vision, the plan emphasizes the substantial potential of renewable energy in Vietnam, including offshore wind power of 600GW and solar power of over 960GW.

The plan mentions the assessment of international research and application trends, the anticipated use of emerging energy forms like hydrogen and ammonia, and the importance of new technologies like power storage and flexible power systems. The plan presents a range of 11 development scenarios and proposes the most cost-effective scenario that aligns with the objectives of increasing the share of renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The noteworthy point is that Vietnam will not build more coal -fired power plants after 2030, gradually shift to using biomass fuel or ammonia, and prioritize the development of gas-fired power. In the future, Vietnam will use mixed fuel before shifting to 100 percent hydrogen and ammonia use in the long term. After 2035, it will not develop new LNG sources.

PDP VIII provides a comprehensive list of major and priority power source projects. For renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, hydro, biomass, and waste-to-energy, the plan outlines total capacity across six regions, following a planning cycle of five years. This systematic approach facilitates effective planning, operation, adjustment, and monitoring of the plan implementation.

Ha Dang Son, Director of the Center for Energy and Green Growth Research (CEGR), emphasized the significant importance of approving PDP VIII in ensuring national energy security and fulfilling Vietnam's commitments to climate change mitigation. Son highlighted that the plan's approval, following a comprehensive two-year review process, will provide a crucial legal framework for implementing power transmission projects, helping enhance the capacity of renewable energy projects in the central and southern regions as well as those of 500kV transmission lines to balance supply and demand between the three regions. Economist Ngo Tri Long said power development plays a pivotal role in laying the foundation for the country's rapid and sustainable growth, promoting an independent and self-reliant economy, improving the people's livelihoods, and ensuring national defense and security.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade, through its significant contribution, has played a crucial role in the building and submission of PDP VIII. Ngo Tuan Kiet, Director of the Institute for Energy Technologies, said that from April 2022 to April 2023, the Ministry of Industry and Trade closely monitored the updating of data, providing clear directives to the consulting units and making necessary amendments to ensure the plan aligns with the rapidly changing global landscape and Vietnam's commitments, particularly in the development of renewable and clean energy. The ministry's strong emphasis on renewable energy development, including the consideration of potential renewable energy centers for both domestic consumption and exports, is a remarkable aspect of PDP VIII, Kiet said.

Dr. Ha Dang Son added that with technical support from various international organizations, the consulting units applied methodology and advanced planning tools to addressing emerging challenges. The continuous updates to the draft, such as COP26