



## **International Collaboration and Coordination Vietnam's Energy Transition: The Role of International Partners Through the Just Energy Transition Partnership**

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**Dafa Syachrullah<sup>1</sup>, Shanti Darmastuti<sup>1</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta, Indonesia*

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**Corresponding Author:**

Dafa Syachrullah

[2110412058@mahasiswa.upnvj.ac.id](mailto:2110412058@mahasiswa.upnvj.ac.id)

### **ABSTRACT**

Energy transition has become a key global agenda to reduce carbon emissions and lessen dependence on fossil fuels. As a developing country, Vietnam faces significant challenges in meeting rapidly growing energy demand while maintaining its commitment to international climate targets. In this context, multilateral cooperation through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) with the International Partners Group (IPG) serves as a strategic instrument to support Vietnam's energy transition process. This study aims to analyze the forms of collaboration and coordination between the Government of Vietnam and international partners in implementing the JETP framework. This research adopts a descriptive qualitative approach. Data were collected through in-depth interviews and document analysis, and analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model, which consists of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The findings indicate that collaboration and coordination are institutionalized through the establishment of the Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP) as the main governance framework, national policy reforms in the energy sector, and the development of renewable energy projects supported by financial and technical assistance from the IPG. This cooperation reflects a model of institutionalized multilateralism, in which Vietnam's national interests and global climate mitigation objectives are aligned through structured policy coordination and inter-actor collaboration.



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## 1. Introduction

The energy transition has become a central global agenda to reduce dependence on and the environmental impacts of fossil fuels. This transition refers to the shift of energy systems from those predominantly based on fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas toward the utilization of new and renewable energy sources with low or zero carbon emissions, including solar, wind, geothermal, and hydrogen energy (IRENA, 2020). Efforts toward energy transition constitute the core of global climate change mitigation strategies, which are defined as human interventions aimed at reducing sources of greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC, 2022)

In the context of climate change, Vietnam is among the countries with a high level of vulnerability to climate impacts. This vulnerability is particularly evident in coastal areas, especially the Mekong Delta, which is highly exposed to changing climate patterns, increasing frequency of extreme weather events, and sea-level rise. These geographical and climatic conditions place Vietnam at multidimensional risk, ranging from environmental degradation to threats to food security and regional economic stability (Nguyen & Le, 2025)

Climate change is closely linked to the rise in global carbon emissions, most of which originate from activities in the energy sector. Over the past two decades, Vietnam has experienced rapid growth in its electricity sector. Electricity demand has increased nearly eightfold, alongside sustained economic growth of over 6 percent per year, which has been a major driver of rising emissions in the country (IEA, 2024)

In response to the growing demand for electricity, Vietnam has developed various power generation sources in the short term, with a primary emphasis on coal-fired power plants to ensure the adequacy of electricity supply for economic activities and population growth. Alongside this, the development of renewable energy has been introduced as part of efforts to diversify the national energy mix. However, in the initial phase, the role of renewable energy remained relatively limited, while dependence on coal-based power generation continued to dominate Vietnam's electricity system (Nong et al., 2020)

According to a study in Vietnam, the energy industry sector is one of the main contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the country. Since 2002, the energy sector has surpassed agriculture as the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Vietnam's GHG emissions are projected to increase from 283.97 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2014 to 927.9 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2030 (Tri et al., 2023)

