

Asia LEDSPARTNERSHIP Forum 2013: Putting LEDSPARTNERSHIP into Practice

October 1-4, 2013 | Manila, Philippines

Meeting Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Overview and Objectives	1
2.	Monday, September 30 – Pre-Meetings	1
	Transport and LEDS Workshop	1
	Green Growth Best Practices	2
	Nepal: Consultation and Feedback on New Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy	2
	Sharing Challenges of Regional Training Programs for Low Carbon Knowledge Creation	2
	Asia LEDS Partnership Steering Committee Meeting.....	2
3.	Tuesday, October 1 – Learning and Sharing on LEDS in Practice	3
	Opening Plenary.....	3
	Plenary: Low Emission Development in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities	4
	Concurrent Session I: Implementing LEDS and Green Growth	5
	Open Space Session: Tools and Practices for Implementing LEDS and Green Growth.....	6
4.	Wednesday, October 2 – Strengthening Peer Networks and Addressing Challenges	8
	Plenary: Building Effective Communities of Practice.....	8
	Concurrent Session 2: Communities of Practice.....	8
	Plenary: Expanding the LEDS Network.....	9
	Plenary: Reporting Back and Next Steps	10
5.	Thursday, October 3 – Skills Training for LEDS Practitioners.....	12
6.	Friday, October 4 – Site Visit.....	13
7.	Observations and Conclusion	13
	Additional Observations	13
	Conclusion	14
8.	Event Evaluation Results	14

I. OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The *Asia LEDS Forum 2013: Putting LEDS into Practice* brought together 250 representatives from 22 Asian and Pacific countries and peers from Africa, South America, North America, and Europe. Participants represented national and subnational governments, international organizations, civil society groups, academic institutions, and businesses. The event was the second annual gathering of the Asia LEDS Partnership, a regional network that supports peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing, and improved coordination among governmental and non-governmental partners to help Asian countries achieve transformative, sustainable economic growth. The Asia LEDS Partnership is one of three regional platforms of the LEDS Global Partnership.

The theme, “Putting LEDS into Practice,” reflected interest from members to focus on practical aspects of LEDS and green growth, taking into consideration different country needs and development contexts. **The three objectives of the Asia LEDS Forum were to support peer learning and sharing, build communities of practice, and acquire skills to support LEDS implementation.** The 2013 Forum employed a variety of interactive formats over a course of four days to effectively deliver on the theme. Content focused on key areas of LEDS implementation, including engaging stakeholders, securing finance, selecting appropriate tools, and assessing impacts.

According to the post-event survey, a large majority felt the Forum successfully met its three objectives, and that nearly all sessions proved “very useful” for their everyday work.

The Forum was hosted by the Philippine Climate Change Commission, with support from Asia LEDS Partnership members including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Numerous collaborating partners included: the World Bank Institute, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Clean Air Asia, USAID-funded Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests (LEAF) program, and the LEDS Global Partnership. The USAID Low Emissions Asian Development (LEAD) program, as Secretariat for the Asia LEDS Partnership, provided technical, logistical, and administrative support for the Forum.

A summary of proceedings follows. A list of participants and copies of all materials are available online at <http://forums.asialeads.org/>.

2. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 – PRE-MEETINGS

This day was allocated to relevant side meetings organized by members of the Asia LEDS Partnership and cooperating partner organizations.

Transport and LEDS Workshop

This full-day workshop, hosted by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Energy Working Group and Transportation Working Group, and organized with support from the USAID APEC Technical Assistance and Training Facility, drew approximately 50 transport practitioners from across Asia and the Americas. A key objective was to build interest and encourage active participation by transportation officials in the LEDS planning processes underway in their respective economies. Participants discussed how to craft transportation plans that incorporate policy measures and financial investment strategies that contribute to the delivery of low emission transport. Multiple case studies were presented in each of these areas to inform development and implementation of transportation strategies.

Green Growth Best Practices

The Green Growth Best Practices (GGBP) initiative is an effort supported by Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), CDKN, and European Climate Foundation to review effective practices and analyze the approaches being taken in different countries to achieve green growth. Since January 2013, GGBP has worked with 75 authors from all regions of the world, levels of government, and diverse stakeholder groups to analyze nine priority topics: planning and coordination; national and subnational integration; monitoring and evaluation; benefits assessment and communication; options and pathways analysis; vision, targets, and baselines; policy design; public private partnerships; and financing strategies.

Participants provided comments on the initial analysis, including whether the best practice lessons drawn are compatible with their own experiences. Discussion focused on two priority topics: planning and coordination, and options and pathways analysis. A synthesis report, incorporating comments and suggestions received, will be published in February 2014.

Nepal: Consultation and Feedback on New Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy

The Government of Nepal has begun to prepare a Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy (LCEDS). During this session, participants engaged in an active discussion with the LCEDS drafting team to provide comments, including whether Nepal's LCEDS is compatible with other experiences, how to refine the strategy, and how to make the strategy most useful to identify a green development path. The Nepal team comments that the many suggestions received will help it refine the strategy and action plan.



Participants from Nepal involved in development of the Low Carbon Economic Development Strategy.

Sharing Challenges of Regional Training Programs for Low Carbon Knowledge Creation

During this session, 12 development organizations and implementing agencies shared their current activities and plans for large-scale, regional training programs in Asia. Participants recognized that there are many capacity building activities in Asia, many with overlapping curricula, and there are significant opportunities to work together to avoid duplication. The group will undertake a simple exercise to catalogue current training offerings, and requested that the Asia LEADS Partnership convene quarterly or semi-annual meetings to share updates and enable coordinated planning and development of training offerings.

