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## ALP Newsletter January - March 2023

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## E-Newsletter

January – March 2023



*Jeepneys are a lifeline for Filipino commuters. They offer an affordable mode of transportation that support the livelihoods of thousands of independent operators.*

Dear readers,

### Greetings from the Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP)!

We are delighted to present the latest issue of the ALP newsletter, and extend a warm welcome to all of you. Over the last quarter, the ALP Secretariat has been proactively communicating with select member

countries to ascertain their priority requirements for support in the areas of clean energy and reducing carbon emissions in the transportation sector. This exercise is intended to enhance ALP's emphasis on executing activities that are demand-driven, have high impact, support policy goals, and lead to greater decarbonization ambition. We eagerly anticipate sharing further information with you regarding these initiatives in the forthcoming months.

## Asia Regional Engagement Highlights

### Peer Learning Event: 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

At the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development, the Asia LEDS Partnership organized a side event on the March 30, 2023, which focused on fostering peer learning and capacity building for increased access to electrification and increasing the share of renewable energy. Government representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Philippines shared their experiences in increasing access to electricity and transition to renewable energy sources. All three countries have deployed different approaches to achieve their energy needs, particularly in transitioning to greater utilization of Renewable Energy (RE). The session provided the participants an opportunity to learn from their shared experiences, and to further delve into identifying similar solutions in their own countries. This panel included Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Philippines representatives, and the key takeaways from their presentations are summarized below.

#### *Bangladesh - Policies to achieve 100% electricity coverage*

Shah Zulfikar Haider, Technical Adviser to Sustainable & Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), Government of Bangladesh, spoke of the policies and measures adopted by his country to achieve 100% electricity coverage. He mentioned that in 2009, there was massive load shedding and only 50% of the country was electrified. This led the Bangladesh government to take concerted efforts to expand electrification to 100% coverage by 2022, and develop an energy efficiency and conservation plan, which included short, medium and long-term measures. In the last 13 years, Bangladesh has been able to reduce system losses from 16.85% in 2009 to 10.41% in 2022. It aims to further reduce losses up to 7.5%. At present the primary fuel is oil, gas and coal. Bangladesh's current energy consumption from clean sources, including off-grid, is only 5%, but by 2041, the country targets of covering 40% of its power generation with clean energy.

#### *Bhutan - Using off-grid renewables to achieve 100% rural electrification*

Dechen Dema, Executive Engineer, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Government of Bhutan, highlighted the role of off-grid renewable to achieve 100% rural electrification. She mentioned that Bhutan's electrification rate currently stands at 99.97%, however 72% of the nation's energy requirements are met through thermal energy, and 28% of the total energy share is met through renewable energy sources including hydro power. Given the rugged terrain of rural areas in Bhutan,

standalone solar home lighting systems and off-grid solar PV plants are the most suitable alternatives in providing electricity to these regions. So far, a significant number of solar water heating systems, biogas plants for cooking, and improved cookstoves have been installed across the region and have complemented the existing power system.

Success factors for expanded use of off-grid PV solar plants:

- Government policies, including the use of 5-year plans to maintain a structured timeline
- Financial support through grants and loans, including from non-conventional sources
- Applying and building a skilled local workforce through:
  - leveraging existing local skilled workforce
  - building capacity through virtual training
  - creating advocacy programs on RE technologies
  - utilizing existing helicopter services for materials transport
- Engagement with local community including advisement on benefits of adoption

#### *Philippines - Lessons and challenges of Green Energy Auction Program*

On behalf of the Philippines, Gaspar G. Escobar, Jr., Chief of Technical Service, Department of Energy, presented experiences, lessons and challenges in conducting the Green Energy Auction Program. He spoke of the fiscal and non-fiscal incentives that were being deployed by the Department of Energy to expand the share of renewable energy in the country. The National Renewable Energy Program 2020-2040 aims to increase the RE share to greater than 50% by 2040. The program has developed a holistic approach that integrates different RE transition pathways, enables RE off-grid strategies and resource specific programs.

