Renewable Energy Transition: Is Asia Leading?

Background

Renewable energy uptake can be supported and driven by many players: policy-makers at global, national, and sub-national levels, citizens, private sector, energy consumers. In parallel, renewables can support the objectives of end-use sectors by delivering clean and sustainable energy options.

Cities are key actors for the transition to renewable energy. They regularly lead on efforts to deploy renewable technologies, especially in heating, cooling and road transport. However, their contribution to the energy transition is not well understood because comprehensive information about city-level developments is lacking.

This DDW will draw on two key REN21 publications: Renewables 2019 Global Status Report and Renewables in Cities – Global Status Report. The workshop will present the status of renewables globally, look at what is happening in Asia and then see what Asian cities are doing, and can do, to drive renewable uptake.

Objective

Good data and knowledge are needed to inform decision-makers about developments and processes that can support multi-level policy development and increased renewable energy uptake.

Through presentations and discussion participants will look at:

- key renewable trends and developments globally and across Asia and the Pacific
- the role cities in supporting integrated policy approaches and how these can drive the uptake of renewables

Benefits to ADB:

- Examples of approaches that can be used to strengthen governance and institutional capacity
• Identification of city-level knowledge providers
• Example of activities that foster regional cooperation and integration
• Strengthen inter-regional cooperation between East and Northeast Asia with South-eastern Asia through the hosting of the International Renewable Energy Conference (Seoul, Oct 2019) and the Asia Clean Energy Summit (Singapore, Nov 2019).
• Highlighting ADB’s contribution and collaboration with REN21 and UNESCAP on the upcoming Asia-Pacific Renewable Energy Status Report

Benefits to ACEF Participants:
• Latest information on the status of renewables globally, in Asia and the Pacific and at the city level
• Participation in a global, community-driven process of data reporting
• Inputs from participants and results from the discussions will: contribute to the development of two REN21 publications

Agenda

2:00-2:10  Welcome

2:10-2:30  The Status of Renewables Globally and the Catalytic Role of Cities
Asia release of the Renewables 2019 Global Status Report - presentation on the latest findings of the report, with a focus on Asia-Pacific and cities as key actors for the transition to renewable energy

2:30-2:50  Panel Discussion: Expert views
Panelists offer their views on what they think can be/are the entry points for renewables in their sector.

2:50 -3:20  What is your view?
• Audience divides into groups to answer the following question: What do you think are the top three opportunities/entry points that could drive rapid uptake of renewables in the region?
• Groups report back to the entire audience and panelists provide remarks

3:20-3:30  Summary and Close

Speakers

Laura Williamson (REN21)
Glynda Bathan (CleanAir Asia)
Lathika Chandra Mouli (Vertech Capital)
David Elzinga (ACEF co-chair, ADB)
Hongpeng Liu (UNESCAP)
Clotilde Rossi di Schio (SEforALL)
Katarina Uherova-Hasbani (EnRupt)
REN21 is a policy network that brings together governments, inter-governmental organisations, industry, NGOs, and science and academia to advance the transition towards renewable energy. This network is an international community of experts who work together, sharing knowledge and information. Together with this network, REN21 provides high-quality, up-to-date information to shape the global energy debate.