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Singapore and US Regulators Release Initial Findings from First Phase of Feasibility Study on Regional Energy Connectivity

On 24 October 2023, the initial findings from the first phase of the joint Feasibility Study on Regional Energy Connectivity ("**Study**") were announced in a Joint Ministerial Statement by the Ministry of Trade and Industry ("**MTI**"), Energy Market Authority of Singapore ("**EMA**"), and the United States ("**US**") Department of Energy ("**DOE**").

The proposal to conduct the Study was first announced on 14 July 2022, at the sidelines of the US-Southeast Asia Clean Energy Roundtable in Singapore, to further both countries' energy collaborations, including the US-Singapore Climate Partnership. Under the Study, Singapore and the US will assess the benefits, technical feasibility, and economic viability of developing a regional power grid network comprising land-based interconnections and subsea cables in Southeast Asia. The Study is part of the Net Zero World Initiative, a US flagship program launched in 2021 for partner countries such as Singapore to tap on the US government and DOE's national laboratories to develop highly tailored, actionable technology road maps, and investment strategies.

The first phase of the Study began on 3 April 2023 and examined the following:

- (a) renewable energy landscape and existing grid infrastructure of the ASEAN countries;
- (b) regional sub-sea interconnections; and
- (c) socioeconomic impacts of regional connectivity.

Key findings of the first phase of the Study highlighted several benefits for the region from sub-sea interconnections, namely emissions reduction, lowering of generation capital and production costs, and increasing renewable energy deployment, thus ensuring resource adequacy and power supply resilience, and economic benefits from the creation of green jobs.

Additionally, the Study found that investment opportunities are available for sub-sea transmission infrastructure. Further, geographic and geologic risks of constructing sub-sea interconnections in the region as well as their corresponding mitigation measures were identified.

It is hoped that the findings drive a mindset change regarding how regional grid interconnections and cross-border projects can unlock renewable energy potential. This mindset change will contribute to the



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development of the ASEAN Power Grid initiative and support regional efforts to deploy renewable energy and collectively decarbonise.

The US and Singapore plan to commence the second phase of the Study, focused on evaluating the legal and governance frameworks and financing arrangements needed to facilitate regional energy connectivity, and deepening the analysis of grid impacts.

Click on the following links for the Joint Ministerial Statements by MTI and DOE (available on the MTI website at www.mti.gov.sg) titled:

- "[Singapore-United States Fourth Joint Ministerial Statement on Energy Cooperation](#)"
- "[Singapore-United States Third Joint Ministerial Statement on Energy Cooperation](#)"
- "[Singapore-United States Second Joint Ministerial Statement on Energy Cooperation](#)"
- "[Singapore-United States Joint Ministerial Statement on Energy Cooperation](#)"

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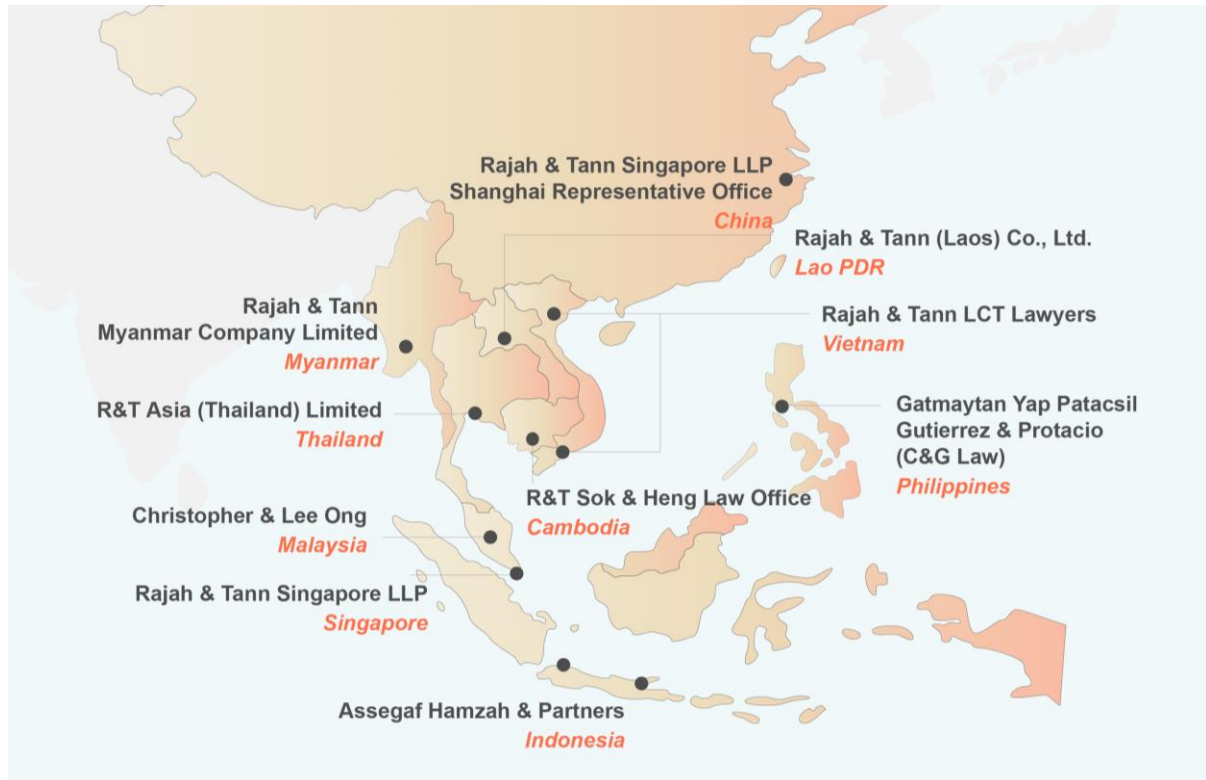
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