Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport: Identification and Development of Climate Financing Mechanisms

Regional Meeting

16-17 May 2024

Multifunction Hall 3
Asian Development Bank Headquarters
Manila, Philippines

Introduction

Following the launch of the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport in August 2022, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has conducted a series of subregional consultation and capacity building workshops to mobilize transport ministries and key stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to engage in the transport and climate change policy process and to help advance the goals of the Paris Agreement through transport strategies. In each of these workshops, representatives from ESCAP member States shared their national low carbon transport goals, policy priorities and implementation action, as well as their experience in the development of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies.

Discussions have led to the emergence of several common areas of priority and needs across the Asia Pacific region. This Regional Meeting will focus on one of these common priorities, which is the identification of climate financing mechanisms for low carbon transport. This topic was identified by ESCAP member States for in-depth analysis and technical assistance due to existing gaps in the technical, institutional and financial support that they are currently experiencing in the transition to low or zero carbon transport.

Climate finance is pivotal to the implementation of long-term sustainable and low carbon transport infrastructure policies. Low carbon transport will require both public and private

financial support and specialized know-how on the design, operation, and management of risks. Examples of climate finance include grants provided by multilateral funds, market-based and concessional loans from financial institutions, sovereign green bonds issued by national governments, and resources mobilized through carbon trading and carbon taxes. In addition to climate funds, green loans and bonds can also finance low carbon transport investments.

However, the limited scale of climate finance and the challenges in accessing sustainable financing mechanisms are still constraints for many countries in Asia and the Pacific. In addition, many ESCAP member States require assistance to develop bankable projects with clear definitions of associated costs, benefits and risks.

Meeting Objectives

This regional meeting on the identification and development of climate financing mechanisms for low carbon transport provides an opportunity for ESCAP member States and other stakeholders to present low carbon transport financing challenges, needs, as well as solutions. It also serves as a platform for multistakeholder engagement and to identify climate financing mechanisms best suited for low carbon transport in Asia and the Pacific through possible regional coordinated action. This meeting is part of the second phase of the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism for Low Carbon Transport in Asia and the Pacific, which supports the development and implementation of transport and climate change mitigation plans of ESCAP member States.

Format and Registration

The Regional Meeting will be conducted in person and virtually. Please register via the link below and indicate your participation format.

https://forms.office.com/e/fdSyE46U3V

Tentative Programme

Day One: Thursday, 16 May 2024

Time (GMT+8)	Topic	Speaker
9:00-9:30	**Opening Session** This session will present the background, structure and key objectives of the Regional Meeting, as well as opening remarks on relevant initiatives in Asia and the Pacific on climate finance for low carbon transport.	**Weimin Ren**, Director, Transport Division, ESCAP **James Leather**, Chief, Transport Sector Group, Asian Development Bank
9:30-10:30	**Session 1: Introduction to Climate Finance Options to Support Low Carbon Transport** This session presents a range of innovative financial instruments and mechanisms that are targeted at climate and transport action, including project finance, funds and facilities, thematic bonds, carbon pricing and debt for climate swaps. Financing solutions that can support the implementation of low carbon transport pathways will also be highlighted.	**Subathirai Sivakumaran**, Chief of Financing for Development Section, Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, ESCAP **James Leather**, Chief, Transport Sector Group, Asian Development Bank **Andres Pizarro**, Head of Transport Sector, Infrastructure Investment Department Region, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank **Binyam Reja**, Global Practice Manager for the Transport Practice in the Infrastructure Vice Presidency, World Bank
10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**	

Time (GMT+8)	Topic	Speaker
11:00-12:30	**Session 2: Discussion on Key Low Carbon Transport Financing Barriers and Challenges** ESCAP member States are invited to share their low carbon transport financing challenges, priorities and lessons learned.	**Heather Jones**, Consultant, ESCAP **ESCAP Member States** • Indonesia • Lao PDR • Nepal • Thailand
12:30-14:00	**Lunch Break (Executive Dining Room)**	
14:00-15:30	**Session 3: Sustainable Business Models for Low Carbon Transport** This session will present successful financing mechanisms and business models in Asia and the Pacific, as well as in other regions of the world. Case studies will be shared as examples where low carbon transport vehicles, such as electric buses and associated infrastructure have been designed, implemented and financed successfully.	**Pawan Mulukutla**, Executive Program Director - Integrated Transport, Clean Air and Hydrogen, World Resources Institute India **Marcela Jaramillo**, Program Manager, 2050 Pathways Platform **Mark Howells**, Director, Climate Compatible Growth
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break**	
16:00-17:15	**Session 4: Regional and Global Transport Financing Initiatives** This session will highlight existing regional and global financing initiatives that provide financing and funding options to climate aligned transport projects.	**Manoj Kumar Muthumanickam,** Project Oversight and Management Specialist, GEF - Climate Change Mitigation Unit,

Time (GMT+8)	Topic	Speaker
		United Nations Environment Programme **Urška Skrt**, Mobility Manager, World Business Council for Sustainable Development **Rosa-Stella Mbulu**, Technical Support Unit, Mitigation Action Facility **Naomi White**, Head of the Global Transition, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, UK
17:15-17:30	**Day One Wrap Up** Key discussion outcomes will be summarized.	**ESCAP**

Day Two: Friday, 17 May 2024

Time (GMT+8)	Topic	Speaker
9:00-9:15	**Wrap up of Day One and Introduction to Day Two Meeting Objective**	**ESCAP**
9:15-10:30	**Session 5: Subregional Characteristics in Asia and the Pacific** Potential differences and similarities in financing low carbon transport across subregions in Asia and the Pacific will be discussed. The possibility of creating a regional initiative to accelerate and align climate financing options for low carbon transport in the Asia Pacific region will also be discussed.	**Mel Eden**, Data Analyst, Asian Transport Outlook **ESCAP Member States** • **East and Northeast Asia** • **South and Southwest Asia** • **Southeast Asia**

Time (GMT+8)	Topic	Speaker
		• **Pacific**
10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**	
11:00-12:30	**Session 6: Discussion on Matching Investors with Climate Aligned Transport Projects** Platforms that can be created to support the matching of public and private investors with climate aligned transport projects will be discussed in this session.	**Cherrie Nuez**, British Investment Partnerships (BIP) / Infrastructure Advisor, British Embassy Manila **ESCAP Member States**
12:30-14:00	**Lunch Break (Executive Dining Room)**	
14:00-15:30	**Session 7: Discussion on Creating Bankable Projects** This session is focused on supporting countries in their development of low carbon transport projects that can be successfully financed. ESCAP member States are invited to share their priorities and potential gaps in capacity that need to be filled.	**Alice Yiu**, Director for Policy Outreach, SLOCAT **ESCAP Member States**
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break**	
16:00-17:00	**Session 8: Action Plan on Low Carbon Transport** An Action Plan on the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport is being drafted and planned to be presented at the Eight Session of the Committee on Transport in November 2024. This session will present a draft outline and seek ESCAP member States's feedback based on the preceding sessions of the regional meeting.	**ESCAP** **ESCAP Member States**

Time (GMT+8)	Topic	Speaker
17:00-17:30	**Closing session** Key discussion outcomes will be summarized and next steps will be discussed.	**ESCAP**