Foreword

As a fundamental change in the supply and demand structure towards decarbonisation, the energy transition has become the main theme in the global energy discussion. The most important factor making this change possible is the 'Carbon Neutrality' by 2050 commitment by world governments. This trend was accelerated by the transition from the Trump administration to the greener Biden administration in early 2021 in the United States. Moreover, vaccination efforts are gradually giving the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic more certainty, although the recent spread of the Omicron variant is seen as a new threat. Therefore, the outbreak continues to wreak serious damage on people and the economy worldwide. Given this shared international, environmental crisis, the International Energy Agency recently released the report 'Net-Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy System,' illustrating a comprehensive pathway towards global net-zero emissions by 2050. As this report says, despite a huge gap between what should be done to attain the goal and what is being done now regarding greenhouse gas emissions, there remains a narrow path to net-zero emissions by 2050. In other words, attainability remains possible.

Carbon neutrality by 2050 must be a process that goes beyond energy. Inevitably, it should involve changes in various areas, such as individual behaviour, society, companies, and organisations. For example, in Japan, many movements have occurred in response to former Prime Minister Suga's statement on the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Following up on his statement, in December 2020, the government announced the 'Green Growth Strategy for Carbon Neutrality in 2050.' Accordingly, the Government of Japan is currently reviewing related energy and climate change policies. Meanwhile, carbon neutrality is a global challenge. More than 100 countries have committed to carbon neutrality by 2050, but they only account for 23.2% of global CO_2 emissions.

Carbon neutrality by 2050 is a goal commonly shared at a global level. Thus, as the International Energy Agency emphasises, cooperation is key. Like many other countries, the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are exerting great efforts to achieve the goals of the Paris Accord. This study focuses on the willingness to pay, covering Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The study was conducted in collaboration with university professors in the respective countries. The survey in the focal countries was influenced by the COVID-19 outbreak; however, given the collaborative efforts, the impact was minimal. The willingness to pay studies based on surveys in ASEAN countries are scant; thus, this study bridges the gap by expanding the research to ASEAN countries.

This report aims to contribute to energy policymaking in ASEAN countries and stimulate a wider discussion on the willingness to pay and energy and climate change policy in ASEAN.

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