Organizations represented were: ADB, the Asian Institute of Technology, GGGI, the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, LEAF, Japan's National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), UNDP, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia, and the World Bank Institute.

Asia LEADS Partnership Steering Committee Meeting

The Asia LEADS Partnership Steering Committee, led by two Co-Chairs from the Indonesia National Council on Climate Change and from USAID, is responsible for guiding the identification, design, organization, and delivery of support activities to members. The Steering Committee met to catalogue progress in 2013, and to begin discussing the process for developing the 2014 work plan, and what inputs to collect from participants at the Asia LEADS Forum to inform that effort.

Steering Committee members discussed the following potential priorities for the 2014 Asia LEADS Partnership work plan:

- Setting targets for membership recruitment, by country and organization type;
- Creating a simple mechanism to identify needs and coordinate support resources;
- Methodically coordinating among donors to identify collaborative opportunities;
- Integrating climate resilience activities in the work plan;
- Clarifying long-term vision, goals, and sustainability milestones; and
- Diversifying funding sources.

The Steering Committee met again at the conclusion of the Forum on Friday, October 4 to follow up on recommendations and outcomes from the Forum.

3. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1 – LEARNING AND SHARING ON LEDS IN PRACTICE

The Forum opened with a series of speeches and thematic presentations highlighting the increasing trend in Asia towards low emission, climate-resilient development. A distinguished panel of regional experts offered insights on challenges and opportunities facing countries, followed by a series of concurrent sessions to further explore these themes and to provide experiences and examples of successful low emission initiatives. The day ended with a trade show-style session with displays demonstrating 16 different LEDS tools and good practices. Mr. John Bruce Wells of the USAID LEAD program, which serves as the Asia LEDS Partnership Secretariat, served as the moderator for the Forum.

Opening Plenary

Opening the Asia LEDS Forum 2013 on behalf of the Government of Philippines, Mr. Naderev Saño, Commissioner of the Philippine Climate Change Commission, asked participants, “Do you want to change the world?” and suggested that to do so, each person and each country must “be the change you want to see” to enable transformation, development, and a solution to climate change.

Mr. Reed Aeschliman, USAID Philippines Deputy Mission Director, and Ms. Preeti Bhandari, Advisor and Head of the Climate Change Program Coordination Unit of the ADB, also offered welcoming remarks, emphasizing LEDS as a vehicle to accelerate economic and social development and to improve human well-being. They noted the significant potential co-benefits to low emission development, such as new employment opportunities and lower emissions of air pollutants that harm public health.

The keynote address, delivered by Secretary Mary Ann Lucille Sering, Vice Chairperson of the Philippine Climate Change Commission, provided inspiration and examples of national and subnational actions being taken in the move toward a low emission, climate-resilient pathway. Through a multimedia presentation, Secretary Sering detailed the vulnerability of the Philippines to the impacts of climate change, and outlined seven policies and initiatives the government is taking in response under its National Climate Change Action Plan.



Dr. Doddy Sukadri and Mr. Orestes Anastasia, Co-Chairs of the Asia LEDS Partnership, shared progress since the partnership’s launch in September 2012, including delivering hands-on practical activities in high-interest areas and facilitating direct peer exchanges. The Co-Chairs also noted upcoming plans to further support members and enable smarter, more sustainable development throughout Asia. Mr. Ron Benioff, Director of the LEDS Global Partnership, then highlighted LEDS Global Partnership developments relevant to the region, including new resources such as technical advisory services that are available to members of the Asia LEDS Partnership.

Plenary: Low Emission Development in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

This plenary panel discussion highlighted challenges Asian countries face in implementing LEEDS and green growth strategies, as well as drivers and opportunities to advance these efforts. Panelists included representatives from national and subnational governments, multilateral institutions, and non-governmental organizations leading on low emission development in Asia:



- Secretary Neric Acosta, Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection, Philippines
- Mr. Mohamed Jamil bin Ahmad, Senior Vice President, Planning and Compliance Division, Iskandar Regional Development Authority, Malaysia
- Mr. Gil-Hong Kim, Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Division, ADB
- Dr. K Vijaya Lakshmi, Vice President, Development Alternatives, India
- Mr. Mario Marasigan, Director, Department of Energy, Philippines
- Dr. Yetti Rusli, Senior Adviser to The Minister of Forestry, Indonesia
- Mr. Ali Sheikh, Regional Director Asia, CDKN, and Chief Executive Officer, LEAD Pakistan

Key challenges and barriers the panel identified included:

- Rapid urbanization and population density
- Increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events, exacerbating vulnerabilities and creating barriers to inclusive, cost-effective growth
- Climate change externalities not captured in market price signals
- Limited government resources
- Competition between short-term political interest and actions with long-term benefits
- Securing buy-in from stakeholders
- Difficulties in engaging Ministries of Finance
- Obtaining and sharing data between government agencies
- Effectively engaging the private sector in mitigation and adaptation

Significant opportunities included:

- Identifying and replicating best practices
- Leveraging clean energy innovations to “leapfrog” ahead
- Scaling-up renewable energy technologies (e.g., off-grid solar lighting and geothermal)
- Promoting green building and construction in urban and rural areas
- Legislation to incentivize investment
- Promoting accountability via a “report card”
- Better educating stakeholder groups, including youth, women, and communities, on LEEDS issues especially implementation
- Lowering risk perceptions for private sector investment in mitigation and adaptation
- Raising awareness and improving communication on benefits related to LEEDS
- Knowledge sharing among peers

An important part of the discussion, moderated by Ms. Preeti Bhandari of the ADB, focused on ways to facilitate and encourage private sector investment in LEEDS and green growth initiatives, considering both large corporations and small and medium enterprises. Panelists brought attention to important enabling conditions such as cohesive and complementary policies that support broader objectives, stable policy frameworks, innovative financing solutions for projects, and integrating climate change impacts into infrastructure development.

