

## **Welcome Remarks by Dr. Cindy Tiangco for ADB TA-funded workshops in Manila**

Good morning, everyone!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this important series of workshops organized under the regional energy collaboration supported by the ADB technical assistance programs, in partnership with governments, utilities, and regulators across the Pacific.

We are honored to be joined today by representatives from the Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA), member utilities of the Pacific Power Association, and senior energy policy makers from our Pacific Developing Member Countries.

Thank you all for taking the time to be here and for the critical roles you each play in shaping the region's energy future.

At ADB, we recognize that energy security, sustainability, and performance are more urgent than ever for Pacific developing member countries. This workshop series supports that mission by focusing on three key areas:

**First**, OPERA.

This platform enables stronger cooperation, mutual learning, and capacity building among Pacific energy regulators. We see OPERA as an essential partner for creating a common Pacific regulatory environment that supports utility sustainability, investment readiness, and a just transition to clean energy.

**Second**, de-risking fuel supply in the Pacific.

Fossil fuel supply disruptions continue to pose a serious challenge for Pacific utilities. ADB TA supports Pacific policy makers to explore how to reduce vulnerability through better planning, regional cooperation, and potential market solutions such as fuel price hedging instruments to reduce fuel price volatility and risks to energy transition. The work being undertaken here is essential to strengthening both national energy security and regional energy solidarity.

**Third**, introducing cloud-based digital performance dashboards for power utilities.

We are excited to support the development of digital tools that will allow utilities to track key performance indicators - from generation reliability to financial health – all in real time. These dashboards aim to build a culture of transparency, efficiency, and data-driven decision-making that aligns with the global best practices while being tailored for the Pacific context.

By bringing these three streams of activities together - **strong regulation, derisking fuel supply, and digital transformation** - we aim to provide Pacific power utilities and governments with practical, scalable tools that support long-term sector resilience.

Over the next three days, I encourage you to share your experiences, raise challenges, and propose ideas grounded in the realities of island energy systems.

Each of your voices is critical. These workshops are as much about listening and learning as it is about planning and problem-solving.

On behalf of the ADB's emerging area team, I would like to express our appreciation to all participants and contributors. Special thanks to the leadership of the PPA and OPERA for driving this agenda forward.

We look forward to productive discussions and hope to concrete outcomes that will benefit the people of the Pacific.

Welcome, and let the work begin.