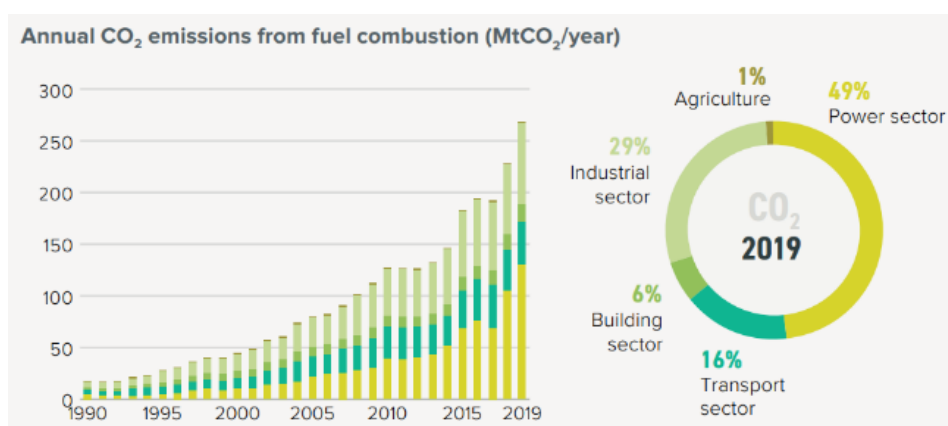


Figure 1 Carbon Emissions by Sector in Vietnam, 2019

Source: Climate Transparency (2020)

Based on the figure above, the largest contributors to carbon emissions in Vietnam come from electricity and heat generation, which accounted for about half of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2019. The second-largest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is the industrial sector at 29 percent, followed by transportation at 16 percent.

According to the Worldometer (2022), Vietnam's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have increased significantly, particularly since the year 2000, with the most substantial growth originating from the power industry sector, which has dominated total emissions since 2010. Total fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Vietnam reached 327,905,620 tons in 2022. Furthermore, carbon use in Vietnam increased by approximately 172 percent between 2000 and 2020.

In line with global efforts to mitigate climate change, Vietnam has implemented various policies and targets to achieve an energy transition from carbon-based sources to renewable energy, in accordance with its commitments under the Paris Agreement within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21). In this regard, Vietnam established its national commitments in 2015 following the Paris Agreement by adopting Decision No. 1/CP.21 of the COP21 Conference (Thao et al., 2023)

Furthermore, Vietnam's commitment to climate change mitigation is demonstrated through its efforts to fulfill the Paris Agreement and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, including through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP). The JETP is a multilateral platform between developed and developing countries designed to provide climate finance to support developing nations in accelerating a just and socially inclusive transition toward low-carbon economies. It also represents a response to the challenge of delivering climate finance in ways that support local just transitions while advancing international climate goals. The JETP has evolved as a model consisting of the International Partners Group (IPG) (Larasati & Fajrian, 2024)

The JETP was introduced by the G7 countries and the European Union as a financing program to implement their global climate commitments. Through this initiative, G7 members and the EU seek to promote energy transitions in developing countries, while emphasizing inclusiveness and worker protection based on the International Labour Organization (ILO) framework on just transition, particularly for workers affected in carbon-intensive industries (Behrens, 2023)

This study aims to analyze the forms of collaboration and coordination between the Government of Vietnam and international partners in supporting energy transition through cooperation within the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP).

## **2. Methods**

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive design to analyze the forms of international collaboration and coordination between Vietnam and international partners in supporting energy transition through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) framework. A qualitative method is chosen because it allows the researcher to gain an in-depth understanding of processes, actors, and policy dynamics within specific socio-political contexts through systematic data collection and analysis (Creswell, 2009)

Data collection techniques include interviews and document analysis. Interviews were conducted with informants from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and representatives of the European Union (EU) to obtain both practical and theoretical perspectives on the implementation of energy transition in Vietnam. In addition,

secondary data were gathered from official documents, reports of international organizations, academic journals, and relevant online sources (Auliya et al., 2020).

Data analysis follows a qualitative descriptive approach using the Miles and Huberman (1992) model, which consists of data reduction, data display, and verification. The data were thematically classified and analyzed reflectively. To ensure the credibility of the findings, this study applies source triangulation by comparing interview results with documents and literature to ensure data consistency and validity (Lincoln, 1995).