Concurrent Session I: Implementing LEDS and Green Growth

The first set of sessions focused on concrete examples of how peers in Asia are working to overcome challenges in implementing LEDS policies and programs, and highlighted effective frameworks and good practices.

Presentation Title	Presenter(s)	Key Points
Ia: Engaging Decision Makers and Other Stakeholders		
Engaging Decision Makers and Other Stakeholders	Rebecca Carman, UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement enables LEDS to align with national development vision, and ensures political commitment, a broad range of voices, and ownership. Three tips to identify who to engage and how: identify key sectors and linkages across sectors where actions could have significant impact; build on existing policy, regulation, finance, and governance systems; and identify key influencers.
Ecotown: The Del Carmen Experience, Philippines	Alfredo Matugas Coro II, Municipal Mayor of Del Carmen, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ecotown framework involves working with public and private stakeholders to address climate change vulnerability. Community and youth engagement have been especially valuable to gain wide acceptance and follow-through.
Green Growth Case Study in San Vicente, Palawan, Philippines	Yongsung Kim, Global Green Growth Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons learned in stakeholder engagement: directly involve national and local leaders, maintain regular contact, consider interests of small yet powerful stakeholders, and view stakeholders as partners and not recipients.
Experiences from Bhutan	Thinley Namgyal, National Environment Commission, Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges in engagement include: low level of capacity and awareness, varied interest and sectoral priorities, limited transfer of information by focal persons to colleagues, and policy instability.
Ib: Financing and Fiscal Adjustments for Green Policies: Framework and Country Cases		
Framework and Korea Case	Sang Dae Choi, World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are several effective tools and mechanisms to better link green policies and funding, both within public expenditure plans and financing tools outside the national budget. Green growth initiatives were integrated into annual budget and a medium-term expenditure plan, with 2 percent of GDP allocated to green growth. Health and education budgets also increased, balanced by cuts to poor performing programs and government administration expenses.
Cambodian Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) Trust Fund	Khlok Vichet Ratha, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCCA Trust Fund is a multi-donor trust fund (USD 11 million), under management by UNDP. It is a starting point for developing a national climate change fund. One next step is to develop a Climate Change Fiscal Framework.
Financial Incentives For Pursuing Green Investments in Malaysia	Syed Ahmad Syed Mustafa, Malaysian Green Technology Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Success of green technology is contingent on policy, incentives, and regulatory framework. Three financial incentives used in Malaysia are: tax incentives (exemptions), feed-in-tariffs, and a green technology financing scheme.
Clean Energy Development Bank: Experience in Nepal	Barsha Shrestha, Clean Energy Development Bank Ltd. (CEDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEDB is the only specialized private sector bank for clean energy financing in Nepal. It offers loans for hydropower, solar, biogas, and clean transport. CEDB mobilizes national and international funds for climate change projects.
Ic: Linking LEDS with Broader Green Growth Strategies and Climate Resilience		
Introduction	Pablo Benitez, World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green growth must address major environmental problems (e.g., improve resource use efficiency, transform energy systems) and enable long-term socially inclusive economic growth. Suggestions for integrating LEDS with climate resilience include: establish action plans with clear mitigation and adaptation targets, mainstream climate change into development plans, and promote programs and projects that maximize synergies.

Integrating Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies: Lessons from the Philippines	Secretary Neric Acosta, Presidential Advisor for Environmental Protection, Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laguna Lake has been developing as a model green city. Over 80 percent of buildings will be green buildings (with green roofs, water reclamation, zero waste). Initial cost for green building is high but there are immediate cost savings and longer-term benefits. Winning buy-in of officials is challenging. The program is difficult to replicate in densely populated areas.
Climate Resilience: The Nexus of Adaptation and Mitigation	Randall Freed, LEAD Program, ICF International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting adaptation and mitigation planning (and funding) streams promotes their holistic integration. Benefits of effective integration are improved resilience and possibly better access to adaptation finance.
Towards Low Carbon Sustainable Growth: Innovation in Housing Sector	K Vijaya Lakshmi, Development Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small-scale projects to integrate mitigation and adaptation in low-cost housing in India have been successful. Replication is challenged by absence of policy instruments for low-carbon resilient housing, and lack of support from officials.
Id: Monitoring and Measuring Impacts		Many studies and models exist to help monetize benefits and assess impacts. Case studies presented showcase application of models for policy making and robust decision making.
Development Impacts: Bridging Theory, Policy, and Action	Eric Zusman Institute for Global Environmental Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Asian Co-Benefits Partnership is a platform to improve information sharing on co-benefits in Asia. The goal is to mainstream co-benefits into decision making processes.
The Social and Economic Impacts of Green Growth Policies in Vietnam	Dang Thi Thu Hoai, Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIEM used a Computable General Equilibrium model to measure social and economic impacts of four potential green growth policies (subsidy reform, environmental tax, energy efficiency, and low carbon investment). All policies were beneficial in the long-term, despite possible short-term loss.
United Nations University (UNU) Tools for Planning Urban Co-benefits	Christopher Doll, UNU Institute of Advanced Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNU demonstrated a suite of tools to evaluate co-benefits (e.g., emissions, air pollution, fuel demand) of interventions in urban transport, energy, waste, and governance. Tools can be used for first order policy screening, ranking, and more.
Implementing a National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mitigation Target Towards Green Growth	So Won Yoon, Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea (GIR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIR assessed policy and technology measures in Korea and identified GHG reduction potential by sector. According to the study, over 87 percent of reductions are possible at less than USD50 per tonne, and reduction plan application will begin in 2015. Corporations are required to report and meet targets in preparation for an emission trading scheme.

