

Webinar “After COP26: The Roles of Climate Governance in Achieving Nationally Determined Contributions and Net Zero Emissions Targets of the Energy Sector in Indonesia” on 19th November, 2021.

This webinar held by the Climate Change Center of Bandung Institute of Technology (CCC-ITB) is part of a series of outreach activities to disseminate the results of the studies up to Year-2. The dissemination was provided toward the findings of the National Study (NS), which focuses on climate change governance in the attempt on GHG emission reduction strategies in the energy sector, to be combined with the findings of the International Study (IS), which focuses on climate finance to support climate change.

This webinar aims to share and elaborate on Indonesia’s climate change governance issues in the energy sector among key stakeholders to understand how strong Indonesia’s commitment is in achieving its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and NZE (Net Zero Emissions) targets. The discussion is directed at three focuses, namely: 1) International political pressure on Indonesia’s commitment to the Paris Agreement for the NDC and NZE targets, especially in the energy sector; 2) Clarity of Indonesia’s policies and strategies towards NDC and NZE targets in the energy sector, and 3) Climate change governance in the energy sector to realize these policies and strategies.

This webinar consists of two sessions. Prof. Djoko Santoso Abi Suroso, as the Head of CCC-ITB and the Scientific Lead of the SNAPFI ITB Team, opened the first session with the topic “Towards energy governance model in achieving NDC and NZE targets in Indonesia”. Then the second keynote presentation was delivered by Ir. Laksmi Dhewanthi, MA, IPU (the Director-General of Climate Change Control, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry) with the topic on “How the National Focal Point of Indonesia translates the results of COP26 to facilitate the achievement of NDC and NZE in the energy sector”. This first session was then closed by a keynote of Prof. Karsten Neuhoff, Ph.D, (Project Lead of SNAPFI from DIW Berlin) with the topic “Global perspective on carbon neutrality”.

Then the second session was initiated by a presentation of Dr. Niken Prilandita from the SNAPFI ITB Team, who discussed the results of the National Study entitled “Informality in climate and energy governance in achieving NDC and NZE targets”. Then the session was continued by Dr. Ir. Herman Darnel Ibrahim M.Sc as a second speaker from the National Energy Council (DEN) with the topic “The role of Indonesia National Energy Policy (KEN) in achieving NDC and NZE in the energy sector”. Dr. Ir Andang Bachtiar, M.Sc, Member of the Advisory Board of the SNAPFI ITB Team, ended this session with the topic “Facts and challenges in the energy sector in achieving NDC and NZE targets”.

Approximately 236 participants attended the webinar. The participants came from various backgrounds, namely from 10 central government institutions, 10 local government institutions, 19 national NGOs, 18 international NGOs, 21 private sectors, one fiscal agency, three consulting institutions, and 20 academic institutions.

From the webinar, it is known that the COP26 has resulted in several commitments and approvals by the countries involved to maintain expectations of limiting global temperature increases from reaching 1.5 degrees C. One of the outputs of COP26 was the Glasgow Climate Pact, which encourages mitigation actions to reduce GHG emissions, adaptation actions to help countries affected by climate change, funding as an enabler for countries to achieve climate goals and collaboration for more significant climate action. Through this combination of increased ambition and individual country action, it seems that the 1.5-degree Celsius target is still within reach. However, this target will only be achieved if every country, including Indonesia, fulfils what they have promised.

The Indonesian government has updated the NDC and developed a Long-Term Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience (LTS-LCCR) as evidence of their climate commitment. However, the updated NDC target for 2030 has not increased, i.e., the target remains the same, with the GHG emission reduction rate of 29% for unconditional scenario and 41% for conditional scenario. The LTS-LCCR form itself is also only a strategy hence that it does not bind stakeholders to actually implement it. Indonesia's commitment will also be determined by the National Energy Policy (KEN), which is currently still in the political process, and the Carbon Economic Value (NEK), which has just been ratified in the form of Presidential Regulation no. 98/2021 that was launched at the COP26. As one of the largest coal exporting countries, this commitment is considered to be less ambitious in terms of targets, both for mitigation and adaptation actions. In its 2021 report, the Climate Action Tracker assesses that Indonesia's current commitment is still very insufficient (highly insufficient).

Several factors influenced these conditions, including the issue of dilemmas in the energy sector related to coal resources, which prompted policies to slow down the energy transition. The SNAPFI ITB team found some indications that informal practices still characterize the energy policy formulation process due to business interests burdening policy-making in the energy sector.

This finding of informality in governance becomes a critical note for the DEN, considering its vital role in formulating the KEN and the National Energy Master Plan (RUEN), which will ensure climate commitment to the energy sector. Therefore, the SNAPFI ITB team views that the role of DEN in energy governance needs to be strengthened, thus they are able to lead initiatives to address sectoral complexities between climate governance, energy governance, and climate finance. Hopefully, this will result in energy transition policies and regulations that can be transparent and equitable.

Video Documentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQk09iQKqI4>