### **3. Results and Discussion**

#### **3.1 Results**

##### ***3.1.1 Overview of Energy Conditions in Vietnam***

Vietnam is one of the countries with a very high level of vulnerability to climate change, mainly due to a combination of geographical factors, economic dependence on natural resource based sectors, and increasingly intensive environmental pressures. The extreme drought that struck Vietnam during the 2015-2016 period, particularly in the Mekong Delta region, provides concrete evidence of the real impacts of climate change on national resilience (Radio Free Asia, 2016)

This is consistent with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) report (2020), which emphasizes that climate change represents one of the most serious challenges to the sustainability of Vietnam's development in the medium and long term. Climate change directly affects the national electricity system, especially hydropower plants that are highly dependent on water availability. Declining river flows and increasing rainfall variability raise the risk of electricity supply disruptions, which in turn have implications for industrial activity and economic growth. Therefore, structural transformation toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient development system is required, including the acceleration of energy transition, the strengthening of adaptation policies, and the mobilization of international climate finance (ADB, 2020)

In this context, Vietnam must seek ways to address climate challenges by developing carbon-free energy sources and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. However, given Vietnam's current situation and position, domestic energy use remains heavily dominated by and dependent on fossil energy, particularly coal.

This condition reinforces the urgency for Vietnam to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and develop a low-carbon energy system. Structurally, Vietnam's national energy conditions are still dominated by fossil sources, especially coal. Tran (2019) note that since 2016 approximately 70 percent of Vietnam's national energy consumption has still been derived from fossil energy. In addition, pressure on domestic energy supply has increased. Tran (2019) show that in 2015 Vietnam began importing energy from other countries to meet domestic demand, whereas in previous years Vietnam had still held the status of an energy-exporting country. This situation indicates a paradox between the need for energy transition and the reality of Vietnam's continued dependence on fossil energy.

Nevertheless, Vietnam has developed 26 national policies between 2000 and 2017 aimed at addressing climate change, promoting renewable energy, and expanding electrification programs (Shem et al., 2019). Moreover, Vietnam's commitment to tackling climate change is reflected in its ratification of the Paris Agreement, the formulation of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), its declaration of a net-zero emissions target at COP26, and

its participation in cooperation with the International Partners Group through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP).

## 3.2 Discussion

### 3.2.1 Vietnam's Selection into the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)

Vietnam's interest in the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) was initiated following South Africa's selection as one of the first partner countries of the JETP-International Partners Group (IPG) at COP26. Seeking to follow a similar path, Vietnam ratified the COP26 outcomes into national policy through Decision No. 888/QD-TTg of 2022, aligning its domestic climate and energy policies with the commitments made at COP26. In the same year, Vietnam positioned itself to become one of the countries selected by the IPG. However, Indonesia's agreement to join the JETP was concluded earlier at the G20 Summit in Bali in 2022. Consequently, Vietnam promptly initiated negotiations on the Just Energy Transition Partnership with the IPG, led by Vietnam's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Tran Hong Ha, together with representatives of the European Union and the United Kingdom (Ha-Duong, 2023)

Vietnam's agreement with the International Partners Group was finalized in December 2022 on the sidelines of the EU-ASEAN Summit. These negotiations resulted in a significant increase in the scale of financial commitments, from an initial plan of USD 5 billion to USD 15 billion, marking a substantial strengthening of financial support under the JETP framework (Ha-Duong, 2023)

The agreement was formalized through the *Political Declaration on Establishing the Just Energy Transition Partnership with Vietnam*, signed in Brussels on 14 December 2022. This declaration involved Vietnam and IPG partner countries, namely the European Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Denmark, and Norway

The Political Declaration recognizes the long-term objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and accelerating progress toward net-zero emissions by 2050. It also sets out the mobilization of at least USD 15.5 billion over a three- to five-year period through a combination of public and private finance. Furthermore, it mandates the development of a JETP Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP) as the main framework for investment management and technical support, covering renewable energy development, power grid modernization, energy efficiency improvements, the reduction of reliance on coal-fired power generation, and the provision of training and upskilling programs for workers affected by the energy transition

Vietnam's selection as a JETP partner is based on a combination of strong political commitment to the global climate agenda and structural challenges within its energy system. Vietnam has consistently demonstrated its seriousness through the ratification of the Paris Agreement, the submission of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and the declaration of a net-zero emissions target at COP26, which have been translated into various national policies in the energy and climate sectors.