Open Space Session: Tools and Good Practices for Implementing LEDS and Green Growth

This marketplace-style session included 16 “stations” which highlighted an array of cross-cutting and sector-specific tools and good practices that facilitate LEDS implementation. Participants were encouraged to visit each station to engage in small group and one-on-one discussions to learn how to adopt or customize these tools and practices for their own context.



Participants visit stations during the Open Space Session to learn about available tools to support decision making and implementation of national and subnational LEDS.

Station Name	Description of Tool or Good Practice
<i>Accounting for Carbon in the Forestry and Land Use Sector</i> , presented by LEAF	An integrated package of tools to estimate avoided carbon dioxide emissions and removals related to the forestry and land use sector.
<i>Asia-Pacific Integrated Model for Quantitative Assessment of LEDS</i> , presented by NIES	An integrated assessment model that helps in analyzing GHG emission mitigation options and evaluating impact/adaptation actions for avoiding severe climate change damages.
<i>Capacity Building for Climate Smart Future in Asia</i> , presented by World Bank Institute	An assortment of LEDS related tools and knowledge and learning products for LEDS capacity building from the World Bank Group – such as e-learning courses, planning and modeling tools, an interactive board game, and Leadership for Climate Change methodology.
<i>CarbonCounts</i> , presented by Abt Associates	An online tool that consolidates and simplifies reporting, verification and management of climate change and environmental progress, including GHG mitigation, adaptation, energy consumption, waste generation, water use, and green procurement.
<i>Climate Resilience: Analyzing Fast-Track Implementation (CRAFTI) Tool</i> , presented by USAID LEAD Program / ICF International	Prototype spreadsheet tool to promote resilience in energy-related infrastructure projects. The tool identifies combinations of climate hazard, impact, and resource/asset at risk; identifies FTI options; and provides case studies on demonstrated viability of these options.
<i>Derisking Renewable Energy Investment</i> , presented by UNDP	A framework and financial tool to assist policymakers to quantitatively compare the impact of different public instruments to promote low emissions energy systems, with a particular focus on renewable energy.
<i>Development Impact Assessment: Tools and Resources to Meet Your Needs</i> , presented by LEDS Global Partnership	A web application under development to assist in selecting the tools that best meet user needs for measuring the economic, social and environmental impact of LEDS actions.
<i>GHG Protocol Mitigation Accounting Initiative</i> , presented by World Resources Institute	The Policy and Action Accounting and Reporting Standard provides guidance on estimating the GHG effects of policies and actions. The Mitigation Goals Accounting and Reporting Standard provides guidance on how to assess and report progress toward GHG reduction goals.
<i>LEDS @ WORK: Tools and Practices</i> , presented by Philippine Climate Change Commission	Application of analytical tools to support LEDS implementation: natural resources assessment, rapid assessment for city emissions, sustainable transport policy toolkit for local governments, geographic information systems, and Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning system.
<i>Lighting a Billion Lives</i> , presented by The Energy Research Institute	A model of energy service delivery that sets up micro solar-enterprises in un-electrified or poorly electrified villages to replace kerosene-based lighting with cleaner, more efficient and more reliable lighting, through promotion of rural entrepreneurship.
<i>LEDS Transport Toolkit</i> , presented by World Resources Institute - EMBARQ	A web-based toolkit that provides access to technical resources and training to support government planners, decision-makers, and technical practitioners that are planning and implementing transportation LEDS at the regional, national, and local levels.
<i>Thailand's Low Carbon City and Carbon Label Initiatives</i> , presented by TGO	A nine-step process to involve stakeholders in working towards a Low Carbon City. TGO also offers three carbon labels: Carbon reduction (industry), Carbon footprint (products), and CoolMode (textiles).
<i>The Geospatial Toolkit: Map-Based Exploration of Clean Energy Opportunities</i> , presented by U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory	A map-based software application that integrates renewable energy resource data and other geographic information systems data to enable exploration and simple analysis of a country's renewable energy potential.
<i>Transitioning to Low Carbon Urban Development through Enhanced Local-National Dialogue</i> , presented by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability	Urban-LEDS defines a pathway to transition a city to a low emission, green and inclusive urban economy, through its integration into city development plans and processes.
<i>Transport Emissions Evaluation Model For Projects</i> , presented by Clean Air Asia	A suite of Excel-based, free-of-charge spreadsheet models to enable the rapid but sound assessment of the emission impacts of transport projects using readily available data.
<i>UNU Tools for Planning Co-benefits in Urban Sectors</i> , presented by UNU - Institute of Advanced Studies	A suite of Excel-based tools to evaluate co-benefits (e.g., emissions, air pollution) of interventions in urban transport, energy, waste, and governance. The Avoid, Shift, Improve framework is used to simulate interventions and calculate co-benefits as a guide for policy planning.

4. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 – STRENGTHENING PEER NETWORKS AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

The second day of the Forum focused on strengthening communities of practice for peer learning in key sectors, and on expanding the network to engage stakeholders who are integral to the scale-up of LEDS.

Plenary: Building Effective Communities of Practice

Featured speaker Mr. Pradeep Nair from the Institute for Sustainable Communities spoke on the importance of communities of practice and how to build an effective community. His top three recommendations were to encourage ownership by community members, set an agenda driven by member needs and wants, and plan for sustainability from the start.

Representatives from three working groups under the LEDS Global Partnership then overviewed their work to support communities in energy, transport, and subnational and national integration, including resources available to practitioners in Asia. Mr. David Ganz, LEAF, presented a proposal to launch a new agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) working group under the Asia LEDS Partnership.

