

Asia West and South

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- Impact on demand:
 - India: 25-35% drop in gas consumption (6-8% electricity). Although normalcy is expected in the major segments such as Fertilizer, Power and Refinery, MSME sector is expected to take longer time to return to business-as-usual.
 - Thailand: 6% increase in gas consumption
 - Malaysia: 30% decrease in gas consumption (28% decrease in power)

- ASEAN Stimulus packages
 - Malaysia: electricity consumption subsidies across the economy
 - Thailand: water and electricity subsidies
 - Timor Leste: electricity subsidies
 - Indonesia: electricity subsidies
 - Vietnam: electricity subsidies
 - Singapore: no energy-specific measures
 - India: no energy-specific measures

- ASEAN Council on Petroleum (ASCOPE)
 - ASCOPE Exploration & Production Taskforce (EPTF) is planning to organize a conference call to kickstart the discussion on respective country policy and industrial practices in managing impacts of Covid 19 and various related issues .
 - The discussion will also cover exchanging notes and information pertaining to standard procedures to ensure the health and safety for workers.
 - ASEAN Meeting in September 2019:
 - ASCOPE to develop roadmap for implementing recommendations of the Gas Advocacy Communication Plan
 - ASEAN Countries to carry on regulatory and pricing reforms, and tighten environmental regulations
 - ASEAN to establish a dialogue on regional energy policy framework & enhance regional sourcing and trade

- Other priorities: Implementing Action Plans for Trans ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP); Developing Small Scale LNG value chain; Developing LNG bunkering.
- *India* went into complete lockdown, which is having a severe impact on gas.
 - Pipeline and CGD project activities came to a complete halt due to lockdown, due to logistical challenges for labour and materials. It has significant impact on construction of new projects and several other activities, which in normal circumstances would have contributed for infrastructure development.
 - There may be liquidity crisis for CGD entities/vendors/contractors to meet their working capital requirements. Raising capital through capital market may be a challenge.
 - Reduction of gas demand in Transport, Industrial and commercial sectors may create uncertainty for the gas infrastructure & CGD developers.
 - Slowdown in the overall economic activity can be a dampener for infrastructure capex plans
 - may lose 2.0 - 2.5 MT of LNG demand due to COVID 19, making 2020 volumes lower than 2019 volumes
 - Measures that could be taken for development of Indian gas sector:
 - Gas should be under GST (or) the VAT rates may be allowed to be cenvatable for remaining competitive, especially for industrial and commercial units
 - Regulatory support for uniform and rationalized tariff fixation for enabling affordable access of natural gas to downstream consumers, while ensuring uniformity and optimum returns for the pipeline developers
 - Inclusion of gas based power in the compulsory merit order dispatch for the power sector
 - Soft financing arrangement including grant towards switching towards natural gas may be provided to MSMEs
- *Malaysia:*
 - Completed a socio-economic impact study for the domestic gas industry
 - Total output is USD 65 billion and supporting 83,000 job