

**ISEAS Webinar:
Southeast Asia Climate Outlook 2022 Survey Report Launch**

**WELCOME REMARKS BY MR CHOI SHING KWOK
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*Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen*

Good afternoon to all.

On behalf of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute of Singapore, I warmly welcome you to the launch of the “**Southeast Asia Climate Outlook 2022 Survey Report**”. Let me start by thanking Mr Stanley Loh, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment of Singapore, for agreeing to give the opening remarks for this event, and to all panellists for participating in the discussion later.

As one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in the world, Southeast Asia has already been facing the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, year after year. From the direct risks posed by extreme weather events to the downstream effects like heightened food insecurity, the effects of this global crisis can be felt by all. Among ASEAN countries, Singapore has acknowledged and expressed a serious commitment to address climate change. Other countries in the region are also acutely aware of the threat of climate impacts and have signalled their intentions to respond to it.

As part of this, the region is taking practical steps towards decarbonisation such as setting climate targets and exploring low-carbon development plans. Eight out of ten ASEAN countries have now made a net-zero commitment, and at least five countries: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam, have implemented or will be implementing a carbon pricing mechanism. At the ASEAN level, countries are working together on pivotal projects such as the ASEAN Taxonomy on Sustainable Finance and the Laos-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project (LTMS-PIP), which are the first important steps towards the much-needed transformation in our regional financial and energy ecosystems.

While the regional momentum on climate action is growing, it must also be said that we still have a long way to go. According to the ASEAN Centre for Energy, coal continues to account for around 30% of planned power capacity additions this year. Meanwhile, the regional share of renewable energy is currently expected to reach only 13.6% by 2025, which means ASEAN is not on track to reach its 2025 target renewable energy share of 23%. It remains an aspirational target at best.

With so many developments and challenges, to what extent are Southeast Asian citizens themselves aware of the region’s progress and deficiencies in tackling climate change? What kind of changes do they wish to see in their own countries? How can their governments, private sector and other stakeholders respond to or tap into such ground sentiments? To help answer these questions, the Climate Change in

Southeast Asia Programme in ISEAS has been conducting an annual public perceptions survey on various climate issues since 2020. The survey acts as a barometer of climate perceptions and attitudes in this region, focusing on several key topics such as energy, food security, climate governance and international cooperation. While climate and environmental attitudes and beliefs are extensively studied in the Global North, ISEAS' survey is the first of its kind to pay attention to the public perceptions of climate issues from a Global South, Southeast Asian specific lens, with a special focus on the social, economic and political dimensions of climate change. Not only does the Survey confirm the sense of urgency felt by Southeast Asians from diverse backgrounds, but it is also a valuable resource for those seeking to understand public awareness of various climate issues and how they are viewed by different stakeholders in each ASEAN country.

I'm pleased to say that this is now the third year that ISEAS has conducted this survey. Previous Survey reports have been extensively reported by the media around the region and the world. The findings have also been cited in various reports and educational curricula. As such, we believe that these latest results will both inform and empower all stakeholders involved in climate change, energy, food security, sustainable development and international cooperation within and outside ASEAN.

After the opening remarks by Stanley, who will share with us some of Singapore's views and plans, we are also privileged to have a panel of expert discussants who will share their reactions to the latest Survey results. I look forward to the insights that will undoubtedly emerge from their discussion. Thank you.