Concurrent Session 2: Communities of Practice

Each participant attended one of four sessions to strengthen regional peer networks in a key thematic area. Key opportunities for learning through a community are identified in italics below.

Energy:

- Many organizations provide LEDS assistance in the energy sector at the national, bilateral, regional, and global levels. Participants learned about three networks: the Clean Energy Solutions Center, the World Bank Institute's integrated collaborative learning platform, and India's Low Carbon Growth Group.
- Representatives from India, Nepal, and the Philippines shared the key challenges they face in LEDS implementation, sources of support, and topics where learning through a "community of practice" could be useful.
- Small groups then identified more *specific areas for learning through a community, including outreach, assessment tools, financial models, technology, and case studies across all of these areas.*



Group activity during the communities of practice session focused on integration of subnational and national LEDS.

Transport:

- Because climate is not the main driver of decisions in the transport sector, decision-makers typically look for information coming from non-climate sources. The group learned of a number of networks on transport that work in Asia, including Clean Air Asia and the ADB Community of Practice on Transport. *Many participants had not heard of these networks, and expressed interest in information on their offerings and how to participate.*
- Small groups discussed what networks they are currently involved in, shared actual examples of learning through communities, and noted online mechanisms – with access to local points of contact – as most useful.
- Participants showed particular interest in *local level exchanges* (e.g., between cities) and *in-depth, end-to-end case studies and recommendations to support implementation* of LEDS.

Subnational and National LEDS Integration:

- Desktop research revealed that there are over 110 networks related to low emission development at the subnational level in Asia.
- A panel highlighted three networks working on LEDS topics at the subnational level in the Philippines, Thailand, and urban centers in South Asia. A major role of national government is to form policies and mechanisms to promote LEDS. But there is not always vertical collaboration, resulting in subnational projects being driven by programs, and not by national policies. *Better alignment between subnational entities and national counterparts could make projects even more effective.*
- Small groups identified needs related to tools, systems, training, and monitoring and evaluation; lessons learned; and catalysts needed for subnational and national collaboration. All agreed on the *need for more capacity building at the subnational level.* Almost all agreed that resources are stretched and it is difficult to acquire new skills for LEDS implementation.

AFOLU:

- Four speakers from the public sector (Indonesia and Vietnam) and academia shared their experiences in low emission planning for AFOLU sectors to highlight existing good practices, and how a “community of practice” can help to advance mutual learning and progress on LEDS.
- The group reviewed a list of existing AFOLU networks in Asia, the thematic areas they cover, types of learning occurring through these networks, and mechanisms used to facilitate learning.
- Small groups discussed how a potential new AFOLU working group can add value to current mechanisms for shared learning in Asia, and promote integration of land use issues into subnational and national LEDS. Groups agreed that an *AFOLU working group could add value*, and that it should *seek to harmonize and integrate solutions across existing communities and bridge the communication gap between existing networks* in this sector.

Plenary: Expanding the LEDS Network

This session provided insights on opportunities to promote increased collaboration with diverse stakeholders. Panelists included representatives from the media, academia, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations, all of whom are working on topics related to LEDS and are successfully engaging a variety of stakeholders to support their work. Key points from the discussion included:

- To effectively communicate the imperatives of low carbon development, LEDS should not be exclusively tied to the climate change debate, but rather to ethics and equity. Due to inefficient practices, life is becoming more difficult for many; all stakeholders can make choices to not compromise options for future generations.
- Decision-makers do not make decisions in a vacuum. General public interest and awareness in issues play an important role in indirectly influencing the process. Public campaigns and media presence are thus important.
- The media is not a single entity. There are an increasing number of entry points, especially with social media. A one-size-fits-all media strategy is no longer effective. Rather a targeted, segmented communications approach is required, one that is flexible and quick to respond.
- Asian researchers are in a position to innovate to benefit their country. It is important for researchers to pursue country-specific agendas and to dialogue with policy makers in order to advance low-carbon societies in their own unique context.
- Trust and sustainable development are important drivers to engage corporations. Trust means there must be clear regulations to guide corporations in decision making (e.g., to invest, participate in initiatives, manage reputational risk). Initiatives with sustainable development co-benefits align well with corporate policies.
- LEDS concepts and strategies should be cascaded down from high-level national discussion, through sectoral initiatives, to enterprises, to make potential actions and commitments by business very clear and specific to their context.

- Making the “business case” to partake in LEDS, via innovation, investment, and participation in initiatives, is an important step. Small and medium enterprises are an especially important group for outreach, as that is where much investment occurs in Asian countries.

Plenary: Reporting Back and Next Steps

In the final plenary session of the day, representatives from each of the concurrent sessions shared key points from the discussion. Representatives from the first set of concurrent sessions noted selected implementation barriers to putting LEDS and green growth into practice, and highlighted effective strategies cited by participants to overcome those barriers.