At the same time, Vietnam's energy use remains highly dependent on coal, creating high emission risks, economic vulnerability, and social challenges in the transition process. These conditions make Vietnam highly relevant for the IPG as a country requiring financial, technical, and institutional support to carry out a just and sustainable energy transition through the JETP cooperation framework.

As a follow-up to the Political Declaration establishing the JETP in Vietnam in December 2022, the International Partners Group (IPG) and the Government of Vietnam issued a Joint Statement in 2023 reaffirming their shared political support for the implementation of the Just Energy Transition Partnership. The Joint Statement noted the launch of the Just Energy Transition Partnership Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP) by Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính at the World Leaders Summit at COP28 as a milestone in the initial implementation phase of the JETP Based on the Political Declaration and the Joint Statement, the RMP is defined as a planning framework that identifies priority investments, policy and regulatory reforms, and key projects to support Vietnam's energy transition targets and emissions reduction goals., policy and regulation (GOV.UK, 2022)

### 3.2.2 Collaboration and Coordination between Vietnam and International Partners in the Just Energy Transition Partnership

To support the implementation of the JETP framework in Vietnam, the Government of Vietnam issued Decision No. 1009/QĐ-TTg on 23 July 2023 on the establishment of the JETP Secretariat to operationalize the provisions of the Political Declaration, which serves as the main reference for JETP cooperation in Vietnam (IEA, 2024)

Based on the Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP), the implementation of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) is carried out through Working Groups that function as coordination and operational mechanisms in line with the Political Declaration. These Working Groups also coordinate with ministries, agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to regularly propose policy actions that need to be developed or refined to promote a just energy transition, as well as to monitor and evaluate the formulation and implementation of these policies.

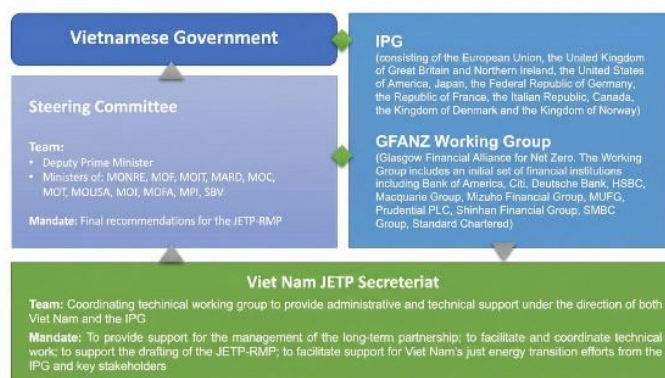


Figure 2 JETP Governance Structure in Vietnam

Source: UNOPS (2023)

This structure serves to set strategic directions, formulate final recommendations for the JETP-RMP, and ensure technical and administrative coordination between the Vietnamese government and international partners. Therefore, the structure helps institutionalizes decision-making processes, clarifies the division of roles among key actors, and creates formal channels for communication and accountability, thereby strengthening the effectiveness and coherence of multilateral cooperation in Vietnam's energy transition.

The first form of collaboration and coordination is the establishment of the Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP) as the main operational instrument of the partnership, which contains financing mechanisms, technical assistance, and the involvement of international actors in supporting Vietnam's energy transition. This is stated in the Joint Statement and the Political Declaration of the Vietnam JETP:

*“Today, the International Partners Group, comprised of the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway and the United States of America, and co-led by the EU and the UK, welcomes and endorses Vietnam's Just Energy Transition Partnership Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP). The RMP is part of the Just Energy Transition Partnership, which was agreed between Vietnam and the International Partners Group in December 2022 and will help the country deliver on its climate targets.”*  
(GOV.UK, 2022)

This statement illustrates that collaboration and coordination between Vietnam and the International Partners Group go beyond political commitments and have entered an implementation phase through the joint endorsement of the JETP Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP).

