# Connecting IPCC/COP and the Asian energy reality

## 9 Dec 2019 Jun ARIMA

Professor, GrasPP University of Tokyo Senior Policy Fellow, ERIA (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia)

### The bulk of incremental global CO2 emissions comes from Asia Pacific region driven by India and SE Asia



#### Incremental CO2 emissions (2018-2040)

IEA World Energy Outlook 2019

In the Paris compatible scenario, India and South East Asia needs substantial reduction of coal power generation and substantial increase of RE power



IEA World Energy Outlook 2019

#### From 2000 to 2015, out of 1.2 billion people who gained access to electricity, 880 million people did so by fossil fuel power (540 million by coal).

Annual number of people gaining electricity access by fuel type in developing countries



IEA World Energy Special Report on Energy Access 2017

#### Coal is the most abundant energy resource in Asia



# Competitiveness of power sources differs across countries Coal will continue to be the cheapest in India



 Raising energy prices is very unpopular policy.
135-5,500 \$/t-CO2 of global carbon tax (IPCC SR 1.5) ← → Yellow vest against carbon tax hike of 10 EUR/t-CO2
Even less "willingness to pay" in developing Asia



Source: IPCC Special Report on Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5 degree above Pre Industrial Levels

Source: Le Figaro

UN global poll engaging 9.7 million people (HDI low countries 44%, medium countries 27%) indicates highest priority on education, healthcare and job opportunities while climate change comes at the bottom.



### EAS countries' energy narrative $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ COP/IPCC narrative

The EAS Ministers discussed the work plans being implemented under the EAS cooperation, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas, alternative and low emission technologies. The Ministers also acknowledged the continued role of fossil fuels including natural gas and clean coal technologies in the region in order to contribute to the region's economic growth, energy security and environment protection. To this end, the Ministers called for deeper cooperation and concrete efforts, in mobilizing finance from a wide variety of sources, to take advantage of the broad range of energy resources and clean energy technologies to achieve regional economic growth, energy security and sustainable ecosystems

Joint Ministerial Statement EAS Energy Ministers Meeting (29 Oct 2018)

- Huge gap between COP/IPCC narrative and Asian energy reality
  - Reality does not change with advocacy. Pragmatism should prevail acknowledging;
    - Competitiveness of energy resources differs across countries.
    - Priority among 17 SDGs differs across countries.
    - Raising energy prices is political taboo , particularly in developing countries
  - Carbon neutrality is possible only when zero carbon technologies are deployed with affordable price → technology target (e.g. cost, performance) rather than GHG target and time table