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EGAT O&M Business – An effective solution to the AEC Era

Mr. Supachai Koonsad and Mr. Monton Yingsoong
The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand

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Abstract

Due to the rapid growth of population and new industry sectors emerging, a high demand for electricity is likely to become increasing more and more every year, which leads to an increasing number of the new power plants. As imposed by the competitive market shares, country's limitation and purchasing power agreement (PPA) requiring power plants to generate the specified amount of electricity, the owners of those power plants, nowadays, are confronted with several kinds of risks and difficulties.

Operation and maintenance (O&M) work seems to be of a great concern to the owners as well as the pillar of running a power plant business from which the profitability is generated. The challenges for O&M work are professional workforce availability, engineers in particular, competency & knowledge and access to tools used for handling and fixing the generating units and its associated equipment.

The effect of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 on O&M business, allowing engineers to freely mobilize to their desired countries in ASEAN, is that the owners will be struggling to find qualified employees for the O&M work, especially in the short-term period. Yet, staffs turnover will gradually increase which is resulted from intensive hunting of experienced engineers in the long run period.

The way to manage such difficulties and risks of workforce shortage could be either by internally building up its own O&M unit or outsourcing. Establishing in-house O&M would be too risky if the workforce has only rudimentary skills and the job hunting still exists. In addition to the workforce problem, in-house O&M also requires a huge investment of special tools and a workshop for the owners to conduct the repair work by themselves, which is, in fact, not necessarily required and not worth having.

This presentation will firstly look into the effect of AEC on O&M work which is mainly contributed by workforce shortage problems, and secondly, will present the advantages of using EGAT O&M services which ultimately provide the owners with the peace of mind. The advantages include staffs' performance guarantee, great location, access to EGAT workshop, etc. The development plan for O&M staffs to get ready for AEC will be presented as well. Lastly, it will be illustrating EGAT O&M that we are performing in Asia. (370 words)