	Barriers	Effective Strategies to Address Barriers
Engaging Decision Makers and Stakeholders	Climate change is a technical subject and can be difficult for stakeholders to grasp – especially at community levels, but also in sectoral ministries.	Different stakeholders require different ways of communicating. Communities, in particular, need very clear language; “gossip” worked well in supporting engagement and expectation management in Siargao, Philippines, for example. Awareness and capacity building is the key to empowerment. Cultural barriers and considerations must be taken into account.
	Each year brings new terms – Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), LEDS, green growth. Linking these strategies becomes difficult, and can lead to “stakeholder engagement fatigue”.	Embed LEDS work within a broader economic context to “shield” the work on the ground from political changes. Understanding and communicating economic opportunities is fundamental for engagement success.
	Challenges in moving the LEDS process from the national to the subnational level include the scale of transferring such knowledge, and lower capacities in many rural communities.	National governments can provide leadership and incentives to local actors, and ensure livelihoods of local communities remain the top priority. Identify and engage top influencers and champions at the local level.
Finance	LEDS and green growth is a multi-sectoral agenda. If not implemented in a holistic manner, it is highly likely to fail.	Implement LEDS as part of national development strategies (e.g., Korea’s long-term strategy and five-year action plan, Cambodia’s Climate Change Strategic Plan, Malaysia’s economic growth and green technology goals).
	The public sector has finite capacity and resources for funding LEDS programs.	Engage the private sector to mobilize funding (e.g., Nepal’s Clean Energy Development Bank).
	There is a lack of linkages between green policies and public finance.	Use effective tools and mechanisms to link green policies and funding, within public expenditure plans and through financing tools outside the national budget (e.g., Korea’s central budget plan, Cambodia’s donor-funded trust fund, Malaysia’s tax incentives and soft loan guarantees).
Linking LEDS and Climate Resilience	LEDS initiatives can have synergies or trade-offs with climate resilience.	The LEDS planning process should incorporate resilience considerations in order to maximize synergies and reduce trade-offs. However, planners should be cautious of further complicating an already complex process.
	Implementation challenges vary by sector.	Map where barriers may be more significant (e.g., transport, urban planning) or less significant (e.g., energy efficiency). Leverage innovation and technology suitable to country needs.
	Climate Action Plan implementation must be supported by leaders. While climate plans span decades, political cycles mean governments are in power for only four to six years.	Raise awareness that a Climate Action Plan is not a political plan, but rather is a country plan that should be supported and advanced independently of the government in place.

	Barriers	Effective Strategies to Address Barriers
Monitoring and Measuring Impacts	Green growth targets must be reconciled with government priorities.	In target setting, achieving a balance between economic and environmental targets is essential. Once a target is fixed, government and other stakeholders should develop a clear roadmap for reaching those targets.
	Engaging the private sector to participate in monitoring and measuring progress and impacts can be a challenge.	Consider legal mandates for high-emitting private sector enterprises to report emissions (e.g., Korea’s national GHG inventory compilation process). Government can win confidence of companies by assuring security of data that is submitted.

Representatives from the second set of concurrent sessions on communities of practice shared each group’s ideas on ways that the Asia LEDS Partnership and/or LEDS Global Partnership working groups could help policymakers and practitioners in Asia to advance LEDS and green growth.

	Area	Specific Recommendations
Energy	Information, Communication, and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand knowledge base on renewable energy by sharing success stories on benefits, impacts, and opportunities, as well as bad practices to highlight pitfalls Create Energy Information Centre with regional data platform, models, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools Support subnational, national, and sub-regional sharing of knowledge (e.g., on renewable energy solutions) to promote collaborations Target outreach and awareness building on LEDS to students and legislatures
	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance on policies to incentivize private sector participation (e.g., for developers to explore geothermal energy applications, subsidy mechanism) Assist on financial frameworks for disbursement of funds for renewable energy Develop financial models for small countries and island communities Develop models to increase synergy between mitigation and adaptation
	Technical Assistance, Tools and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a standard building energy efficiency code that incorporates experiences of developing countries Support technology transfer at low cost or through South-South cooperation Support institutional capacity building for policy making Train on tools for resource assessment for local terrain and conditions Train on energy efficiency models, building energy efficiency, distributed generation, GHG accounting, NAMAs, and socio-economic impact assessment
Transport	Information, Communication, and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an inventory of relevant communities of practice, what they provide, how they run, and make this meta-information available in a well-organized way Support local/national communication focal points to adapt, customize, and diffuse information (similar to “train the trainer” model) Support knowledge champions in charge of increasing the level of awareness
	Technical Assistance, Tools, and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translate complex information to something useful for decision-makers. This includes evaluating quality of existing information, helping to match good information with needs of users, and adapting information to audience context
Subnational/ National Integration	Information, Communication, and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate and make available a central knowledge base or repository Help members to better integrate with peer networks in Asia, as well as relevant networks outside of the region Prioritize language sensitivity – LEDS can only be as effective as understood locally
	Technical Assistance, Tools, and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help bridge the gap between a policy at the national level and implementation at the subnational level Direct capacity building and technical support to where it is needed Ensure standard, consistent, effective and reliable tools/systems/templates for LEDS (e.g., for planning, management, M&E)

In addition, **participants agreed to launch a new working group on AFOLU** at the Asia LEADS Forum, initially focused on engaging Asia-based stakeholders, but with potential to become a LEADS Global Partnership working group if there is matching interest and leadership in other regions. The new AFOLU working group will act as a platform to interact with a broad range of existing networks across the region, as well as networks in other LEADS sectors. A next step is to author a position paper on: how the new working group will interact with other LEADS Global Partnership working groups, how it will add value to the current networks and fill gaps where they exist, and the most appropriate mechanism to exchange knowledge, lessons learned, and challenges evident in the AFOLU sector. The group agreed to reconvene in three to four months.



Group photograph of participants that attended the AFOLU community of practice session.

5. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3 – SKILLS TRAINING FOR LEADS PRACTITIONERS

On October 3, participants each attended two of eight half-day training courses that offered more in-depth focus on practical “how to” topics addressed in brief during the prior two days. Trainees left with strengthened skills in important cross-cutting and/or technical area to assist in LEADS implementation. All materials from the training sessions are posted at <http://forums.asialeads.org/>. A list of the training sessions and links to related resources follows.

