

Draft: 13 April 2023

Concept Note

CS79 Side Event Connecting Local, National and Regional Strategies to Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Asia and the Pacific

16 May 2023, 12:45 – 13:45

UN Conference Center, Bangkok, Thailand

The Asia-Pacific region accounts for 54 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.¹ Thirty-nine out of 49 Asia-Pacific member States have made carbon neutrality and/or net-zero pledges, including China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.²

Representing more than a quarter of global GDP and over a third of global carbon emissions as well as leading technology innovators, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are uniquely positioned to lead multilateral efforts in combatting the climate crisis in the Asia-Pacific region. Their leadership in advancing the global climate agenda will be critical to a transition to a climate-resilient future at home and abroad. And as key actors, cities and local governments are developing strategies, policies and measures in transitioning to carbon neutrality, aligned with their national strategies.

Taking the opportunity of the 79th Commission session, the proposed side event aims to showcase concrete actions led by cities and local governments in the three countries to accelerate towards national net-zero goals and to discuss how city-led climate actions and national support could expedite the collective regional climate action in Asia and the Pacific. The side event will also build on the outcomes of the Second International Forum on Low Carbon Cities (December 2022) and the Second Forum on Carbon Neutrality Goals of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (February 2023)

¹ ESCAP (2022) Review of Climate Ambition in Asia and the Pacific

² Same as reference 1 above

Objectives

- To showcase actions initiated by cities and local governments for carbon neutrality and to discuss how to accelerate climate actions at the local level in Asia and the Pacific.
- To facilitate information sharing on national policies and strategies to support and ensure the implementation of zero carbon measures at the local level.

Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda
10 min.	OPENING Opening and welcoming remarks (ESCAP, TCS, 1 member State)
45 min.	Roundtable Discussion (4-5 panelists) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Topic 1: National policies and strategies to support and ensure the implementation of zero carbon measures at the local level• Topic 2: Actions of cities and local governments towards carbon neutrality
5 min.	CLOSING