The RMP contains jointly agreed policy directions, sectoral priorities, and climate targets between the Government of Vietnam and international partners. It also includes Vietnam's ambitious 2030 targets, limitations on coal-fired power plant capacity, and the acceleration of renewable energy deployment by 2030.

In addition, the RMP includes an initial JETP financing package of USD 15.5 billion from various donors and outlines priority areas such as regulatory reform, coal power transition, renewable energy industry development, electricity transmission and storage, energy efficiency, low-carbon transport, technological innovation, and just transition principles. In its implementation, the Vietnamese government prioritizes investment in electricity transmission, energy storage, and offshore wind power as key sectors to achieve JETP targets (Larastati & Fajrin, 2024).

However, in practice, the formulation of proposals within the RMP has faced differences and delays. This was highlighted by Interviewe I:

*“JETP project proposals are not implemented unilaterally, but are subject to negotiation and mutual agreement between recipient governments and the International Partners Group (IPG). In the early phase, one major issue was the absence of coordination, as IPG members approached the government individually with their own preferred projects while the government had different priorities. As a result, both sides were effectively talking past each other. IPG partners emphasized that basic solar and wind are the cheapest, fastest, and most certain options, while the Vietnamese government initially viewed JETP funding as a large and flexible resource that could also support broader and less mature technologies such as hydrogen.”*  
(Interview with an IEEFA Representative, 6 November 2025)

Based on the statement, the early challenges in the implementation of the JETP in Vietnam were not primarily technical in nature, but rather institutional and political. The lack of coordination between the Government of Vietnam and the International Partners Group (IPG) reflected a fundamental divergence in how each party defined project priorities and interpreted the purpose of JETP funding. IPG members tended to promote projects aligned with cost-efficiency, technological maturity, and rapid deployment particularly solar and wind energy, while the Vietnamese government perceived JETP as a relatively flexible financial mechanism that could support a broader spectrum of national strategic needs, including emerging technologies such as hydrogen.

This divergence in expectations contributed to a situation in which both sides advanced their respective priorities without a sufficiently institutionalized mechanism to harmonize them. As a result, the proposal formulation process experienced delays, and early

implementation progress remained limited. The negotiated and conditional character of JETP funding further reinforced this dynamic, as financial commitments could only be disbursed after mutual agreement on specific projects and policy frameworks was achieved. Consequently, the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation under JETP depended not only on financial pledges, but also on the capacity of both parties to institutionalize coordination and align their strategic objectives.

Despite these differences in interests, the dynamic did not prevent the formation of operational agreements within the framework of the Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP). Both sides succeeded in aligning priorities through the identification of short- and medium-term strategic projects. Short-term projects include strengthening electricity transmission networks, developing energy storage systems (both battery and pumped storage), and advancing offshore wind power through regulatory support, institutional capacity building, and initial financing. Medium-term projects involve improving energy efficiency, developing large-scale solar power, and gradually reducing coal use through the early retirement of selected coal-fired power plants as part of Vietnam's energy system restructuring (Barnes, 2023).

Following the adoption of the RMP as the main instrument of cooperation, implementation efforts have focused primarily on regulatory development. The JETP Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP) was designed as a supporting instrument for the development of a long-term legal and regulatory framework for renewable energy transition in Vietnam, including the use of pricing instruments and regulatory policies. Regulatory strengthening is directed toward several key aspects (UNOPS & SETP, 2023)

Collaboration in regulatory development is concretely reflected in the RMP through the inclusion of *Priority Policy Actions* as a core pillar of JETP implementation. This component places policy and regulatory reform at the strategic center of accelerating the energy transition. The determination of Priority Policy Actions is not unilateral, but instead results from joint agreement between the Government of Vietnam, the International Partners Group (IPG), and other stakeholders, reflecting multilateral coordination and collaboration in JETP governance (Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2023)

According to the RMP, the primary institutional authority for policy and regulatory formulation lies with the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT). This is also supported by a statement from a European Union representative:

*“Now another ministry in Vietnam has taken over the coordination. It is the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), which has the competence on the energy sector planning and projects, and is therefore particularly relevant in the implementation phase. For first-of-its-kind projects, dedicated technical assistance is required, as well as MOIT's role in enacting the appropriate regulatory framework. Vietnamese ministries, especially the Ministry of Industry and Trade, are sovereign to take whichever provisions they want through legislation, decrees, and circulars. Our role as IPG partners is to provide technical assistance, advice, and recommendations, not to decide on their behalf. They have a consultation process for each new piece of legislation and international partners are often invited to provide inputs and contributions.” (Interview with an EU/JETP Representative, 28 January 2026)*

The statement indicates that the shift of JETP coordination to the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) marks a transition of Vietnam's energy transformation from a planning-oriented phase to an implementation-focused phase under an institution with direct authority over energy sector projects and regulation. MOIT's central role in drafting and enacting regulatory frameworks, combined with the need for technical assistance for first phase of implementation of the projects, and highlights the institutional importance of state capacity in turning political commitments into operational outcomes. At the same time, the consultative

role of IPG partners shows that while international actors contribute expertise and policy advice, decision-making authority remains fully with the Government of Vietnam. This arrangement means that Vietnam makes the key decisions, and international partners support with expertise rather than imposing requirements.

Moreover, coordination is carried out through structured consultation processes, including discussions on the Direct Power Purchase Agreement (DPPA). According to the interviewee, these consultations focus on interpreting and refining the regulatory framework particularly with regard to Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and DPPA in order to address legal gaps and ambiguities in existing policy mechanisms.

According Based on official updates published by the JETP Vietnam & MOIT (2025), its role as the JETP Secretariat, MOIT together with relevant ministries has proposed various mechanisms and policies to accelerate energy projects under the JETP framework. During 2024-2025, several new policies strengthened Vietnam's legal framework by reducing barriers to project implementation, including amendments to the Electricity Law, reinforcement of national energy security policies, and the introduction of market mechanisms such as the Direct Power Purchase Agreement (DPPA), which enables direct contracts between renewable energy producers and large-scale consumers.

According to the Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP), the Direct Power Purchase Agreement (DPPA) is one of the main focuses under the *Priority Policy Actions*. The DPPA policy is essentially designed as a mechanism to meet the energy needs of the industrial sector, including the provision of low-carbon electricity, amid increasing sustainability demands within Vietnam's national energy system (EVN, 2024)

The urgency of DPPA implementation is closely linked to the growing volatility of international fossil fuel markets from late 2021 through 2022, marked by sharp increases in coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices. This situation directly affected electricity production costs and triggered broader economic pressures at both global and domestic levels, including in Vietnam (IEEFA & Hubber, 2024)

Based on the interview with the IEEFA representative, Vietnam's initial power development plan became economically unviable due to a sharp increase in global coal prices, while the alternative strategy of shifting to gas also proved unsustainable following the surge in global gas prices after the invasion of Ukraine. This situation indicates that volatility in global fossil fuel markets has become a significant source of pressure on energy systems that remain dependent on coal and gas. The escalation in coal and LNG prices not only increased electricity generation costs but also constrained the government's policy space to maintain affordable energy for the industrial sector. Such instability underscores the structural vulnerability of electricity supply systems that are highly exposed to external shocks beyond domestic control.

In this context, the need for alternative mechanisms that enable access to more affordable and sustainable energy has become increasingly relevant. DPPA emerges as an instrument responding to this dynamic by allowing the industrial sector to directly procure low-carbon electricity, while simultaneously reducing exposure to unpredictable fossil fuel price fluctuations.