Success factors and key outcomes for Green Energy Auction Program:

The program has developed a holistic approach that integrates different RE transition pathways, enables, RE off-grid strategies and resource specific programs. The conducive environment created through the implementation of the Renewable Energy Act and subsequent policies has led to the decreased costs of RE resulting in lower contracted generation rates. The Government took advantage of the low rates to launch the Green Energy Action Program in June 2022. The success rate of the Auction Program was 93% in which 18 bidders won, generating 1866.13MW RE capacity- 1 Biomass, 7 Solar, 4 Wind and 6 Hydropower.

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#### **Grid Renewable Energy CoP**

The ALP Secretariat with support from the Global Climate Action Partnership (GCAP) has been in discussions with the Department of Energy, Government of the Philippines to identify priority topics for which technical

assistance can be provided. One of the key areas that has emerged is the 'hybridization of large islands with solar power.' The scope of work will be finalised in the coming weeks.



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### Emerging Topic: Green Hydrogen in Asia

In response to growing interest in the region about planning and technical considerations related to the development of Green Hydrogen, for industrial applications such as green ammonia or other end-use applications, the ALP is looking into designing regional peer-learning and knowledge sharing activities in 2023. These activities will also provide a pathway for the ALP to gain deeper understanding on country specific drivers and needs, thus enabling further design activities with deeper technical content. More details will be shared over the next few months.

## Spotlight - Change Makers in Climate Action

This quarter, ALP has recognized Dr. Nurun Nahar, who serves as the Joint Chief of the Programming Division at the Bangladesh Planning Commission within the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as a Change Maker in Climate Action.



Along with her role as Project Director of the Urban Resilience Programme at the Bangladesh Planning Commission, Dr. Nahar possesses more than two decades of experience in integrating disaster and climate considerations into planning and development. She has played a crucial role in establishing robust database systems that aim to enhance the public investment management capability. In addition, she holds membership in the Council of Climate Leaders, which is part of the Global Climate Action Partnership.

### What has been your contribution towards the fight against Climate Change?

During my work as the Project Director of the National Resilience Programme (NRP) implemented with technical support from UNDP in partnership with three other ministries in Bangladesh: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, and Local Government

Division, I have spearheaded the development of a web-based decision support platform to integrate disaster risk information into development planning and budgeting, policies, and projects, known as Disaster and Climate Risk Information Platform (DRIP) (see image below). I have initiated engagement with private sector for increasing resiliency from disaster and climate risks through studies on supply chain of the Ready-Made-Garment (RMG) sector and formulating a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority. Previously, I was the focal person for an ADB assisted TA project for developing and publishing the first ever district-based Bangladesh Climate Risk Atlas. The data and maps of the atlas formed the base of the DRIP. Additionally, I have been involved in improving capacities for gender responsive and risk informed development planning.

**According to you, what are the 3 key opportunities that countries in Asia should take up to ensure the climate goals in this region are met?**

