RCC Asia and the Pacific
Collaboration for Climate Action

Co-organizers

Network Malaysia, Brunei & Cambodia

COP31 High-level event

Accelerating Clean Energy Transitions in Asia: Implementing NDCs, Measuring Progress, Unlocking Investment

Friday, 13 November 2026, 16:00–17:00 (UTC+3) | UNFCCC Pavilion, COP 31, Antalya, Türkiye

Background:

The Asia region accounts for over half of global greenhouse gas emissions, and the region's power sector remains heavily reliant on coal. At the same time, renewable energy is now the lowest-cost source of new generation across most of the region, climate ambition has risen through successive NDC cycles, and regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) and the ASEAN Power Grid, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation and the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection, as well as the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Energy Strategy 2030 have set out a shared agenda for integration and decarbonization across Asia. Yet deployment is still falling short of what national targets imply. The constraints are no longer primarily ambition or technology, but institutional capacity, policy sequencing, project preparation, and access to finance at the pace and scale the transition requires.

As Parties move to implement NDC 3.0 and prepare their second Biennial Transparency Reports, the task is to translate headline energy targets into sequenced national roadmaps, measurable indicators and investable project pipelines. Without this, energy transition commitments remain declaratory, and the data needed to assess collective progress through the second Global Stocktake will remain fragmented and incomparable across countries.

Three main issues lie at the heart of this challenge in Asia – acceleration of implementation, measurement of progress and unlocking investment.

First, on implementation, how can high-level NDC energy sector targets become sequenced on national roadmaps, policies and plans that ministries, regulators and utilities can act on? Second, on measurement, how can the transparency framework go beyond a reporting obligation and serve as a tool to generate credible, comparable evidence of progress across the region? Third, on investment, how can that evidence, combined with better project preparation and appropriate risk-sharing, unlock financial pipelines at scale, including through Article 6, blended approaches and catalytic philanthropic capital?

This high-level event convenes governments, regional institutions, development finance providers and non-Party stakeholders to discuss these three questions and identify solutions and good practices that can accelerate Asia's clean energy transitions. It builds on a growing base of regional cooperation, spanning energy planning, cross-sectoral alignment, project preparation, coal transition and the philanthropic and private capital that funds early-stage work before projects become bankable.

Objectives:

1. Building on the different regional convenings in Asia in recent months, including the Asia ACT Forum, communicate where Asia stands against its energy NDC targets, and the main challenges and barriers to accelerating implementation.

2. Examine how national implementation can be strengthened through sequenced roadmaps/ plans, institutional capacity and improved project preparation.
3. Explore how the transparency framework and MRV indicators can be used to measure progress credibly and comparably across countries.
4. Consider what makes energy transition plans investable, including the role of policy-based finance, Article 6, and blended approaches.
5. Highlight the role of the private sector and climate philanthropy and how they can best complement public climate finance in the region.
6. Strengthen coordination among regional institutions, development partners, philanthropy and non-Party stakeholders around a shared delivery agenda to accelerate clean energy transitions.

Targeted Audience:

- Government representatives, in particular energy and environment ministries and NDC focal points
- Development partners, multilateral development banks and climate funds
- Regional intergovernmental bodies, including ASEAN institutions and UN regional commissions
- Non-Party stakeholders, including the private sector, philanthropy, youth constituencies and civil society
- Transparency and MRV practitioners preparing Biennial Transparency Reports
- Other relevant stakeholders

Draft Agenda (60 minutes):

Time	Agenda
5 min	**Opening remarks** Why NDC implementation and the energy priorities are central to the COP31 agenda • *Abdürrahim Durmuş, Head of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Policies Department, Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye, COP 31 Presidency*
10 mins	**Keynote remarks** Energy transitions across the globe: Insights from the COP31-IEA High-Level Energy Transition Dialogues • *Dan Dorner, IEA Sherpa and Head of the Strategic Initiatives Office, IEA* The imperative for accelerating energy transitions: How regional dialogues will carry the outcomes to the Global Stocktake, upcoming BTRs and NDC 4.0 • *Daniele Violetti, Senior Director, UNFCCC secretariat*
40 mins	**High-level panel: Implementing NDCs, measuring progress and unlocking investment** <u>Round 1: Implement</u> What is blocking delivery of NDC energy targets in terms of policy, institutions, project preparation and capital? What needs to be done to accelerate the needed transition? <u>Round 2: Measure</u>

Time	Agenda
	How can transparency and reporting be turned from an obligation into an investment signal? What common indicators and baselines would make progress comparable across countries? <u>Round 3: Invest</u> What would make plans investable, and where can philanthropic and private catalytic capital step in? What would make regional cooperation on grids, markets and standards deliver faster? Moderator: *Kate Hughes, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB* Panelists: • *Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, Vice Chairperson, Climate Change Commission, Philippines* • *Rachel Harris, Director, NDC & Transparency Capability, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia* • *Rana Ghoneim, Director, Energy and Climate Action Division, UNIDO* • *Norela Constantinescu, Deputy Director, IRENA Innovation and Technology Center* • *Sze Ping Lo, Director, Sequoia Climate Foundation* • *Marconi Madai, Senior Vice President, Corporate Services, Sarawak Energy* Q&A (10 min)
5 mins	**Concluding remarks** Key messages and closing reflections • *Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition, and Assistant Secretary-General of the Climate Action Team.*

Contact persons:

1. Julie Amoroso-Garbin, Regional Lead, UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific (onsite)
2. Juhi Bansal, NDC & LT-LEDS Specialist, UNFCCC RCC Asia-Pacific (offsite)