Summary Minutes

On November 20, 2015, the "Symposium on Sustainable Power Supply Mix in the Future" was supported by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and co-organized by The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) and Energy Research Institute of Chulalongkorn University (CU-ERI) at Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square in Bangkok, Thailand.

The purpose of the symposium was to share information and to discuss policies necessary to enable sustainable power supply mix in ASEAN and East Asian countries, focusing on the coal power generation. It composed of an introductory lecture session and three sectoral sessions and in each session, presentations from the panelists were followed by the question-and-answer periods.

In the Introductory Lecture Session, experts from Ministry of Energy (MOEN), Thailand and ERIA gave a lecture on the current status and the outlook of energy policies and energy mix in Thailand and EAS region.

In the Session 1, panelists from ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), Indonesia, Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA), Malaysia, and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India introduced the outlook of energy mix in ASEAN region and explained the importance of coal resource utilization. After the presentation, based on the questions from participants, issues such as a financial support for the development of high-efficient coal power plants (e.g. IGCC) and international electricity trades among ASEAN countries were discussed.

In the Session 2, an expert from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Thailand explained that in Thailand, development of coal power generation is getting more and more difficult due to the environmental regulation. Then, Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc. (TEPCO), Japan introduced the current status of implementation of coal power plants using clean coal technology (CCT) in their supply area in Japan. Some participants commented that they are eagerly hoping for an introduction of the CCT from Japan.

In the Session 3, three panelists from IEEJ, Japan, Rotary Peace Center, CU, Thailand, and BLCP Power Station, Thailand introduced the methods and actual efforts to improve public acceptance of coal power in European countries and in Thailand. Through discussion, participants found that it is necessary for local communities to convince not only the environmental adaptability of the coal power plants but also the benefits gained from them to go ahead with the construction projects.

Through the symposium, the importance of high-efficient coal power generation to achieve the sustainable power supply mix was commonly recognized by the participants and the way to resolve issues such as finance support, technology development and public acceptance were actively discussed.