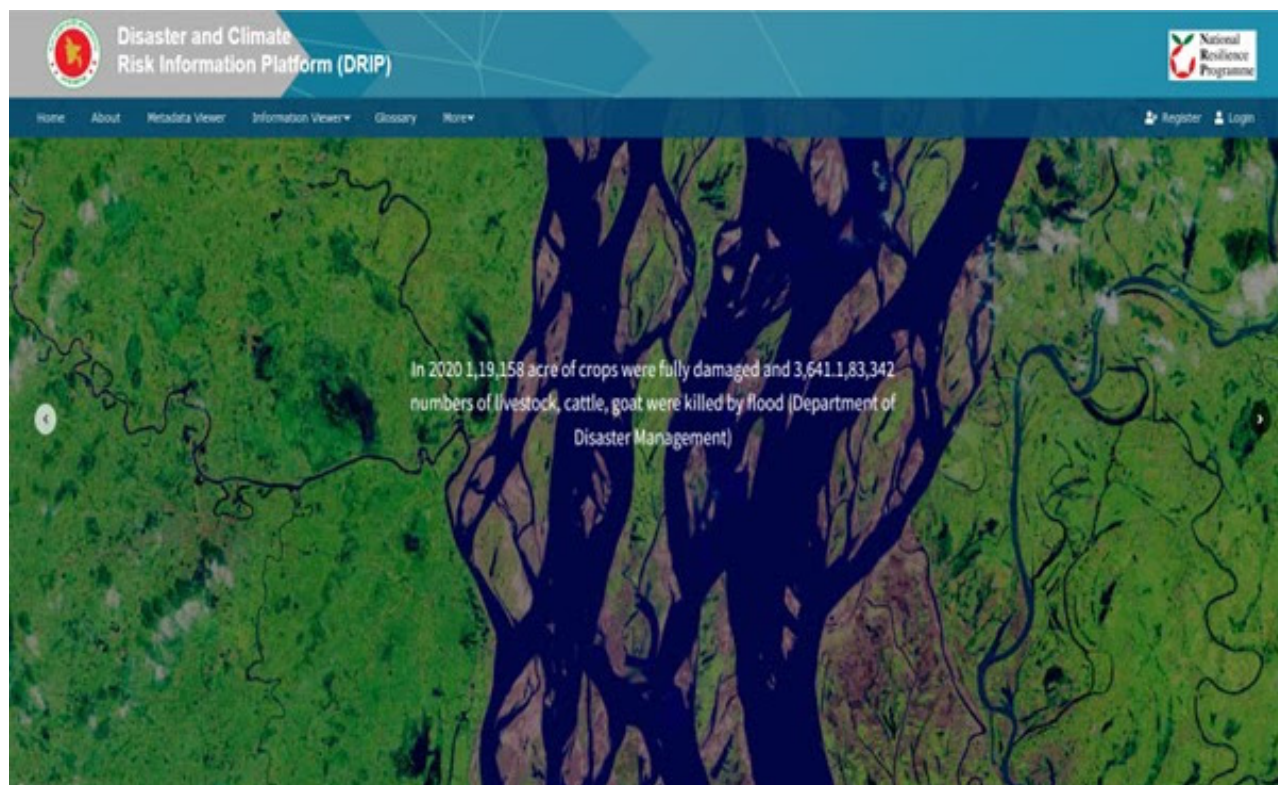
1. The need of the hour is to focus on collecting robust scientific data, and apply advanced modeling techniques through collaboration and joint research, in order to understand the climate risk and gaps in information. This will help us improve our perspective and identify evidence-based solutions that need to be integrated into our policies and programmes to remain sustainable in the long run.
2. Further, it is important to reinforce climate considerations in our governance systems, encourage coordination with other ministries, integrate sectoral policies into national and sub-national development policies and plans
3. Finally, we must take advantage of modern technology, utilize digitalization processes and increase capacity of the relevant organizations to cope with the rapid pace of development.

**What is your one take away message for the ALP community?**

The ALP provides an excellent platform for experts and professionals who are working in the field of low-emission development. Member countries can take advantage of the resources provided by ALP to improve gaps in reaching their own NDC/climate goals. As members, it is crucial that we utilize this platform to its full potential, enabling us to continually share knowledge and learn from experiences throughout the region.

**Image: Disaster and Climate Risk Information Platform (DRIP), Government of Bangladesh**





Please visit the [Disaster and Climate Risk Information Platform \(DRIP\)](#) to know more about the region.

## Activities of Interest

### Greening of the Philippines' Recovery and Resilience Strategies

As the Philippines economy gradually recovers from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential for both the public and private sectors to move away from the business-as-usual practices of the past that has rendered the country among the most vulnerable nations in the Asia-Pacific region to the combined impacts of health, socio-economic, and environmental disruptions.

This was the main message of a recent study on green recovery in the Philippines. Undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the Government of the United

### How Can We Accelerate Green Energy Transition in Asia-Pacific?

The Asia-Pacific (APAC) region plays a central role in the global efforts to reach net-zero and achieve a green energy transition. As more countries in the region pick up the pace of development, and achieve progress against the backdrop of an ongoing energy crisis, so does the urgency to act with effective transition models. This article shares the responses of three prominent leaders on how Asia and the Pacific can prioritise energy efficiency and renewable energy in the coming year, while focusing on the role of industries.