Beyond regulatory development, collaboration and coordination under JETP also focus on renewable energy project development. Based on the RMP, there are 181 proposed projects jointly submitted by the Government of Vietnam and international partners that are not yet included in official programs or planning documents and have not yet been implemented. In addition, there are 37 ongoing investment projects, 61 technical assistance projects, and ten

conceptual proposals submitted by international partners for the 2024-2028 period (Larasati & Fajrian, 2024)

According to the JETP Vietnam & MOIT (2025), throughout 2025 coordination efforts consistently addressed the progress of renewable energy projects and the mechanisms needed to support their implementation, including regulatory frameworks, feasibility studies, expert recommendations, advisory inputs, and project selection mechanisms.

Referring to the project selection mechanism under the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), project selection is not conducted unilaterally by a single institution, but through a transparent, staged, and facilitative process. The JETP Secretariat comprising several Working Groups and both domestic and international actors acts as a coordinator that compiles and facilitates project proposals through multiple matchmaking stages, based on criteria aligned with JETP principles (JETP Vietnam & MOIT, 2025a)

Based on the Interview with EU Representative, project selection within the JETP framework is not decided directly but must pass through a structured selection mechanism. Projects are first facilitated through a project facilitation process and matched with available funding sources, and then assessed for alignment with JETP core principles. The interviewee also explained that the initial project list originated from the RMP, with 37 projects proposed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) and seven from international partners, resulting in a total of 44 projects considered aligned with JETP principles.

From February to April 2025, the Vietnamese government, through the JETP Secretariat, actively strengthened coordination with both domestic and international actors in shaping the direction of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) implementation. A meeting held on 20 February 2025 discussed the JETP Secretariat's 2025 Work Plan and was attended by various ministries and national agencies, as well as international partners such as the International Partners Group (IPG), UNDP, and development finance institutions (DFIs). The main agenda focused on formulating project screening criteria to ensure that JETP project selection is more targeted and aligned with the principles of a just energy transition, alongside updating the Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP) and restructuring institutional procedures. This process continued on 25 April 2025 with the involvement of the IGIP under the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), EAVN, IPG, GFANZ, and UNDP, resulting in an initial agreement on preliminary project screening and the establishment of an expert advisory team to support JETP implementation (JETP Vietnam & MOIT, 2025b).

By July 2025, the focus of coordination shifted from planning to concrete implementation. On 8 July 2025, the JETP Secretariat convened a meeting with seven ministries, the State Bank of Vietnam, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) such as EVN, PVN, and TKV, as well as international partners from the IPG and GFANZ. The meeting identified several priority renewable energy projects, including power transmission network development, the Bắc Ái Pumped Storage Hydropower project, and the expansion of the Tri An Hydropower Plant. Of the seven initial projects assessed as consistent with JETP principles, three were approved, while four others continued to move toward financing agreements with IPG support. In addition, 25 new project proposals were submitted, of which 17 passed the initial screening stage, representing investment needs of approximately USD 5.52 billion. Consequently, Vietnam's JETP portfolio comprised 24 projects with a total investment requirement of USD 7.04 billion (JETP Vietnam & MOIT, 2025c).

The subsequent phase was marked by financing agreements through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in middle of 2025. Three major projects received funding commitments: the power transmission network project financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) with EUR 67 million in partnership with EVN National Power

Transmission Corporation (NPT); the 1,200 MW Bắc Ái Pumped Storage Hydropower project in Khanh Hoa Province supported by a consortium of six IPG partners (AFD/Proparco, EIB, KfW, CDP, and JICA) amounting to EUR 480 million, with an additional EUR 10 million in technical assistance from the European Union; and the Tri An Hydropower Plant expansion financed by KfW with EUR 65 million to increase capacity by 200 MW (JETP Vietnam & MOIT, 2025d).

In contrast, offshore wind power are the one of the priority areas in the RMP remains at a very early stage of development. Discussions on offshore wind development held on 11 June 2025 involved representatives from MOIT, EVN, and PVN, as well as international actors within the JETP framework, including partner countries, GFANZ, banks, DFIs, and investors. This forum indicated that offshore wind is increasingly positioned as a strategic agenda, although it has not yet entered the implementation phase.

