Cambodia energy storage for load shifting

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According to TrendForce, Cambodia is accelerating the development of clean energy to reduce its reliance on imported energy, enhance the country"s energy security, ensure reliable and affordable power supply, and help this Southeast Asian nation achieve its goal of having at least 70% clean energy by 2030.

Last week, Cambodia approved 23 investment projects in the power sector for 2024-2029, with a total expected investment of USD 5.79 billion. According to the Khmer Times, the approved projects include 12 solar projects, 6 wind projects, 1 biomass and solar combined project, 1 LNG power generation project, 1 hydropower project, and 2 energy storage stations.

These projects will significantly boost Cambodia"s domestic power supply capacity, providing more reliable and affordable electricity, effectively addressing domestic power shortages, and ensuring the national grid can meet the growing demand for electricity.

The Cambodian government places great importance on environmental sustainability. According to the Khmer Times, Minister of Mines and Energy Suy Sem reiterated during a lecture on "Cambodia"s Energy Policy" at the Royal University of Phnom Penh on the 4th that the country will not build new coal power plants in the future. He also stated that Cambodia has publicly committed to not building hydropower dams on the Mekong River.

Suy Sem further stated that by 2026, Cambodia will integrate wind power into the national grid to diversify and strengthen the country"s energy supply. He noted that although Cambodia currently relies on coal to meet energy demand due to cost and supply stability concerns, the authorities remain committed to expanding investment and development in clean energy.

According to the Phnom Penh Post, by the end of 2023, Cambodia had provided electricity to over 14,000 villages nationwide, covering 99.88% of the country. Cambodia plans to suppress electricity prices through the expansion of clean energy projects, reducing living costs, and promoting the development of industry, trade, and agriculture.

As the world grapples with the urgent threat of climate crisis, Cambodia stands at a critical crossroads. The country"s transition to renewable energy sources is imperative to both mitigate climate impacts and ensure a sustainable future for its people. However, the energy transition must be just, equitable, and inclusive, leaving no one behind.

For Cambodia, CSOs have acknowledged and appreciated the government"s efforts and dedication towards facilitating an energy transition that considers the socio-economic and environmental ramifications. This

recognition extends to commitments such as refraining from constructing new coal power plants in Cambodia and imposing a moratorium on large-scale hydropower dams on the mainstream of the Mekong River, acknowledging the potential threats they pose to the environment, ecosystems, and the livelihoods of local communities.

At the heart of a just energy transition lies the recognition that the benefits of clean energy must be shared equitably among all citizens, especially the affected and most vulnerable communities. This means ensuring that communities have access to affordable and reliable energy source, protecting the environment, and promoting social justice. To achieve this, the CSO representatives at the National Convening put forward the following key propositions for Cambodia on Just Energy Transition:

A just energy transition is not only about achieving climate goals; it is also about building a more equitable and sustainable future for Cambodia. By working together, the government, civil society, private sector, international partners, donors, researchers, policy makers, academia and communities can ensure that this transition benefits all citizens and leaves no one behind.