

Speech of Ronan Mac Aongusa, First Secretary – EC Delegation,  
Jakarta at the occasion of the Conference "EAEF — Sustainable  
Energy Partnership Opportunities between EU and ASEAN" on 21  
February 2007

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His Excellency Ong Keng Yong,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

### *Introduction*

The EC/ASEAN Energy Facility Programme is about **to complete successfully five years of intense cooperation** between ASEAN and the EU<sup>1</sup>.

### *EAEF Major Achievements*

The significant number of projects undertaken under the facility has provided **key inputs for the development of alternative energy projects**, as well as raising awareness, and contributing to a reinforced institutional ASEAN policy framework in relation to renewable energy supply. In addition, the programme has facilitated key fora and networks where links between EU and ASEAN main stakeholders (business and policy makers) have been strengthened. In total more than 500 participants and stakeholders have been working together in joint programme activities.

And I would like to thank all stakeholders who have participated in the Facility and congratulate the ASEAN Secretariat for its ownership and active involvement.

The current and future international energy situation, including its impact on environment and climate change, makes **today the results of the EC/ASEAN Energy Facility Programme very promising** for the development and use of alternative sources of energy in the region. However, much remains to be done. In particular, adoption of new policies by ASEAN countries' Governments should translate into tangible realisation for the benefits of the people of the region.

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<sup>1</sup> The EC-ASEAN Energy Facility 2002-2007 has financed 77 projects for a total value of 40 Million Euro

By contributing to the implementation of some part of the APAEC (Asean Plan of Action for Energy), the facility has certainly contributed to strengthen the regional policy framework, however, its effects on energy security, economic exchange, environment and the ASEAN Member Countries are too diffuse to quantify at present.

### *Challenges*

**It is of utmost importance to continue** reinforcing institutional capacities at country and regional level so as adopt appropriate policy framework conducive for the private sector to achieve the political targets, and increased share of renewable energy in overall energy supply

**Energy is a critical factor** for industrial development, and the EC believes strongly that sustainable development is feasible **using technologies that are environmentally friendly**. Our cooperation should play a key role in their promotion.

And we should continue look at the future so as to anticipate the changes, and ensure both energy security and environment protection. We should continue assess our current policy, and improve our legal framework in the perspective of 2020.

### *The strategic importance of the sector*

The **challenges for the efficient use of energy resources** and the sustainable management of environment and development **are global**.

Last January, the Commission proposed to its member states a comprehensive package of measures to establish a New Energy Policy for Europe to combat climate change and to boost the EU's energy security and competitiveness. The proposals put forward by the Commission demonstrate our commitment to **innovation and a long-term vision for a new Energy Policy for Europe** that responds to the global challenge of climate change.

The **objective for Europe to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by year 2020** and in particular by increasing the part of its

**renewable energy resources to a minimum of 20%** by the same date.

Nonetheless, the **EU cannot achieve its energy and global climate change objectives alone**. It must work with both the developed and the developing partners, and energy consumers and producers. Therefore, the European Commission, when implementing its cooperation agenda, will continue to work with its external partners on energy efficiency and the sustainable management of natural resources.

### ***Future Cooperation***

In conclusion, the **cooperation between the European Union and ASEAN has been growing since the last twenty-five years** in line with the geo-political importance and economic integration and enlargement of the two regions. In addition, **the EC/ASEAN cooperation agenda will continue to work in coming years in strategic sectors** of mutual interest.

Sustainable development, energy efficiency and protection of the environment will continue to be, in coming years, an important part of our cooperation agenda<sup>2</sup>, driven in particular by **high-level policy discussions and institutionalised dialogue** with ASEAN and more wider within ASEM<sup>3</sup>.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing your **continued participation and great enthusiasm in our future Commission and ASEAN and Asia-Wide cooperation initiatives**, in particular for the energy sector and management of natural resources. Through **innovation and partnership**, we should all work together to make development compatible with **managing the global assets of our planet in a responsible manner**.

Thank you

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<sup>2</sup> Asia Wide Regional Strategy and Indicative Program 2007-10 (*currently under preparation*)

<sup>3</sup> ASIA EUROPE MEETING (ASEM) includes EU and ASEAN countries plus Japan, China and Korea; and from 2008 it will expand to include India, Pakistan and Mongolia.