

A. Introduction

- 1. Global Energy Transition: Opportunities and Challenges. A global energy transition is currently underway, presenting numerous opportunities and challenges, which are influenced by both technical and social contexts. Just transitions, focusing on equity, climate justice, and social inclusion, are imperative for ambitious mitigation and adaptation efforts to combat the escalating 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 pivotal 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. **Energy Transition and Social Equity**. The transition to zero-carbon energy systems must be accompanied by a thorough assessment of their impacts on GESI, particularly for low-income, vulnerable, and marginalized populations, to ensure that they do not exacerbate energy poverty or create other negative social impacts. Furthermore, the objective must be to enhance and expand social development outcomes from existing baselines. This concept, known as a 'just energy transition' (JET), entails transitioning from fossil fuel-based systems to sustainable systems based on renewable energy sources in a manner that prioritizes social equity, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, ensuring active involvement and benefits for all segments of society, particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.
- 3. **Key Features of Energy Transition**. Key features of the energy transition will include catalysing green growth through transitioning to renewable energy, strengthening skills development to support uptake of new technologies, implementing inclusive social protection and fostering synergies in public-private partnerships. Smart grid technologies and the deployment of distributed energy resources are blurring the traditional divide between utility-led supply and consumer-led demand sides. Technological innovation is creating 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 also impacts non-energy sectors, such as waste management, transport, and agriculture, all of which are responsible for significant greenhouse gas emissions. Achieving this transition requires multi-stakeholder commitment, with implications for governments, industries, cities, and communities.
- 4. **Opportunities of Inclusive Energy Transition**. A well-managed and inclusive energy transition presents significant opportunities for improving access to and affordability of energy services, as well as increasing employment and livelihoods. It offers the potential for developing countries to bridge technology, economic, and social development gaps and inequities by fostering 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 Trends and Ways forward for Energy Transition.







C. PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DAY 1			DAY 2		DAY 3		
08:00-08:30	ARRIVAL & NETWORKING						
	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS		SESSION 3 DEVELOPING THE WORKFORCE FOR ENERGY TRANSITION			REGIONAL TRENDS AND WAYS FORWARD FOR ENERGY TRANSITION	
00.00.00.45	KEYNOTE SPEECH		INTERACTIV	INTERACTIVE LECTURE			
08:30-09:15	Clean Energy Trends in South Asia: Implications for a Just Transition		The future of work		SESSION 5		
	Priyantha Wijayatunga, Senior Director, Energy, ADB		Iven Mareels, Executive Dean, Institute of Innovation,				
	CONFERENCE SESSIONS		Science and S Australia.				
	Conformed Ch	Confessor Chain Daileana Mahidaan Daireiral		M			
	Conference Chair: Reihana Mohideen, Principal Advisor, Just Energy Transition, Nossal Institute, The University of Melbourne (UoM)						
09:15-10:15	SESSION 1	ENERGY TRANSITION FRAMEWORKS, POLICIES, AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS	3" PANEL PR	3 rd PANEL PRESENTATION		FIELD-VISIT	
			CASE STUDY	CASE STUDY		Y OF RUHUNA	
	INTERACTIVE PANEL 1					FACULTY OF ENGINEERING	
10:15-10:45	OPEN FORUM		OPEN FORUM				
10.10-10.40	NETWORKING BREAK						
10:45-12:00	1st PANEL PRESENTATION		INTERACTIVE PANEL 2 3rd PANEL PRESENTATION CONT.				
	OPEN FORUM		OPEN FORUM				
12:00-13:30		ORKING BREAK					
	SESSION 2	SMART ENERGY SYSTEMS AND SIGN 2 SERVICES TECHNO ECONOMIC SESSION 4 RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATIO		RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION: INTEGRATED SYSTEMS APPROACHES	LUNCH NETWO	RKING BREAK [13:00-14:00]	
	INTERACTIVE LECTURE		INTERACTIV	INTERACTIVE LECTURE			
13:30-14:30	Techno-Economic Challenges of the Energy Transition			Climate, Healthcare Resilience and Equity: Energy Transition Challenges and Opportunities		SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE AND CLOSING	
	Pierluigi Mancarella, Energy Program Research Lead, Melbourne Energy Institute, The University of Melbourne (UoM)		Kathryn Bowen, Director Climate CATCH Lab and Deputy Director Melbourne Climate Futures, UoM		REMARKS		
	OPEN FORUM		OPEN FORUM				
14:30-15:00	NETWORKING BREAK						
	2 nd PANEL PRESENTATION			4th PANEL PRESENTATION			
15:00-17:00	CASE STUDIES CASE STUDIES						
	OPEN FORUM; WORKING GROUPS SUMMARY OF THE DAY						
47.00.00.00	SUMMART OF		AND NETWORK	ND NETWORKING			
17:00-20:00	JETWING HOTEL, GALLE		GALLE FORT HOTEL, GALLE				