[Read more.](#)

### Research Report on the Promotion

Kingdom and in collaboration with Global Factor and ICLEI– Local Governments for Sustainability, Southeast Asia (ICLEI SEAS), the study aims to take advantage of the opportunity to redesign the development trajectory of the country after the COVID-19 pandemic towards a greener and more sustainable one.

[Read more.](#)

### **The Net Zero Transformation of Green Building and the Building Energy- Efficiency Rating System in Chinese Taipei**

In response to the problems of climate change and global warming, many countries around the world have declared net zero emissions targets. Chinese Taipei has built a staunch foundation in building energy conservation through the promotion of green building policies emphasizing ecological, energy saving, waste reduction and health benefits. The paper provides an analysis of two demonstrative projects recently certified as nearly zero carbon building (nZCB), both of which achieved over 50% in energy saving. The aim is to encourage more application in the future on the path towards the vision of net zero building by 2050.

[Access the paper here.](#)

### **Strategy of Resource Circulation in Chinese Taipei**

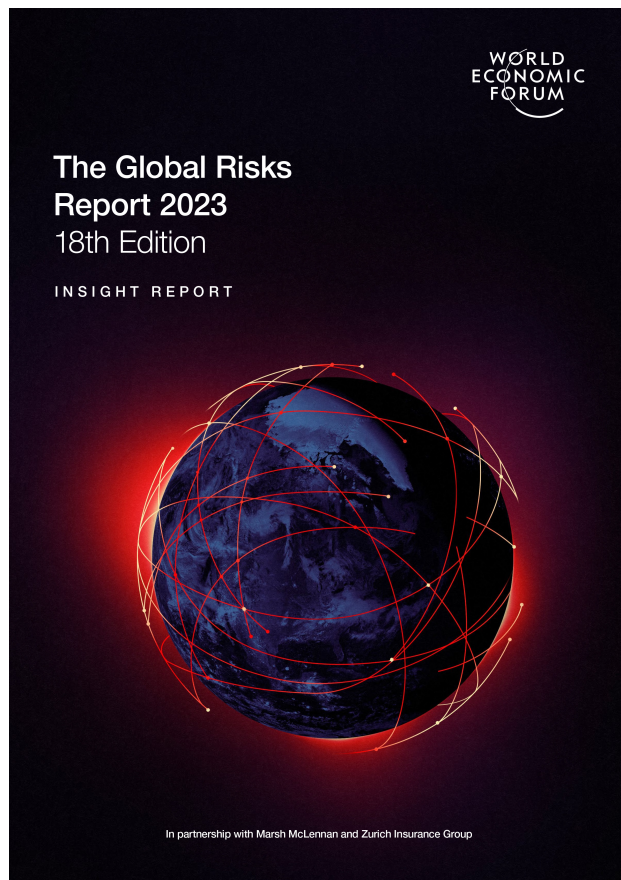
Chinese Taipei has limited natural resources. Therefore, The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) formulated the Resource Recycling Act to save natural resources, facilitate material recycling and reuse, reduce the environmental load, and establish a society of sustainable resources. In addition, to effectively accelerate resource circulation, the EPA established the Office of Resource Circulation in July 2021, responsible for overall resource circulation policy planning and management. The resource circulation policy is formulated from the perspective of four primary materials, namely biomass, organic chemical substances, metals and chemicals, and inorganic recycled aggregates. This paper highlights the promotion strategies adopted to maximise material circulation, increase material utilization efficiency and reduce the demand for raw materials.

[Access the paper here.](#)

## **Perspectives from the Region**

### **Global Risks Report 2023**

The Global Risks Report 2023 presents the results of the latest Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS). The report takes into account two different time frames for understanding global risks - the most severe global risks that many



expect to play out over the short term (two years), and the risks that are likely to be most severe in the long term (10 years). The analysis shows that in the short term 'cost of living crisis' and 'natural disasters and extreme weather events' are top ranked, respectively. However, in the long term, 'Failure to mitigate climate change' and 'Failure of climate-change adaptation' are ranked 1st and 2nd respectively.

