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Dear Stakeholders, Implementing Partners, Existing and Future Collaborators:

It is my great pleasure to launch the first bulletin from the Chief of Party's Desk, a quarterly communication to share the Enhancing Equality in Energy for Southeast Asia (E4SEA) Activity's updates. This quarter our highlights include:

- Formalizing partnerships
- Finalizing our baseline citizen survey of over 1,200 respondents in Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines
- Implementing our South-South knowledge exchange

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE GENDER EQUALITY IN SE ASIA



During the past few months, we have successfully secured partnerships with leading energy companies and educational institutions in SE Asia. In the Philippines, E4SEA's partners include WeGen, EDC, FirstGen, and University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP). In Indonesia, our partners are Pertamina, Institut Teknologi PLN, Politeknik Negeri Tanah Laut, Geo Dipa Energi, Universitas Pertamina, and Politeknik Negeri Bengalis. In Thailand, we are partnering with Energy Absolute, Thammasat University, Chulalongkorn University (Faculty of Economics), and Prince of Songkla University. We look forward to working with all of our partners to advance gender equality in the region. The general areas of collaboration with energy companies, universities, and vocational schools are interventions such as communications and outreach, training of trainers, strengthening of internship and mentorship programs to remove gender biases in educational settings and energy workplaces, encourage girls and women to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and energy-related education and careers. Next quarter we look forward to expanding our partnerships with other leading institutions in the region.

E4SEA'S SURVEY REVEALS THAT GENDER EQUALITY REMAINS A BIG CHALLENGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

To identify core challenges in improving gender equality in the SE Asia, a region-wide phone-based survey was conducted by E4SEA with more than 1,200 people in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The survey findings captured people's attitudes regarding gender roles, women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, and women pursuing careers in the energy sector. The overall findings indicate that gender equality remains



GRAPHIC FROM LET'S SPEAK GENDER

a big challenge in the region, with persisting social norms around traditional gender roles being one of the key contributing factors. The survey results underscore the need for interventions, like those being implemented through E4SEA, to generate positive shifts and improve gender equality in the long run. It is worth noting also that the new generation in all three countries is increasingly more open to shared responsibilities in terms of housework and childcare. The majority of students surveyed (54% in Indonesia, 84% in the Philippines, 86% in Thailand) indicated that they can accept gender role interchange. The full

results of the survey are documented in an *Assessment of the SEA Energy Sector's Status of Women's Participation in the Energy Sector* which will be publicly available next quarter.

E4SEA SECURED PARTNERSHIP AND ORGANIZED SOUTH-SOUTH KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES (USTP)

On November 29, 2021, a virtual signing ceremony was organized to commence the partnership through a Letter of Collaboration (LOC) with E4SEA and USTP which was immediately followed by a co-hosted webinar "Promoting Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" as part of the National Science and Technology Week hosted by the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines. One key highlight from the discussion is the importance of establishing a women's network at the university level to engage engineering and science students, as well as engineers and scientists in the energy sector. The partnership aims to advance a more gender-balanced and inclusive educational space for women that leads to energy sector career opportunities through tailor-made interventions. This learning exchange marks another milestone of the many partnerships of the E4SEA Activity. The recording of the event is available [here](#).



If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to write to me. Thank you for your continued interest and support for our USAID-funded E4SEA Activity.

With kind regards,

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Chief of Party
Enhancing Equality in Energy for SE Asia (E4SEA)
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