D. DETAILED PROGRAM

DAY 1						
08:00-08:30	ARRIVAL & NETWORKING					
	WELCOME & OPENING REMAR	KS				
		Social Development Specialist (Social Inclusion),				
08:30-08:45		ent Sector Group (SG-HSD), ADB				
		y Sector Group (South Asia), ADB tary, Ministry of Power and Energy, Government of Sri				
	Lanka	tary, Millistry of Fower and Energy, Government of Sir				
	KEYNOTE SPEECH					
08:45–09:15	Clean Energy Trends in South	Asia: Implications for a Just Transition				
00.45-09.15		ector, Energy Sector Group (SG-ENE), ADB,				
	introduced by Sujata Gupta, Direc	tor, SG-ENE (South Asia), ADB				
	CONFERENCE SESSIONS					
		leen, Principal Advisor, Just Energy Transition (JET),				
		The University of Melbourne (UoM)				
	SESSION 1 ENERGY TRANSITUTIONAL A	TION FRAMEWORKS, POLICIES, AND SPECTS				
	<u> </u>	cies, informed by the topics below, are key for a smooth,				
	just and inclusive energy transitio	n.				
		s-sector and cross-industry aspects inform integrated				
		olicy development, their role in enabling an inclusive tify key challenges and opportunities to do so.				
		dimensions, resilience, institutional and organizational				
	covered: changes, sector planning, standards development and skilling of					
	workforce.					
	INTERACTIVE PANEL 1 Moderator: Suinte Cunte, ADR					
09:15–10:15	 Moderator: Sujata Gupta, ADB Sector planning and Pankaj Batra, Energy Transition and Reform 					
	institutional strengthening	Expert				
	Developing standards for	Sri Chandrasekaran, Foundational Technologies				
	energy transition: the role of	Practice Lead, IEEE Standards Association				
	the IEEE	- Wandy Walker Director Human and Social				
	Social dimensions of energy transition	 Wendy Walker, Director, Human and Social Development (SG-HSD) Sector Group, ADB 				
	Skilling for energy transition	Gi Soon Song, Director, SG-HSD (South Asia),				
	<u> </u>	ADB				
	Resilience aspects of energy					
	transition	and Deputy Director Melbourne Climate Futures, UoM				
	Frameworks	Swati Mitchelle Dsouza, Climate Change				
		Specialist (Just Transition), ADB				
	OPEN FORUM					
10:15–10:45	NETWORKING BREAK 1st PANEL PRESENTATION					
	Moderator: Pradeep Tharakan, Director, Energy Transition, SG, ADB					
	1.a: Presenting Energy Transition Initiatives					
10:45 10:00	Energy Transition	Andrew Jeffries, Advisor Energy Transition				
10:45–12:00	Mechanism: Country and	Mechanism and Partnerships, ESG, ADB				
	private sector perspectives					
	Energy transition examples	Joonho Hwang, Director, SG-ENE (Central and				
	in Central and West Asia	West Asia), ADB				







DAY 1				
	1.b: Promoting Inclusive Tariff Reforms and Policy for Renewable Energy Access			
	Impact of tariff and subsidy reforms (Sri Lanka)	 Herath Gunatilake, Executive Director, Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka Jaimes Kolantharaj, Principal Energy Specialist, SG-ENE, ADB 		
	1.c: Empowering Energy Equity: ADB's Poverty and Social Analysis and Utility Engagement			
	Strengthening ADB poverty and social analysis	 Louise Mcsorley, Social Development Specialist, SG-HSD, ADB 		
	Engaging with energy sector utilities: the self-assessment tool	Francesco Tornieri, Principal Social Development Specialist (Social Inclusion), SG-HSD, ADB		
	OPEN FORUM			
	LIVE POLLING OF SESSION 1			
12:00–13:30	LUNCH NETWORKING BREAK			







