

보도시점 2026. 9. 17.(목) 15:30 배포 2026. 9. 17.(목)

MCEE and IEA Team Up to Tackle Asia's Climate Crisis and Energy Security

- MOU signed to advance President Lee Jae Myung's proposal at the G7 to strengthen the resilience of energy supply chains in the Asia-Pacific region
- RISE ASIA initiative officially launched following meeting between President Lee and IEA Executive Director
- Joint response to the climate crisis and energy supply chain instability centered on the energy transition and electrification

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE, Minister Kim Sungwhan) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Energy Agency (IEA) on “Korea-IEA Cooperation on Asian Energy Security” at the Four Seasons Hotel in Jongno-gu, Seoul, on the afternoon of September 17, and will officially launch the “Resilient & Integrated Strategy for Energy Security in Asia (RISE ASIA^{*})” initiative to strengthen energy security in Asia and address the climate crisis.

* A cooperation initiative to support Asia's capacity to respond to energy crises and strengthen resilient power systems through an integrated assessment of traditional energy and resource supply and demand, power system stability, and other factors.

The signing of the MOU took place immediately after a meeting between President Lee Jae Myung and Executive Director of IEA Fatih Birol earlier that day. It is a follow-up measure to flesh out President Lee's proposal at the Group of Seven Summit (G7)^{*} in June to “strengthen the resilience of energy supply chains in Asia” and to pursue a new level of energy security cooperation

in the Asian region in response to the rapidly changing global energy landscape.

* A consultative body established in 1976 among the G7 (the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Japan, Italy, and Canada) and the EU for discussions on international political and economic cooperation.

Recent developments in the Middle East have once again highlighted the vulnerability of energy supply chains in Asian countries that rely heavily on fossil fuel imports, while the growing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and data centers and the expansion of advanced industries are driving up electricity demand and further underscoring the importance of stable and flexible power supplies.

At the same time, as extreme climate disasters such as the recent catastrophic floods in Nepal become a reality, the need for an energy transformation and electrification to address transboundary climate risks is also growing.

MCEE and the IEA view energy security and the climate crisis as challenges that Asian countries must address through cooperation, and will pursue the RISE ASIA initiative to achieve both objectives together.

The RISE ASIA initiative is a new cooperation framework designed to strengthen Asian countries' capacity to respond to energy crises by comprehensively addressing not only traditional energy and resource supply and demand, but also the transition to renewable energy and electrification, as well as the stability and resilience of power systems.

In particular, the two sides plan to strengthen policy cooperation, with key priorities including accelerating the energy transition and electrification to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, and building resilient power systems that can reliably support advanced industries and future growth.

Executive Director Fatih Birol said, “The recent situation in the Middle East is a serious crisis facing global energy security and, as was the case following the oil shocks of the 1970s, an opportunity for countries to fundamentally reassess their energy strategies.” He emphasized, “In Asia, where dependence on imported fossil fuels is particularly high, there is a need to diversify energy sources and supply routes while accelerating the expansion of clean energy, electrification, and the strengthening of power systems.”

He continued, “Whether countries can secure sufficient supplies of stable and clean electricity will determine not only energy security but also national industrial competitiveness,” and praised Korea for proactively presenting a vision for energy security in Asia and taking the lead in a new cooperation initiative.

Minister Kim Sungwan said, “The recent instability in energy supply chains in the Middle East and the catastrophic floods in Nepal show that energy security and the climate crisis are not separate issues, but transboundary crises that are difficult for any one country to address alone.” He emphasized, “Addressing energy security and the climate crisis is not a matter of choosing one over the other, but challenges that must be tackled together.”

He continued, “To this end, we must accelerate the transition to renewable energy and electrification to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, and build resilient power systems that can withstand various shocks, including surging electricity demand and natural disasters.” He added, “As a responsible leader in the international community, Korea will strengthen the resilience of Asia’s energy supply chains and lead the transition to renewable energy-based electrification and the development of resilient power systems through RISE ASIA initiative.”

MCEE plans to finalize specific initiatives under the RISE ASIA initiative and develop detailed implementation plans through joint research with the IEA, while developing it into Korea’s flagship international cooperation platform for leading Asia’s energy transition and energy security.