Financing and Safeguarding A Just Transition in Asia: Trends and future pathways for just and inclusive transition to a zero-carbon economy

Side Event: 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development
Date: March 29, 12:15-13:30 PM, GMT+7
Room number: Theater, Ground Floor

Organizer(s)
Fair Finance Asia, Swedwatch, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights Regional Office for South-East Asia

Co-organizer(s)
Stockholm Environmental Institute

Registration
To register for this side event, please use:

https://forms.office.com/e/WZ4Dp7Kkwf

for initial registration to the event.

Please be advised that to attend the side event, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD by March 13 using the link here:

https://indico.un.org/event/1003108/

Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose “Financing and Safeguarding a Just Transition.” Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.
**Background**

Environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive renewable energy projects are critical to reaching both Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7 and 9, as well as meeting the Paris Agreement targets. While investment in renewable energy is imperative, expansion of renewable energy technologies must be coupled with human rights due diligence to safeguard the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and ecosystems that are particularly vulnerable to cumulative effects of climate change and environmental degradation. It requires duty bearers, including financial institutions and energy operators promoting renewable energy projects, to respect and protect the right of individuals and communities to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, as well as labour rights throughout supply chains.

The event aims to inform and raise awareness among duty bearers, including States, Development Finance Institutions, and business actors attending the 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on the importance of adopting a rights-based approach to a just and inclusive renewable energy transition.

**Key Questions and Outcomes**

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. How important is a just and inclusive renewable energy transition in the Asia Pacific region to meet SDGs 7 and 9?
2. What are key trends, opportunities, and gaps in financing renewable energy transition in the region? Furthermore, what are key environmental and human rights, as well as gender-based challenges that the region faces in the current context of renewable energy transition?
3. How can different stakeholders engage to accelerate effective actions to safeguard a just and inclusive energy transition in the Asia Pacific Region.

Through moderated discussions with key experts and stakeholders, the event highlights regional trends, opportunities, and gaps in financial mechanisms, as well as social and environmental challenges involved in the transition. It also highlights importance of different States and business actors including development finance institutions and energy operators in adopting human rights-based and gender responsive policies, as well as other mechanisms to mitigate
environmental damage and human rights violations in renewable energy projects. The event seeks to facilitate a dialogue on future pathways to achieve a just and inclusive transition to a zero-carbon economy in the Asia Pacific Region.

Programme

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:15-12:20 (5 min)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>• Yayoi Lagerqvist, Swedwatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:20-12:25 (5 min)</td>
<td>Keynote</td>
<td>• Dr. Pichamon Yeophanthong, Chair of UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:25-12:45 (20 min)</td>
<td>Dialogue 1: Regional trend, opportunities, and gaps</td>
<td>• Bernadette Victorio, Oxfam/Fair Finance Asia</td>
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<td>• Parimita Mohanty, United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<td>12:45-13:05 (20 min)</td>
<td>Dialogue 2: Actions and pathways towards a sustainable, just, and inclusive energy transition</td>
<td>• Thanida Lawseriwanch, Bank of Thailand and Thailand Taxonomy Working Group</td>
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<td>• Pianporn Deetes, International Rivers</td>
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<td>13:05-13:25 (20 min)</td>
<td>Q &amp; A session</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:25-13:30 (5 min)</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>• Katia Chirizzi, United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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* Session includes “meet and greet the speakers” mingle starting 11:45 AM

For more information on the side event, please contact Yayoi Lagerqvist, Swedwatch at yayoi@swedwatch.org