

**ENERGY CHARTER
SECRETARIAT**

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Related documents: CC 253, CC 266, RD 10 (ECC of 10 12 2003)
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DECISION OF THE ENERGY CHARTER CONFERENCE

Subject: Application of the ASEAN Centre for Energy for Observer Status at the Energy Charter Conference

[The Energy Charter Conference at its 13th Meeting held on 10 December 2003] *approved* the proposal to grant the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), represented by the ASEAN Centre for Energy, observer status at the Energy Charter Conference and its subsidiary bodies.

Following the adoption of this decision, Dr Guillermo R. Balce, Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Energy, was invited to join the meeting as an observer, and delivered a statement (circulated in Room Document 10) underlining the commonality of many of the issues to be addressed in the Eurasian and South-East Asian regions, in terms of promoting cross-border energy cooperation [Annex].

Keywords: Accession, Observer Status, ASEAN Centre for Energy, Guillermo R. Balce

STATEMENT

**Delivered to the 13th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference on 10 December 2003
by Dr Guillermo R. Balce, Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Energy**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the ASEAN Centre for Energy, the ASEAN Senior Officials on Energy, the ASEAN Ministers of Energy and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, I would like to express deepest appreciation for your approval of our application for observer status at the Energy Charter Conference. I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Energy Charter Treaty for this approval. I would also like to thank the Energy Charter Secretariat, especially the Secretary General, Dr. Kemper, for their strong sponsorship of our application.

This event is a milestone in cooperation between ASEAN and the Energy Charter Treaty. Internally, in ASEAN, it is also a milestone in energy cooperation. This marks a formal beginning in ASEAN's quest for a globally borderless energy market. Of course, we have started the road to integration of our energy markets and systems by the so-called ASEAN Vision 2000 Declaration in 1997. We pursue this vision along a path of integrated energy infrastructures including an ASEAN Power Grid and a Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline. The issues that we encounter in the course of the work towards integration are basically the same issues addressed by the Energy Charter Treaty and related protocols.

Therefore, I could foresee that in the near future we in ASEAN will not be content with being just an observer in this conference. Individually, or collectively, I can look forward to our member states submitting applications for upgrading to contracting party status. Our member states are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philipinnes, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. We thank you for giving us this opportunity to take this important path towards being truly part of a global energy market.

Thank you.