Based on the Interview with EU/JETP Representative, offshore wind sector is currently confined to pre-implementation activities such as marine surveys and feasibility studies. Unlike the three JETP projects that have already reached financing agreements, offshore wind development still requires stronger inter-agency coordination particularly among MOIT, EVN, and PVN to strengthen the regulatory framework and technical readiness before entering the project realization phase.

Overall, collaboration and coordination are clearly reflected in the actions undertaken by the International Partners Group (IPG) and the Government of Vietnam. The first form is the establishment of the Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP) as the main instrument for institutionalizing JETP cooperation. The RMP serves as a shared framework outlining policy directions, sectoral priorities, financing mechanisms, and the division of roles between Vietnam and its international partners. From Keohane (1984) perspective, the RMP can be understood as an institutional regime that reduces uncertainty, creates shared expectations, and structures patterns of interaction among actors in multilateral cooperation. Moreover, the RMP also reflects the principles of generalized principles of conduct and diffuse reciprocity as articulated by Ruggie (1992), as it embodies shared norms, collective goals, and long-term commitments to a just energy transition.

The second form of collaboration and coordination is reflected in Vietnam's domestic policy adjustments through the enactment of three key regulations: the revision of the Electricity Law, the Politburo's decision on the strategic direction of the energy transition, and the implementation of the Direct Power Purchase Agreement (DPPA) mechanism. These policies demonstrate domestic policy coordination with the international JETP framework. According to Keohane (1984), this illustrates a process of policy coordination in which states adjust their internal policies to align with international commitments that have been agreed upon.

The third form of collaboration and coordination is reflected in the development of renewable energy projects leading to agreements on three strategic initiatives: the construction of the power transmission network, the Bắc Ái Pumped Storage Hydropower project, and the expansion of the Tri An Hydropower Plant. These agreements indicate that Vietnam-IPG cooperation has moved beyond the planning stage toward concrete implementation. From Keohane (1984) perspective, this demonstrates the effective functioning of institutional mechanisms that shape actor behavior through rules, procedures, and shared expectations, even though each party continues to pursue its respective national interests.

Meanwhile, from Ruggie (1992) perspective, the realization of these projects represents the operationalization of multilateral principles through collective and procedural decision-making. The processes of project facilitation, matchmaking, and financing negotiations show

that coordination and collaboration under the JETP are not ad hoc, but rather structured and institutionalized through jointly agreed mechanisms.

#### 4. Conclusion

This study demonstrates that cooperation between the Government of Vietnam and the International Partners Group (IPG) within the framework of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) represents an institutionalized form of multilateral collaboration and coordination. Through the establishment of the Resource Mobilisation Plan (RMP), Vietnam and its international partners have developed a shared framework that defines policy directions, sectoral priorities, financing mechanisms, and a clear division of roles in supporting the energy transition. The RMP functions not only as a planning document but also as an institutional regime that reduces uncertainty, shapes shared expectations, and guides actor behavior in accordance with the principles of multilateral cooperation as articulated by Keohane and Ruggie. Furthermore, Vietnam's domestic policy adjustments through the revision of the Electricity Law, the Politburo's strategic decisions on energy transition, and the implementation of the Direct Power Purchase Agreement (DPPA) scheme demonstrate a process of national policy coordination with international commitments. This confirms that Vietnam is not merely a recipient of external support, but an active actor that aligns its energy governance with the collective norms and objectives of the JETP. This process reflects policy coordination in which Vietnam's national interests continue to operate in parallel with the global objective of a just energy transition.

Finally, agreements on three strategic projects the power transmission network, the Bắc Ái Pumped Storage Hydropower project, and the Tri An Hydropower Plant expansion show that Vietnam-IPG collaboration has moved from planning toward concrete implementation. The mechanisms of project facilitation, matchmaking, and financing negotiations illustrate that this cooperation is procedural, collective, and institutionalized. Overall, collaboration and coordination under the JETP in Vietnam can be understood as a practice of multilateralism that is not merely normative but also operational, in which shared principles are translated into concrete policies and projects in the process of energy transition.

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