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### Strengthening ASEAN+3 Renewable Energy Strategies

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#### Abstract

*ASEAN+3 countries have committed to promote renewable energy through regional cooperation (example, the June 2004 Ministerial Statement "Forging Closer ASEAN+3 Energy Partnership" and January 2007 Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security), and many have also established national renewable energy promotion policies. Despite these good intentions, renewable energy utilization in the region remains very low, and the region's enormous physical potential is largely unused. In many cases policies are weaker than they appear or suffer from inadequate funding or implementation. This is surprising since East Asian countries have very strong incentives to prioritize and invest in renewable energy, as well as vast untapped physical potential. Renewable energy will be enormously helpful in helping East Asian countries achieve urgent policy goals such as enhancing energy security, economic growth, poverty reduction, rural electrification, not to mention reducing GHG emissions. This study will examine why various national policies are less effective than expected focusing on the ASEAN+3 countries, and why regional cooperation, which was already agreed on, has not been fully implemented. Based on this analysis, this study will make policy recommendations on how national and regional renewable energy policies in East Asia can be made more effective. This study argues that increased globalization and regional integration pose several structural obstacles in addition to other well recognized economic, financial, legal, regulatory, and institutional barriers. This study recommends enhanced regional cooperation measures to address these structural obstacles, especially coordinated renewable energy targets and expanded cross-national grid interconnection, in conjunction with other complementary regional and national measures.*

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