects as included to the final BIMP-EAGA Vision 2017-2025 (BEV2025).
- The Cluster wishes to achieve a resilient and improved energy sector for sustainable development, with power consumption and electrification enhanced in the respective Member Countries. In order to achieve this, the Clusters need to come-up with enclave power connection (in-country) or interconnection (two or more countries involve) projects and studies; as well as renewable energy projects; and energy efficiency and conservation programs within the sub regions.
- The Cluster reviews the progress of implementation of the Rolling Pipeline projects as included in the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2017-2025 (BEV2025). The discussion was focused on the developmental approaches to intensify involvement of the LGU's, power utilities and private sectors. This initiative resulted to a proposal of the BIMP-EAGA Senior Officials to request the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the conduct of a pre-feasibility study on East Kalimantan, Borneo-Mindanao Power Interconnection in February 2014 in response to the power supply shortage in Mindanao.
- The Cluster also initiated various activities related to renewable energy e.g. Sharing of Initiatives on Rural Electrification using Renewable Energy Workshops and Capacity Building on Biomass

to enhance cooperation and strengthen implementation of renewable energy development and improve energy access in rural areas in the sub-region.

- In observance of the ASEAN tradition of rotating the hosting of events among its member states, the Philippines hosted the 6th Annual Meeting of the PEIC back to back with the Capacity Building on Biomass in July 2018.
- One of the significant milestone achievements of the Philippine Chairmanship is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding involving Two (2) Electric Cooperatives (MORESCO II and ZAMSURECO II) from the Mindanao region and private sector (T.S. Renewable Energy Solutions PTE Ltd) from Singapore in the development and commercial operation of Biomass distribution facility in Mindanao.

Trade-related Groupings such as WTO, RCEP, ASEAN-China and other trade in goods and services

Trade Agreements of DOE

- The Philippines is a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO) – General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) and General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS), the country is committed to negotiate and conclude bilateral, regional and multilateral Free Trade Areas/Regional Trade Areas (FTAs/RTAs). Liberalization and market integration is a global trend which developing countries like the Philippines should proactively participate.
- The DOE negotiate in different multilateral and bilateral forums primarily to look after our local energy industry and capitalize on available resources. Specifically, we want to safeguard our energy goods and services to make it competitive with what other countries are offering. These agreements are very comprehensive in nature as it involves negotiations in trading of goods and services, economic cooperation, investments, dispute settlements, among others. The returns we will get from these agreements shall ensure economic prosperity and energy security for the Philippines. Philippine trade negotiating delegations require the active participation and strong representation from the Department during discussions on energy goods and services.
- To date, the Department is engaged in various trade negotiations that endeavor to establish free trade agreements under the WTO, ASEAN Free Trade Agreement or AFTA (now called ATIGA) and ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) and bilateral/regional and multilateral arrangements such as the ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand, ASEAN-China, ASEAN-EU, ASEAN-Hong Kong, ASEAN-India, ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-Korea, ASEAN-Canada, ASEAN-US, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, PH-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the PH-EC Economic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.
- Upcoming FTAs/RTAs initial scoping has also begun and among them are the PH-European Union (EU) FTA, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Free Trade Area of Asia Pacific (FTAAP), PH-Australia Trade, Investment and Industry Dialogue (PATIID), PH-Taiwan Joint Economic Cooperation (PTJEC), PH-Russia Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC), PH-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (BSD) and the PH-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Conference of Party (COP)

- Energy is one of the sectors recognized to have major contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and likewise, directly involved on issues about climate change. Representing the energy sector, the Department of Energy (DOE) plays a vital role in providing technical and expert views on what climate change mitigation pathway as well as adaptation strategy that the country should take.
- The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the "supreme body" of the UNFCCC, that is, its highest decision-making authority. It is an association of all the countries that are Parties to the Convention. The COP is responsible for keeping international efforts to address climate change on track. It reviews the implementation of the Convention and examines the commitments of Parties in light of the Convention's objective, new scientific findings and experiences gained in implementing climate change policies. A key task for the COP is to review the progress made by Parties as reported in their national communications and GHG emission inventories submitted.
- The Philippines, along with the other 194 UN member nations, signed the historic Paris Agreement during France's hosting of COP21 in December 2015. The universal agreement's main aim is to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Following the Agreement, the next step is for the country to develop its first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) building from its submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to the UNFCCC.

The DOE focal persons on ASEAN sub-sector networks, APEC Experts Groups, PEIC Cluster and APEC Trade and Investment Groups and members of TWG will be encouraged to participate actively in their respective groups in terms of participation/attendance in the regular meetings, shepherding, sponsorship and co-sponsorship of projects, participation in capacity building workshops, symposia, and conferences. It may be noted that the Philippines is one of the eligible economies in APEC that can participate in various workshops and training spearheaded by APEC with no cost from the government. This opportunity is occasionally missed by DOE because of conflicting engagements, short notices or late invites and sluggish approval process of travel authorities.

2. *Sharing of best practices in international fora*

The DOE will continue to gather best practices from other countries as presented in international fora. Policies and programs are normally shared by presenting countries for other countries to be informed and learn from it. A classic example is the Policy Dialogue Agenda during EWG meetings where each country presents its current policy including laws and regulations. There is also the Notable Energy Development Agenda in EWG where each economy presents the most recent notable energy development in their respective countries. The documents are downloaded in the website by the Secretariat except for other documents requested to be confidential by reporting economy. After the meeting, the member states or economies will decide which particular documents and paper would be available for public access.

The DOE may always replicate initiatives from other countries that will tailor fit the domestic situation and requirements. On the other hand, confidential documents may be requested from the reporting country through diplomatic channels or through Foreign Affairs' Ministries. Diplomatic or study mission may be undertaken to formally request and solicit detailed information.

3. Forging International Agreements with other countries and international organizations

International agreements like Memorandum of Agreements or Understanding (MOA/MOU), Letter of Intent (LOI), etc. are forged to bind both parties on its obligations and responsibilities as agreed and stipulated in the agreement. The general intent is to undertake collaborative projects and programs that would be beneficial for both countries or organizations. Normally, exchange of drafts is done through diplomatic channel.

The DOE through its Energy Policy and Planning Bureau (EPPB) has a compendium of agreements which is regularly monitored. Some of these agreements are active with numerous ongoing activities but other agreements remain dormant and usually expire after three (3) years.

The DOE will revisit and continue to monitor the progress of international agreement and will request its technical bureaus and services to prioritize agreement that will fill the gaps of their respective requirements.

An ideal agreement is done with countries with diplomatic ties. Otherwise, disputes and disagreements would be difficult to settle amicably by both parties. The concerned bureau of the Department will ensure that the country being dealt with has the competency in terms of resources and technology, has a good bilateral record with the Philippines and with other countries and has value added to the energy sector or to other sectors of the government.

4. Seeking Funding Assistance from External Sources

The Department through its technical bureaus and services will explore funding from various sources to finance important projects and undertakings. The sources may come from development partners e.g. World Bank, ADB, UN-system, JICA, KOICA, USAID, AUSAID, EC as well as available funds from ASEAN and APEC.

The Development Partners (DPs) normally have their priority thrusts. This is presented in the Donors Forum now called Development Partners Forum. The Technical Bureaus or would-be Proponent have their concept notes prepared and matching is done during the Forum. However, the ideal set up is for the Proponent to push its priorities to the DPs and justify its requirement to tailor fit with the current thrusts of the financing institutions. The DOE must prioritize requirements and offer the proposal to the willing donors. The DOE proponent must also explore funding from APEC and ASEAN that usually course thru its call for proposals through the Sub-sector networks, the Experts Groups and ASEAN/APEC Secretariat. The DOE will implement firmer schedule for Call for Proposals for all possible funding sources to increase and improve its batting average of approval.

5. Cross-collaboration with other Sectors

During the previous APEC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), one of their significant instructions and directives to all working groups including the Energy Working Group (EWG) is to cross-collaborate with others sectors such as the transport, agriculture and IT sectors. This directive has been relayed to EWG through its Lead Shepherd who normally attend the SOMs. Since energy fuels the economy, it is appropriate to have collaborative projects with other sectors.

The Philippines will continue to provide support and assistance to all sectors like the transport sector and collaborate with other international organizations. One of the major collaborations of

the energy sector with the transport sector is the Alternative Fuels for Transportation and Other Purposes.

The program encourages private sector investments to maximize the benefits of alternative fuels and to advance emerging energy technology on the country's transportation system. The program supports the government's environmental sustainability strategic goal. It specifically aims to:

- Reduce dependence on imported oil through transportation fuel source diversification and adoption of indigenous energy technology;
- Contribute to energy security by providing other fuel source aside from the conventional liquid petroleum products; and
- Contribute to the attainment of the country's international commitment to climate change mitigation by reducing emission through the use of advance energy technology

The core activities and major output of the program are the following:

1. **Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT).** The NGVPPT is a pilot project that aims to demonstrate viability of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) — fueled public utility buses (PUBs) operation as well as to showcase the commercial viability, technical requirements, market demand, and impact of incentives and public acceptance of natural gas in the public transport sector.
2. **Auto LPG Program.** It promotes the mainstreaming of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as a cleaner alternative fuel for public transport to replace gasoline or diesel, with focus on taxis and jeepneys.
3. **Promotion of Other Emerging Technologies including E-Vehicles.** The DOE continuously monitor emerging energy technologies for the country to effectively adopt for domestic application. These energy technologies, which are considered mature in developed countries and proven to be efficient, may be considered for evaluation for domestic application in sectors other than transportation

6. Pursuing Inclusive Growth

Part of the Instructions of the Senior Economic Officials and Energy Ministers is to pursue initiatives to achieve inclusive growth. All sectoral groups including energy are encouraged to consider inclusion of significant but often overlooked beneficiaries of different projects. Aside from the gender inclusion, other marginalized sector of the society needs important attention and consideration in framing up concept notes and project proposals. Marginalized sector includes indigenous people, poor, elders, people living in remote and far-flung areas, people with no access to basic needs like food, water and electricity, among others. The Department had undergone similar and related projects in collaboration with its development partners and other international and regional groupings.