Training Session	Additional Resources
<i>Climate Finance: Basics and Examples – Agriculture, Payment for Ecosystem Services, National Strategies</i> , by CDKN	Free Climate Finance Advisory Service: http://cdkn.org/2012/11/climate-finance-advisory-service-2/?loclang=en_gb
<i>Development Impacts Assessment – Linking LEADS with National Development Priorities</i> , by LEADS Global Partnership	Activities and tools available from the LEADS Global Partnership development impact assessment working group: http://ledsgp.org/analysis/impacts
<i>Exploring Clean Energy Opportunities Using the Geospatial Toolkit</i> , by U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory	Download country-specific Geospatial Toolkits: http://www.nrel.gov/international/geospatial_toolkits.html
<i>Facilitating the LEADS Process</i> , by UNDP	Low Emission Capacity Building Programme Knowledge Center: http://www.lowemissiondevelopment.org/knowledge-center
<i>Foundations for GHG MRV Practitioners: 2006 IPCC Guidelines</i> , by USAID LEAD Program / Asian Greenhouse Gas Management Center	Contact Dinesh Babu, dinesh.babu@ghginstitute.org , for additional information
<i>Policy and Action Accounting and Reporting Standard, and Mitigation Goals Accounting and Reporting Standard</i> , by World Resources Institute	Learn more about Mitigation Accounting: http://www.ghgprotocol.org/mitigation-accounting
<i>Policy Instruments to Support Low Emission Development</i> , by World Bank Institute	Sign up for the full course: http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/course/policy-instruments-low-emissions-development-design-implementation
<i>Transport Emissions Evaluation Models for Projects (TEEMP) Tools</i> , by Clean Air Asia	TEEMP manuals and emission estimation tools: http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/TEEMPTool

6. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4 – SITE VISIT

Approximately 80 participants joined an optional site visit to see an example of low emission development in Manila. Participants toured the Zuellig Building, an office building in Makati City and the first building to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) – Core and Shell Platinum Certification in the Philippines. Building management and staff shared the motivations of building owners in making a commitment to environmental responsibility, showcased first-hand a selection of green features of the building, highlighted the measurable benefits of these features, and explained the process and resulting benefits of achieving LEED Certification.

Participants also traveled via Makati's Electric Jeepney vehicles to City Hall to participate in the Makati Transport and Traffic Summit 2013. City officials highlighted Makati's efforts to move towards more sustainable transport, and invited participants to learn about low emission technologies and approaches, alternative fuels, and other relevant topics at various exhibits at the Summit.



Photos from left to right: Tour of the Zuellig Building; Makati Electric Jeepney; and participants at the Makati Transport and Traffic Summit at City Hall. The site visits were arranged by the USAID Climate Change and Clean Energy Project and the Philippine Climate Change Commission.

7. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSION

Additional Observations

Presentations, discussions, and dialogue among participants highlighted a number of recurring points:

- **Put “LEDS” in context.** Much of the information on LEDS focuses on reducing GHG emissions from a baseline. For many developing Asian countries, the concern is minimizing emissions as an economy transforms and grows rapidly. LEDS should be articulated in a way that relates and gives weight to each of the following objectives: development (e.g., economic growth, poverty reduction), adaptation, and mitigation.
- **Communicate the benefits.** Communications and engagement are common challenges, though with varied reasons among countries. Policymakers and practitioners need tools to help message “LEDS” in order to get buy-in from national and local stakeholders to drive the process forward. In particular, messaging on the benefits related to pollution, health, and the economy can be powerful.
- **Information is (over) abundant.** There is no shortage of information on LEDS. In fact, there are many networks and information sources on related topics, resulting in a "data blizzard" and user confusion. The ability to filter information to identify the most targeted resources is important.
- **More targeted capacity building is needed.** Despite all the information that is available, technical capacity building is still needed on more specific interventions. Strengthening support at the sectoral level, such as through tools training and promoting innovations, can be useful. Non-technical information on how to create conditions that enable wide-scale change is also needed, as political, institutional, and financial drivers are essential to LEDS implementation.

- **Finance remains a high-priority area.** Participants sought better understanding of how to approach financing sources to get the support needed to make LEDS happen. In particular, practitioners must have tools to help articulate projects in a way that shows revenue stream to secure private sector funding, such as from banks. On public funding, there is high interest in creating national funds, and preparatory measures towards full management of these funds.
- **Examples are a way to learn.** More guidance is needed on how to “put LEDS into practice”. Detailed case studies showing how LEDS have been implemented, and potential application in other contexts, can be effective. A valuable mechanism is to connect interested learners with those who have this “know how”. This can improve knowledge flow, and help policymakers and practitioners win support for LEDS initiatives in their own context and achieve quick wins to further their case.

Conclusion

The Asia LEDS Partnership Steering Committee will draw from the above observations, suggestions, and other inputs received at the Forum to update the strategic vision of the Asia LEDS Partnership, and develop a work plan of activities for 2014 towards that vision. An additional request will be sent to all Forum attendees and the broader membership to help prioritize potential activities for 2014.

The Forum concluded with general consensus that a third Asia LEDS Forum should be organized. Details on timing, location, and thematic focus will be determined in the coming months.

8. EVENT EVALUTATION RESULTS

Eighty-two participants completed the evaluation form for the Asia LEDS Forum 2013. A summary of responses is categorized in this section.

Were the Forum objectives achieved?

A large majority of respondents felt that the Asia LEDS Forum 2013 successfully met its three primary objectives, as indicated below.

Objective	No	Somewhat	Yes
Support peer learning and sharing	0	20	51
Build or strengthen communities of practice	0	20	58
Skills acquisition to support LEDS implementation	0	26	51

How useful were Forum sessions for your work?

