Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2026

Side Event: Cities in Motion: How Youth Innovation and Data Empowers Sustainable Transport

27 February 2026, 10:30 – 12:00, Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, and online

*For virtual participation, please join the event via **https://zoom.us/j/94020749474***

Organizers

ESCAP Transport Division (TD), British Embassy Bangkok, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and the International Labour Organization

UN-Habitat, ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability South-Asia, ITDP, Property Guru

Event Focal Point
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Background

Cities across Asia and the Pacific are accelerating efforts to decarbonize urban transport in response to climate change, air pollution, and growing demands for accessible and inclusive mobility. Electric mobility is emerging as a key pathway in this transition, with implications not only for infrastructure and technology, but also for skills development, workforce preparation, and community participation.

Efforts to advance youth-led innovation and skills development are unfolding alongside support for data-enabled planning and transit-oriented development, which reflects a more integrated approach to sustainable urban mobility. Together, these efforts provide an important framework for scaling low-carbon mobility solutions and improving access to jobs, services, and opportunities across the city.

To address these needs, the Empower E-Mobility Challenge was launched in Bangkok as a student competition for young people across the city to contribute ideas for more inclusive and sustainable urban mobility. Through school-based workshops and collaboration with public and private stakeholders, the initiative highlights the role of youth in shaping future mobility systems while building their awareness of emerging skills and career opportunities in the electric mobility sector. This side event will serve as the awards ceremony of the Challenge, where finalist teams will present their submissions and reflect on work-shadowing experiences with leading e-mobility companies in Bangkok.

Both the Empower E-Mobility Challenge and work on data-driven transit-oriented development are being delivered under the Thailand-UK PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions) programme, in partnership with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. This side event therefore brings these initiatives together, using the experiences and case studies in Bangkok as a practical basis to explore

how youth-led ideas can inform urban mobility planning in other cities across Asia and the Pacific.

Objective and Scope

This side event aims to advance a Just Transition by connecting participatory, youth- and community-led innovation with the planning and governance frameworks required to scale inclusive low-carbon transport solutions. Through the Empower E-Mobility Challenge, the event highlights the value of engaging students not only in idea generation, but also in applied learning opportunities that strengthen skills development, workforce readiness, and understanding of implementation pathways.

Building on this foundation, the event examines how data-driven transit-oriented development and integrated urban mobility planning can enable cities to move from localized innovation toward system-wide impact. This includes exploring how coordinated land-use and transport planning, improved access, and targeted low-carbon infrastructure investment can support more inclusive and sustainable mobility.

By situating these discussions within the Bangkok context, where youth innovation initiatives and data-enabled planning are being advanced in parallel, the side event illustrates how such approaches can mutually reinforce each other in practice. By fostering dialogue across policy, practice, and community perspectives, the side event seeks to strengthen collaboration among city authorities, development partners, the private sector, and young people, while sharing practical insights from Bangkok that can inform inclusive, evidence-based transport transitions in other cities across Asia and the Pacific.

Event Format
The side event will be held in a hybrid format, with interpretation available in both English and Thai.

Programme

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Alex Rendell, Actor, Singer, CEO of Environmental Education Centre Thailand and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador

Time	Programme
15 minutes	**Opening Remarks** • Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, ESCAP • Mr. David Thomas, Chargé d'Affaires, British Embassy Bangkok, Thailand • Mr. Chadchart Sittipunt, Governor of Bangkok
40 minutes	**Award Ceremony of the Empower E-Mobility Challenge:** The ceremony will include the announcement of results and presentation of awards to six finalist student teams, each consisting of between one and four team members (10 minutes), followed by a photo

Time	Programme
	session with all student finalists alongside ESCAP's Executive Secretary, Chargé d'Affaires of the British Embassy Bangkok, and Governor of Bangkok (5 mins). The ceremony will then continue with presentations from the two first-place teams (5 minutes each) followed by brief reflections from judges (5 minutes). The ceremony will conclude with a guided student reflection segment, during which selected students will share insights from their work shadowing experiences (10 mins).
30 minutes	**Panel Discussion: Transit-Oriented Development in Bangkok: Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Mobility.** This session explores how Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) can support sustainable and inclusive urban mobility in Bangkok, with a focus on people-centered, climate-friendly development. It will highlight lessons learned, practical approaches, and policy insights to improve walkability, cycling, and access to public transport in TOD areas. • Ms. Chompoutiantip Buriwachira, UNLEASH Bangkok Hack 2025 Lab in Mobility • Ms. Deliani Poetriayu Siregar, Deputy Director, Southeast Asia Office, ITDP • Mr. Richard Allan Aquino, Head of Brand & Marketing Services, PropertyGuru Group • Mr. Shingo Iguma, Director, International and Digital Policy Division, City Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan *Moderator: Mr. Atit Tippichai, Urban & Regional Planning programme, KMITL and Senior Transport Planner, ICLEI*
5 minutes	**Closing Remarks** • Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki, Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat
Lunch	