DAY 1					
	SESSION 2		ENERGY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES: TECHNO- MIC AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES		
	Objective: Examine techno-		sis is crucial for ensuring the feasibility of smart energy s models in fostering an inclusive energy transition the importance of social considerations within economic approaches to ensure an inclusive energy and key challenges and opportunities therein		
13:30–14:30	Topics covered:	Techno-economic and social challenges and opportunities of energy-transition related technologies, socio-technical frameworks, and smart grids' role in inclusive energy transition, grid integration, energy trade, and sustainability.			
	INTERACTIVE LECTURE				
	Techno-Economic Challe				
			m Research Lead, Melbourne Energy Institute, The by Reihana Mohideen, UoM		
14:30-15:00	NETWORKING BREAK				
	2 nd PANEL PRESENTATION	ON			
	Moderator: Jaimes Kolanth	naraj, Prin	cipal Energy Specialist, SG-ENE, ADB		
	2.a: Navigating Grid Evolution: Socio-Technical Lessons and Standards for Energy Transition				
	Socio-technical lessons from old to smart grids		Reihana Mohideen, UoM		
	 Standards Ecosystem Enabling Energy Transition 		Sri Chandrasekaran, IEEE		
15:00–17:00	2.b: Empowering Energy Transitions: Utility Insights, Solar Integration, Sustainable Grid				
	 A utility's perspective on inclusive energy transition 		 K.G.R.F. Comester, Additional General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) 		
	Harnessing solar to complement hydropower		 Kuenga Choden Dorji, Executive Engineer, Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Bhutan Sonam Zam, Project Officer, Bhutan Resident 		
	Grid integration, energing and sustainability	y trade	Mission, ADB Pankaj Batra, Energy Transition and Reform Expert		
	CASE STUDY 1				
	India: demand-side energy efficiency project (social impacts) • Deepa Ahluwalia, Gender and Social Development Specialist, India Resident Mission (INRM), ADB • Samrat Ray, Senior Project Officer (Energy), INRM, ADB				
	CASE STUDY 2				
microgrid pilot project University of Mo (social impacts) • Prathaj Haputha			anga Hemapala, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, rsity of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka aj Haputhanthri, Project Officer (Energy), Sri Lanka ent Mission (SLRM), ADB		
	OPEN FORUM WORKING GROUPS SESSIONS 1 AND 2				
	LIVE POLLING OF SESSION 2 SUMMARY OF DAY 1				
17:00–20:00	RECEPTION AND NETWORKING				







DAY 2					
08:00-08:30	ARRIVAL & NETWORKING				
		/ELOPING THE WORKFORCE FOR ENERGY			
08:30-09:30	The evolving grid requires a c job prospects. Essential skills opportunities Objective: Assess the imporency transition, identifying key diversification Topics Green industry, economy impact, INTERACTIVE LECTURE The future of work Iven Mareels, Executive Dean	hanging workforce to support this transition, offering green development at all education levels is vital to seize these stance and challenges of workforce development for the including social implications, informal economy impact, and opportunities for social development and economic future workforce, inclusive social protection, informal economic diversification, and alternative employment Institute of Innovation, Science and Sustainability (IISS), ia, introduced by Ranishka Wimalasena, Senior Energy of the support of the			
09:30–10:15	3rd PANEL PRESENTATION Moderator: Louise McSorley, S 3.a: Inclusive Social Protecti • Energy transition's impact on workforce and social protection • Just Transition through Social Protection Schemes. CASE STUDY 3 Informal Economic Livelihoods and Social Securi	Oleksiy Ivaschenko, Senior Social Protection Specialist, SG-HSD, ADB Ippei Tsuruga, Social Protection Programme Manager (Indonesia), International Labor Organization (ILO) Rehana Riyawala, Executive Secretary and Vice President, Self Employed Women's Association			
10:15–10:45	OPEN FORUM NETWORKING BREAK				
10:45–12:00	INTERACTIVE PANEL 2	Poonam Pokharel, Deputy Director, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) Muhammad Hossan, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) Abdul Muhsin Mohamed, Senior Lecturer, Maldives National University, Malé Arulampalam Atputharajah, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka David Chang, Social Sector Specialist (Skills Development), SG-HSD, ADB Per Borjegren, Principal Education Specialist, SG-HSD, ADB Akila Wijethunga, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka			







DAY 2				
	3 rd PANEL PRESENTATION Cont. Moderator: Alexander Tsironis, Education Specialist, SG-HSD, ADB			
	3.b: Economic Diversification, STEM Jobs and Alternative Employment			
	Social inclusion challenges	•	Pradip Swarnakar, Principal Investigator, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK), Just Transition Research Centre	
	Towards Green and Decent Jobs	•	Eric Roeder, Technical Specialist on Green Jobs, Climate Action and Resilience, ILO	
	Labor Market Reforms in Southeast Asia and the Pacific	•	Bilal Khan, Social Sector Economist, SG-HSD, ADB	
	OPEN FORUM			
	LIVE POLLING OF SESSION 3			
12:00-13:30	LUNCH NETWORKING BREAK			







DAY 2						
		SILIENCE A	AND ADAPTATION: INTEGRATED SYSTEMS S			
	Resilience across sectors like energy, infrastructure, urban planning, health, and communities involves building smarter power networks and integrating diverse measures to prevent hazards and vulnerabilities.					
	Objective: Highlight the role of integrated approaches in building resilience, for effective adaptation, and to identify key challenges and opportunities.					
13:30–14:30	covered: technolog	y adaptatio	approaches, health, community energy resilience, on.			
	INTERACTIVE LECTURE		ita Faran Tana iti a Oballana a O			
	Opportunities	•	uity: Energy Transition Challenges &			
			TCH Lab and Deputy Director Melbourne Climate n Nahar, Energy Sector Specialist, SG-ENE, ADB			
14:30–15:00	NETWORKING BREAK					
	4th PANEL PRESENTATION	ON				
	·		or, SG-ENE (South East Asia)			
	4.a: Infrastructure Adapt	tation				
	Energy technology adaptation for resilier	•	Janaka Ekanayake, Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka			
	Resilience Building To		Andrew Kautoke, Strategic and Business Development Manager, Tonga Power Limited			
	4.b: Community-Centered Resilience Development					
	Field Studies from Inc.	dia •	Pradip Swarnakar, IITK			
	Field Studies from Bangladesh	•	Nasheeba Selim, Senior Social Development Officer (Gender), Bangladesh Resident Mission, ADB			
45.00 47.00		•	Abdul Arif, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh			
15:00–17:00	 Heat stress-related vulnerabilities in selection DMCs 	cted	Zonibel Woods, Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender), Gender Equality Division, ADB			
	CASE STUDY 4		ADB			
	Resilient Rural Infrastr –Energy-Water		Eric Roeder, ILO			
	CASE STUDY 5					
	Community I Resilience: Decent	ralized	Athifa Ibrahim, GESI Expert, Consultant ADB			
	Systems in the Ma	aidives	Operations, Maldives			
	WORKING GROUPS SES	SSIONS 3	AND 4			
	LIVE POLLING OF SESS	SION 4				
	SUMMARY OF DAY					
17:00–20:00	RECEPTION AND NETW	ORKING				







DAY 3					
08:00–8:30	ARRIVAL & NETWORKING				
	SESSION 5	REGIONAL TRENDS AND WAY FORWARD FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION			
8:30–9:30	A moderated 'group dialogue' harnessing insights from the conference. ADB, Government officials, University representatives, and other stakeholders delve into key takeaways and explore their implications for future strategies and ways forward.				
	FIELD VISIT				
0.00 40.00	UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA				
9:30–13:00	Program by Chandana Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Electrical and				
	Information Engineering, University of Ruhuna				
13:00–14:00	NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK				
14:00–14:30	SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE AND CLOSING REMARKS				

Additional Resource Persons and Working Group Coordinators: Ghrishma Shah, Project Officer (Energy) at NRM, ADB; H.D. Sudarshana A. Jayasundara, Senior Social Development Officer (Gender) at SLRM, ADB; Jayasundara Herathbanda, Senior Development Officer at SARD, ADB; Jigar Arvindbhai Bhatt, Senior Project Officer (Energy) at INRM, ADB; Keshan L. Samarasinghe, ADB Consultant (Energy); Mashiur Rahman, Associate Project Officer (Energy) at BRM, ADB; Nadia Tasnim, Project Analyst (Energy) at BRM, ADB; Naorem Nishikanta Mangang, Research Assistant at Just Transition Research Centre, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur; Riana Puspasari, Gender Officer, Indonesia, GE/D, ADB; Ryotaro Hayashi, Senior Social Sector Economist at ADB; Steph Lim, Senior Project Coordinator at Nossal Institute, The University of Melbourne; Sunila Ghimire, Project Analyst at NRM, ADB.