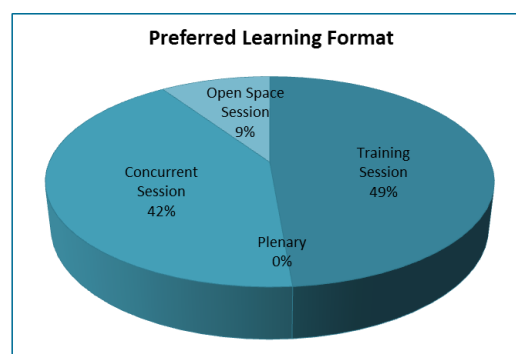
Respondents felt that almost all sessions at the Forum were “very useful” for their work.

Session	Not at All	Not Very	Somewhat	Very
Opening Plenary	0	0	19	47
Keynote: “Achieving the Low Emission Development”	0	0	21	52
Plenary: “Achieving Low Emission Development in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities”	0	0	17	57
Concurrent Sessions 1a-d: Case Studies in Implementing LEDS and Green Growth	1	0	24	33
Open Space Session: Tools and Practices for Implementing LEDS and Green Growth	0	0	24	46
Plenary: “Building Effective Communities of Practice”	1	0	30	33

Concurrent Sessions 2a-d: <i>Communities of Practice: What exists? What's needed?</i>	0	0	23	54
Plenary: <i>"Expanding the LEDS Network"</i>	1	0	36	34
Plenary: <i>"Reflections and Next Steps"</i>	0	0	31	36
Skills Training for LEDS Practitioners (morning)	0	0	24	49
Skills Training for LEDS Practitioners (afternoon)	1	0	36	34

What learning format did you find was the most effective?

While participants found most sessions at the Forum "very useful" for their work, respondents favored the training session format used on October 3, with 49 percent of respondents indicating that this learning format was most effective. Interactive breakout sessions were also popular.



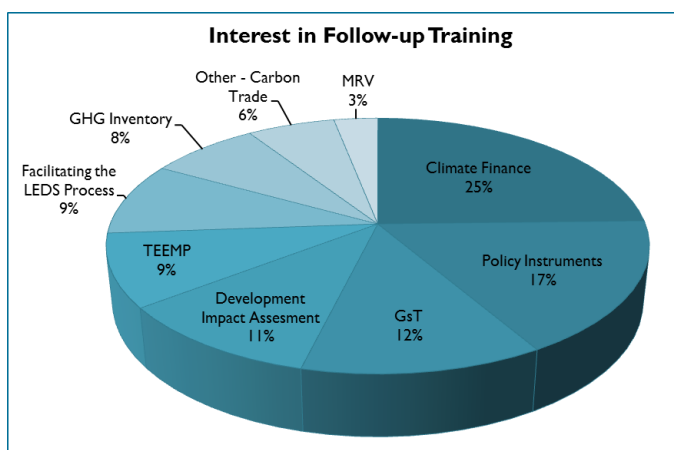
Which communities of practice will you participate in during the next year?

Participants indicated greatest interest in participating in the following communities:

- Energy (18)
- AFOLU (13)
- Subnational and National LEDS (8)
- Transportation (6)
- Climate Finance (4)

Among the training sessions offered on October 3, name at least one topic for which you would like more in-depth training.

One-quarter of respondents showed interest in follow-up training on climate finance. This was followed by interest in learning more on policy instruments available to support LEDS.



How do you plan to apply lessons you learned and new resources and services that you became aware of during this event to support LEDS planning and implementation in your country?

Respondents indicated the following next steps in application, as a result of the Forum:

- Integrate lessons learned into project action plans (5)
- Share knowledge with colleagues and others (3)
- Develop training course on relevant LEDS topic (2)
- Report to government to implement LEDS (2)
- Other applications indicated (free response): apply more LEDS strategies, apply low-carbon technologies, awareness of using natural resources management, carbon tax, engage more stakeholders, facilitate the LEDS process, financial help desk, GHG inventory, integrate measures at country level, MRV for decision making process, promote LEDS in AFOLU sector, provide training in tool implementation, and use the TEEMP tools.

What are two ways in which the annual Forum could be improved?

Eighty-one ideas were submitted, and like-items are grouped. Suggestions receiving five or more votes of interest were:

- Enhance interactive components of the event (15), including having fewer presentations and more information sharing during sessions
- Maintain and/or enhance training component of the event (10), possibly having more training days and/or more training sessions to choose from
- Increase country involvement (6), such as offering more opportunities for country reporting, sharing of needs, and better preparing participants to input during sessions
- Provide more implementation examples (6), such as case studies, success stories, and direct peer knowledge sharing
- Expand the target audience (5), include private sector and business expert involvement

Name two topics related to LEDS needs in your country that should be addressed by the Asia LEDS Partnership in the next year.

Ninety-seven ideas were submitted, and like-items are grouped. Topic areas receiving five or more votes of interest were:

- Capacity building (10), especially on creating LEDS action plans, training on LEDS in sectors, and training on policy tools
- Transportation (10)
- AFOLU (9), with agriculture and land use noted in particular
- Climate finance (7)
- Energy (7), with a focus on clean and renewable energy
- Engaging decision makers (6), including communication and outreach strategies
- Data (5), such as collection and bridging gaps

Contact

Asia LEDS Partnership Secretariat

John Bruce Wells: John.Wells@icfi.com

Sandra Khananusit: Sandra.Khananusit@icfi.com

Email: Secretariat@asialeds.org

Web: www.AsiaLEDS.org

The views expressed and information contained in this document are not necessarily those of the Asia LEDS Partnership or its members. This publication has been prepared for general guidance on matters of interest only. The Asia LEDS Partnership does not accept or assume any liability, responsibility, or duty of care for any consequences of anyone else acting in reliance on the information contained in this publication or for any decision based on it. © Copyright Asia LEDS Partnership 2013.