
## A. Introduction

1. **Global Energy Transition: Opportunities and Challenges**. A global energy transition is underway, presenting both opportunities and challenges depending on the technical and social contexts involved. Just transitions, prioritizing equity, climate justice, and social inclusion, are essential for ambitious mitigation and adaptation efforts to address the worsening climate crisis driven by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly from fossil fuel use. The Asia-Pacific region, responsible for 39% of global GHG emissions, must play a crucial role in climate change mitigation. Climate change impacts are widespread and unevenly distributed, exacerbating barriers to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI). South Asia, for instance, faces droughts, floods, glacier melting, and air pollution. Despite significant GDP growth, millions in the region still live in poverty, lacking access to electricity and relying on traditional biomass for cooking and heating.

2. **Just Energy Transition (JET) and Social Equity**. The energy transitions to zero carbon systems must be accompanied by a careful assessment of their impacts on GESI, particularly on low-income, vulnerable, and marginalized populations, to ensure that they do not exacerbate energy poverty or have other socially regressive effects. Beyond this, the objectives must be to improve and increase social inclusion outcomes from existing baselines. This as a 'just energy transition' (JET) is the process of transitioning from fossil fuel-based systems to sustainable systems based on renewable energy sources in a manner that prioritizes social equity, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability, so that all segments of society, particularly vulnerable and marginalized populations, are actively involved in and benefit from the energy transition.

3. **Key Features of Energy Transition**. Key features of the energy transition will include catalyzing green growth through transitioning to renewable energy, skills development for uptake of new technologies, inclusive social protection, deepening social inclusiveness, and promoting public-private partnership synergies. Smart grid and deployment of distributed energy resources are blurring the traditional divide between the utility-led supply and consumer-led demand sides. Technological innovation is opening opportunities for demand-side participation in the power system's operation and the energy market, with potentially significant implications for residential consumers and small and medium enterprises. The energy transition to a carbon-neutral economy has implications for non-energy sectors, such as waste management, transport, and agriculture, all responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions. This also requires multi-stakeholder commitment with implications for the government, industries, cities, and communities.

4. **Opportunities of Inclusive Energy Transition**. A well-managed and inclusive energy transition provides significant opportunities for improving access and affordability of energy services, increasing employment, and livelihoods. It presents the possibility for developing countries to leap-frog technology, economic and social development gaps, and inequities based on the growth of green industries, leading to sustainable economic and social development.

## B. Objectives and Participants

5. **Regional Conference on Inclusive Energy Transition**. The Regional Conference is part of the ADB technical assistance project aimed at promoting inclusive strategies for the low-carbon energy transition in South Asia. It aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among government agencies, ADB project implementers, and other key energy stakeholders. Key Conference sessions include:

- Session 1: Energy Transition Frameworks, Policies, and Institutional Aspects
- Session 2: Smart Energy Systems and Services – Techno-Economic and Social Challenges
- Session 3: Developing the Workforce for Energy Transition
- Session 4: Resilience and Adaptation: Integrated Systems Approaches
- Session 5: Regional Challenges, Trends, and Opportunities for Energy Transition

## C. PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

| DAY 1 | | | DAY 2 | | DAY 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 08:00-08:30 | ARRIVAL & NETWORKING | | | | | |
| 08:30-09:15 | WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS | | SESSION 3 | DEVELOPING THE WORKFORCE FOR ENERGY TRANSITION | SESSION 5 | REGIONAL TRENDS AND WAYS FORWARD FOR ENERGY TRANSITION |
| | KEYNOTE SPEECH | | INTERACTIVE LECTURE | | | |
| | **Clean Energy Trends in South Asia: Implications for a Just Transition** | | **The future of work** | | | |
| | Priyantha Wijayatunga, Senior Director, Energy, ADB | | Iven Mareels, Executive Dean, Institute of Innovation, Science and Sustainability Federation University, Australia. | | | |
| 09:15-10:15 | CONFERENCE SESSIONS | | OPEN FORUM | | FIELD-VISIT<br>THE UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA<br>FACULTY OF ENGINEERING | |
| | Moderator: Reihana Mohideen, Principal Advisor, Just Energy Transition, Nossal Institute, The University of Melbourne (UoM) | | 3rd PANEL PRESENTATION | | | |
| | SESSION 1 | ENERGY TRANSITION FRAMEWORKS, POLICIES, AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS | | | | |
| | INTERACTIVE PANEL 1 | | | | | |
| | OPEN FORUM | | OPEN FORUM | | | |
| 10:15-10:45 | NETWORKING BREAK | | | | | |
| 10:45-12:00 | 1st PANEL PRESENTATION | | INTERACTIVE PANEL 2 | | | |
| | | | 3rd PANEL PRESENTATION CONT. | | | |
| | OPEN FORUM | | OPEN FORUM | | | |
| 12:00-13:30 | LUNCH NETWORKING BREAK | | | | LUNCH NETWORKING BREAK | |
| 13:30-14:30 | SESSION 2 | SMART ENERGY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES: TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES | SESSION 4 | RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION: INTEGRATED SYSTEMS APPROACHES | SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE AND CLOSING REMARKS | |
| | INTERACTIVE LECTURE | | | | | |
| | **Techno-Economic Challenges of the Energy Transition** | | **Climate, Healthcare Resilience and Equity: Opportunities and Challenges for the Energy Transition** | | | |
| | Pierluigi Mancarella, Energy Program Research Lead, Melbourne Energy Institute, The University of Melbourne (UoM) | | Kathryn Bowen, Director Climate CATCH Lab., UoM | | | |
| | OPEN FORUM | | | | | |
| 14:30-15:00 | NETWORKING BREAK | | | | | |
| 15:00-17:00 | 2nd PANEL PRESENTATION | | 4th PANEL PRESENTATION | | | |
| | CASE STUDIES | | CASE STUDIES | | | |
| | OPEN FORUM; WORKING GROUPS; | | | | | |
| | SUMMARY OF THE DAY | | | | | |
| 17:00-20:00 | RECEPTION AND NETWORKING | | | | | |
| | JETWING HOTEL, GALLE | | HISTORICAL CENTER, GALLE | | | |