

ASEAN-UK Programme on Energy Advancement for Resilience (PEARL)



Project duration

Start date:
August 2025

Expected close date:
December 2026



Lead implementing partner



ASEAN Centre for Energy
One Community for Sustainable Energy

ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)

Overview of the initiative

The ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) is the intergovernmental organisation mandated to advance ASEAN's energy goals and foster regional energy cooperation. As the implementing body of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC), the ASEAN Centre for Energy plays a central role in coordinating and facilitating energy initiatives across the region. The conclusion of the APAEC Phase II: 2021-2025 and the upcoming APAEC 2026-2030 present a strategic opportunity to further harmonise the efforts of ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste, the ASEAN Dialogue, sectoral dialogue, development partners and other relevant international organisations.

The ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEO) is a key tool for translating national energy policies into coordinated regional action. Developed by ACE, it serves as a science-based reference for energy planning and policy formulation across ASEAN.

The upcoming ASEAN Energy Outlook 9 (AEO9) will also respond to the opportunities and challenges of the emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and data centres, within the ASEAN energy sector.

Another key enabler of regional energy integration is the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), which underpins electricity trade and the integration of renewable energy resources across the region. According to the ASEAN Interconnection Masterplan Study (AIMS) III, realising APG requires \$250 billion in investment by 2040. Given the scale of this investment, coordinated, multi-stakeholder collaboration and diversified financing approaches are essential — including public-private partnerships and other innovative financing models. Effective institutional coordination and financing strategies will be critical to realising the full potential of the APG and advancing ASEAN's regional energy integration agenda.

Key objectives

PEARL is a strategic initiative under the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund (GTF), designed to support the implementation of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC). The initiative seeks to align regional energy sector activities under the GTF with APAEC priorities and the shared objectives of ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste.

As the intergovernmental body mandated to drive a coherent, coordinated and forward-looking regional energy policy agenda, the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) serves as the lead implementer of the programme.

“The Dialogue Partnership between ASEAN and the UK is a close relationship with a shared interest in regional sustainable development. The Centre, as the organisation established by the ASEAN Member States to advance our energy goals and cooperation, is honoured to welcome the GTF to initiate energy cooperation in the ASEAN-UK Dialogue Partnership.”

Dato' Razib Dawood
Executive Director



Long-term outcomes

1. Coordination among ASEAN stakeholders is strengthened to advance ASEAN's energy goals and regional cooperation under the APAEC 2026-2030. This includes collaboration among officials of ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste, Dialogue and Sectoral Dialogue Partners, Development Partners, relevant international organisations and the private sector.
2. Ongoing dialogue among policymakers on the implications of emerging energy demand, including from data centres driven by increased AI use, supported by coordinated, science-based knowledge products.
3. Enhanced development of ASEAN Power Grid projects through effective public-private partnerships to catalyse investment and regional growth.