[Access the report here.](#)

## Global Landscape of Renewable Energy Finance 2023

The third edition of the biannual joint report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) examines investment patterns from 2013 to 2020, evaluating trends across technology, sector, region, source of finance, and financial instrument.

It identifies financing gaps to support informed policy making for the deployment of renewables at the scale needed to accelerate the energy transition.

The report finds that investments have become further concentrated in specific technologies and uses, and in a small number of countries and regions. It underscores the need to direct public funds to regions and countries that have





considerable untapped potential but find it difficult to attract investment. Funding must be focused on supporting energy transition infrastructure development, as well as enabling policy frameworks to drive investment and address persistent socio-economic gaps.

[Access the report here.](#)



## Skills Development and Inclusivity for Clean Energy Transitions



### Skills Development and Inclusivity for Clean Energy Transitions

Ongoing energy transitions and decarbonization efforts are poised to bring profound shifts in the sector's employment, including massive new opportunities for job creation in clean energy. At the same time, traditional energy sectors will experience declining job opportunities. In most cases, this will require the development of both new programmes of education, certification and vocational training along with targeted upskilling or reskilling programmes for the existing workforce.

Several governments, companies and industry organisations, among other stakeholders, are already developing robust educational and skills training programmes to meet the challenges of the workforce transition. Therefore, a review of existing skills and training programmes can provide valuable insights for others embarking on their own energy transitions.

This report compiles a collection of case studies from around that world that showcase programmes designed to address skills development of workforces for energy transitions.

[Access the report here.](#)



## Upcoming Events

### **Capacity Building Workshop: The Pathway to Decarbonized and Cleaner Mobility in Asia and the Pacific- Starting from the region's key priorities**

**Date:** 3 May, 2023

**Time:** 09:00 – 18:00 (Manila) /

08:00 – 17:00 (Bangkok)

[Registration link](#)

The workshop is being organized by UNITAR CIPAL Jeju and ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability with an aim to strengthen the capacity of the government officials, private sector, civic groups, research institutes etc. working on road transport in Asia and the Pacific region. The workshop will focus on strategies and policy guidelines in line with country NDCs, sharing good practices (national and international) showcasing transit-oriented development, mobility options and related technologies, successful cases of funding sources etc.

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### **Peer Learning Session: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Chinese Taipei**

**Date:** May/June 2023 (TBC)

**Online:** Zoom

A series of webinars will be organised that showcase good practices from Chinese Taipei that may be of interest to other countries in Asia and the Pacific. The topics that will be showcased are the following:

- Speeding Up Local Energy Transition:

### **International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA17)**

**Date:** 22 – 25 May, 2023

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

The Community - Based Adaptation (CBA) conference series aims to bring together a community of practitioners who are collectively seeking to reimagine solutions that enable transformative outcomes, through the agency of communities driving climate action.

CBA is a space for the adaptation community of practitioners to come together to share how to put the principles for locally led adaptation (LLA) into practice, recognising the complexities, innovations and challenges that must be overcome. [More information](#)

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### **Future Energy Asia Exhibition and Summit**

**Date:** 17 - 19 May 2023

**Location:** Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Future Energy Asia (FEA) provides unparalleled access to the government and industry leaders transforming the energy value chain in Asia and across the world. Over three days, Future Energy Asia will bring together Ministers, Energy CEOs, policymakers and technical experts from around the world to analyse critical trends shaping the energy sector, drive innovations that will forge new pathways in the transition to net-zero, and

#### Tools and Case Stories

- Promotion of Chinese Taipei Offshore Wind Power Phase 3 Development
- Ocean Carbon Sink Enhancement Strategy

To know more, please reach out to [alpsecretariat@iclei.org](mailto:alpsecretariat@iclei.org)

build partnerships that will bring us closer to making energy accessible, secure, and affordable for all. There will be dialogues around Asia's contributions to the global energy transition and shine a spotlight on the region's ongoing decarbonisation efforts. [More information](#)

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### Follow us



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