The Southeast Asian region has experienced rapid economic development, with annual growth rates exceeding 4 per cent. This inevitably has led to a rise in energy demand and concern about a lack of energy supply. This also poses severe challenges in terms of the global climate change response. This will subsequently require an increased focus on renewable energy provision. Within the scope of this project, for Malaysia and Thailand to maintain good economic development performances, while witnessing increased energy demand, the project seeks to build the capacity and capabilities of Government officials in Thailand and Malaysia on renewable energy and enhance energy efficiency policies and evaluation of the same.
The governments of Malaysia and Thailand exchange experiences and policies to tackle climate change by transitioning towards renewable energy and higher energy efficiency.

This is a South-South cooperation project, supported by the Republic of Korea in a triangular partnership.

During a mission, UNIDO project managers discussed how the Republic of Korea’s experiences could be applied to Thailand. They also had a working level retreat exploring hydrogen policies, RE100 efforts, and EV industry promotion policies.

The Thai government shared insights and lessons learned from the Republic of Korea’s experience on hydrogen, electric vehicles, carbon neutrality, and RE100.

**WHAT IS SSTIC?**

South-South and Triangular Industrial Cooperation (SSTIC)

Is a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how, and through regional and interregional collective actions. UNIDO’s SSTIC services are following the guiding principles for South-South cooperation set out in the Buenos Aires outcome document:

1. respect for national sovereignty  
2. mutual benefit  
3. national ownership and independence  
4. equality  
5. non-conditionality  
6. non-interference in domestic affairs

**Malaysia: TOTAL CONSUMPTION MARKET SHARE BY ENERGY**

(2020, %) (source: IEA, World Energy Statistics)
Thailand: TOTAL CONSUMPTION MARKET SHARE BY ENERGY (2020, %) (source: IEA, World Energy Statistics)

- Natural Gas: 62%
- Other renewables: 21%
- Solar: 9%
- Coal: 32%
- Wind: 2%
- Hydro: 2%

UNIDO PROJECT MANAGERS CONDUCTED A MISSION TO BANGKOK AND PATTAYA, THAILAND:

- Thammasat University presented their findings on renewable energy use and EV promotion in Thailand.
- Representatives from Korea Energy Agency, DEDE, and Thai private sector discussed how ROK’s experiences could apply to Thailand.
- A working level retreat explored hydrogen policies, RE100 efforts, and EV industry promotion policies in ROK.
- Thai Government presented implications and lessons learned from ROK’s experience regarding hydrogen, EV, carbon neutrality, and RE100.
THE CHALLENGE

The Southeast Asia region has experienced rapid economic development, with annual growth rates exceeding four per cent, which inevitably leads to an increase in energy demand and concerns about a lack of energy supply. This poses severe challenges not only in terms of energy security in the region, but also in terms of the global climate change response. This project supports the governments and private sector in Southeast Asian countries in enhancing their capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve sustainable development. To achieve these goals, UNIDO is drawing up policy recommendations with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Energy Agency (KEA), by conducting an analysis of the current situation, providing training and experience sharing to expand the supply of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency in the region.

Targeted groups:

1. The governments of Thailand and Malaysia for the sharing of experiences and policies for coping with climate change through energy transition toward renewable energy and higher energy efficiency

2. Private sector representatives from Thailand and Malaysia interested in the management and technology of renewable energy and energy efficiency

THE GOAL

What the project aims to achieve.

This project aims to support Malaysia’s and Thailand’s government and private sectors in enhancing their capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve sustainable development.

THE SOLUTION

The methodology used that led to successful outcomes, outcomes achieved.

UNIDO’s Divisions of Capacity Development, Statistics and Industrial Policy Advice as well as the Division for Decarbonization and Sustainable Energy, both of which have extensive experience in promoting energy projects, are working together to implement this project. Leveraging the existing networks deployed by UNIDO in Malaysia and Thailand, this collaboration aims to achieve more efficient utilization of resources. Additionally, UNIDO and KEA are part of the Task Force team, which is crucial to the success of the project, alongside the respective governments of Malaysia and Thailand. The Task Force continuously monitors and consults with these governments on policies related to renewable energy and energy efficiency to ensure the project provides practical support to the countries.

WHAT IS A TRIANGULAR COOPERATION?

Triangular Cooperation is “Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country(ies) or multilateral organization(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.”
This project supports the governments and private sector in Southeast Asian countries in enhancing their capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve sustainable development. To achieve these goals, UNIDO is drawing up policy recommendations with the support from the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Energy Agency, by conducting an analysis of the current situation, providing training and experience sharing to expand the supply of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency in the region.

Cooperation between the Governments of Malaysia and Thailand plays a key role. This includes the Ministry of International Trade Malaysia (MITI) in Malaysia, and the Ministry of Energy in Thailand. Private sector firms engaged in renewable energy and energy efficiency in Malaysia and Thailand are also invited to actively participate in the project.

This project builds synergies with a number of projects that have been carried out by the Division of Decarbonization and Sustainable Energy of UNIDO. Although some technical cooperation projects still include policy consultation as an essential output, this project fully focuses on policy advice for renewable energy and energy efficiency. This is expected to result in a much more profound contribution as other energy-related projects can help policymakers make more effective decisions.

The project also contributes to jointly respond to the global issue of climate change by expanding the supply of renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency. As such, it is in line with the goals and means of UNIDO’s mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and establishes significant synergies with UN agencies, leading countries and latecomers to elaborate joint solutions. The project also pursues the goal of gender equality and women’s empowerment strategy.

Through this project, UNIDO will strengthen its strategic cooperation with professionals and specialized institutions (especially in the Republic of Korea) with expertise and experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The project is an example of how UNIDO provides practical assistance to Member States that request policy advice and capacity-building in their respective areas; the project will also be an important asset for UNIDO if future cooperation is requested in this subject area.

Through this project of supporting policies in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors, more scale-up and long-term future work is expected. A more active link between policymakers and private suppliers and consumers participating in renewable and energy efficiency projects will be constructed.
The Southeast Asian region has experienced rapid economic development, leading to a rise in energy demand and concerns about energy supply and climate change response. UNIDO and the Republic of Korea are collaborating on a project to enhance the capacity and capabilities of government officials and private sector representatives in Thailand and Malaysia on renewable energy and energy efficiency policies, aiming to achieve more efficient utilization of resources through experience sharing and training.

The project contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 and 9 and pursues gender equality and women’s empowerment strategies, with cooperation between the Governments of Malaysia and Thailand playing a key role in achieving the project’s objectives.

Through this project, policymakers and private suppliers and consumers can establish a more active link, leading to more scale-up and long-term future work, with UNIDO strengthening its strategic cooperation with professionals and specialized institutions with expertise and experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency.