

Waves of Change. Harnessing Technology to Power the Sustainable Blue Economy

Workshop

25 to 28 May 2026

Republic of Korea

WAVES OF CHANGE

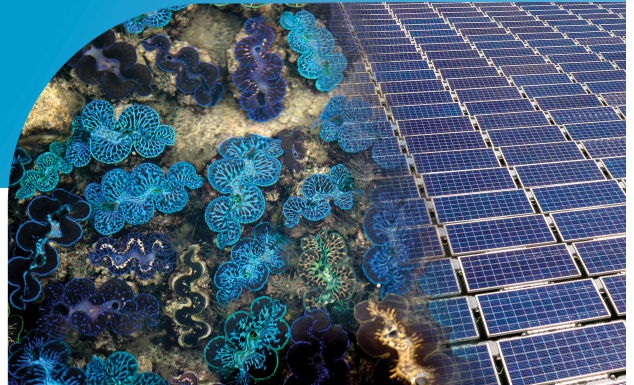
Harnessing Technology to Power the Sustainable Blue Economy

Workshop Two

25–28 May 2026 • Busan, Republic of Korea



Ministry of Oceans
and Fisheries



Summary

Technology is a critical enabler of a sustainable blue economy, helping ocean-based industries grow while reducing pressure on marine ecosystems, providing greater efficiency gains while reducing adverse environmental impacts. Advances such as digital monitoring, remote sensing, artificial intelligence-enabled fisheries management, and renewable marine energy and transport technologies can significantly improve efficiency, reduce waste and emissions, and lower operational costs across sectors. New tools for data collection, traceability, and environmental monitoring strengthen governance, support science-based decision-making, and help prevent overexploitation. Together, these innovations can unlock economic value from the ocean while safeguarding biodiversity and ensuring long-term resilience.

The *Waves of Change: Harnessing Technology to Power the Sustainable Blue Economy* workshop is organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and hosted in partnership with the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. The workshop provides an opportunity for government officials from across Asia and the Pacific to deepen their understanding of how emerging and innovative technologies can drive sustainable blue economies. It also serves as a platform for participants to share knowledge, exchange practical experiences, and explore technology enabled solutions that support resilient, inclusive, and environmentally responsible ocean-based development.

The four-day program places emphasis on blue economy productive sectors—such as sustainable tourism, renewable energy, and blue finance—given their growing relevance to the sustainable blue economy. Through peer learning, case studies, structured discussions and, on site visits, participants will have the opportunity to develop clear, implementable next steps, aligned with their country's context and needs, as well as with ADB's capacity to support delivery.

This workshop builds on the foundations established during the inaugural 2025 *Waves of Change* workshop.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. Deepen understanding of how new and emerging technologies across specific sectors can advance the sustainable blue economy agenda through presentations, peer-to-peer exchanges and a field visit.
2. Assist participants to explore, plan and present pathways, identifying potential initiatives and projects, including cross-border opportunities, that harness new and emerging technologies to advance the sustainable blue economy agenda.

3. Strengthen networks among blue economy experts, policymakers, and practitioners to promote ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchanges.
4. Gather participant feedback and validate priority areas to refine proposed initiatives of ADB's forthcoming approach to healthy ocean and the sustainable blue economy.

Program and Learning Materials

Monday 25 May

Session/Activity	Title	Speakers
Welcome	Welcome Remarks	Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General for Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Session 1: Presentations	Overview of ADB's Regional Cooperation and Integration Operational Approach An overview of ADB's new Regional Cooperation and Integration Operational Approach, outlining the importance of regional cooperation to manage shared resources.	Yuebin Zhang, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB
	Technology, Blue Acceleration, and ADB's Role An overview of the sustainable blue economy, unpacking how technological innovation is shaping emerging opportunities, what the evolving risks are, and discussing investment pathways in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific.	Dr Clyde Hutchinson, Senior Technology Specialist, ADB-Korean Climate Technology Hub (K-Hub)
Session 2: Presentation	ADB's Strategic Approach to Support Healthy Oceans and Blue Economies An overview of ADB's emerging strategic approach to support healthy oceans and sustainable blue economies.	Mary Kim, Healthy Oceans Lead, ADB
Session 3A: Presentation	Understanding Blue Tourism and its Value Chain A summary of the blue tourism system, identifying key drivers, and showcasing practical and replicable tourism solutions from across the region.	Jessie McComb, Senior Tourism Industry Specialist, ADB
Session 3A: Case Study	Private Sector Showcase: Intrepid Travel This video showcases how a private tourism company is both adding and creating value, and the enabling system that supports this work.	
Session 3B: Presentation	Scaling Blue Tourism – Trends, Models and Action An analysis of current and emerging trends in blue tourism, and opportunities to scale activities, drawing on examples from Asia and the Pacific.	Jessie McComb, Senior Tourism Industry Specialist, ADB

Session 3B: Case Study	<p>Private Sector Showcase: Coral Restoration and Eco-Tourism in Palau</p> <p>A showcase of a partnership between ADB and a resort in Palau, delivering both on coral restoration and providing eco-tourism opportunities.</p>	
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Tuesday 26 May

Session/Activity	Title	Speaker
Session 6: Presentations	<p>The Future is Blue Power: Innovative Solutions and Practical Global Examples</p> <p>A showcase of innovative solutions, providing practical global examples of how blue power has transformed communities and countries.</p>	Dr. Clyde Hutchinson, Senior Technology Specialist, K-Hub
	<p>Your Partner in Implementing Ocean-Positive Energy Solutions: ADB's Role in Enabling Policy and Providing Innovative Financing to Meet DMC Needs</p> <p>An exploration of ADB's role in assisting with ocean positive energy solutions, showcasing ADB supported initiatives.</p>	Dr. Cindy Cisneros-Tiangco, Director of Emerging Areas, Energy Sector, ADB
Session 6: Case Studies	Perspectives on Wave Energy INGINE	Mr. Yongjun Sung, Founder and CEO, INGINE
	Perspectives on Floating Solar SCOTRA	Ms. Jiwon Mun, Overseas Sales Assistant, SCOTRA
	Perspectives on Offshore Wind	Mr. Woojin Choi, Attorney at Law, formerly Managing Director at Macquarie Capital Group
Session 7: Presentation	<p>Introduction to Ocean Governance</p> <p>An introduction to governance reforms and mechanisms that can be used to deliver a sustainable ocean economy, including practical examples and case studies of how to overcome challenges.</p>	Ahmad 'Aki' Baihaki, Ocean Innovation Project Advisor, The Nature Conservancy
Session 8: Presentation	<p>ADB's Blue Finance Work</p> <p>A summary of blue finance, including an overview of ADB's financing instruments, drawing on case studies from across Asia and the Pacific.</p>	Matthew Viner, Frontier Fund Manager, ADB and Valtter Louhivuori, Senior Investment Specialist (Agribusiness), ADB

Session 9: Presentation	Scene Setting: How ADB Turns Ideas into Projects An overview of the types of projects ADB typically supports, how project ideas are developed, and the key stages of the ADB project cycle.	Yuebin Zhang, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB
Session 9: Activity	Opportunity Scoping A practical exercise to enable participants to link newly acquired knowledge to early-stage project ideation, including opportunities for regional, subregional, and cross regional cooperation in advancing sustainable blue economy efforts.	Pamela Asis-Layugan, Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB

Wednesday 27 May

Field trip

Site Visits: Exploring Technology-Enabled Sustainable Blue Economy Innovations

The field visit will showcase institutions and enterprises in Busan actively engaged in sustainable blue economy sectors. Participants will be requested to summarize key takeaways in their learning teams on Day 4.

Thursday 28 May

Session/Activity	Title	Speaker
Session 12A: Activity	Project Pathway Design and Ideas Exchange Individual and collective exercises to enable participants to develop new project design pathways and exchange ideas.	Pamela Asis-Layugan, Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB
Session 12B: Activity	Blue Exchange of Ideas: Peer Review and Refinement Presentations and discussions of the project pathway canvas, identifying opportunities for collaboration, and linking to potential ADB entry points.	Pamela Asis-Layugan, Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB
Session 13: Discussion	Closing Remarks An overview of lessons learned and a synthesis of key workshop insights, including an exploration of concrete actions and next steps that participants can take on returning to their respective countries.	