

ACGF Innovative Finance Clinic: Green and Resilient Ports Toolkit Launch

Advancing Port Projects from Concept to Implementation

08 October 2026 | Manila, Philippines

CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

OBJECTIVES

The ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF), an initiative of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF), has been convening its Innovative Finance Clinics for five years, bringing together senior officials, project sponsors, and commercial and development financiers to build capacity, identify project concepts, and explore financing models for climate-smart infrastructure in Southeast Asia. The clinics combine global good practices, practical training, and peer learning. They also provide a platform to identify investment opportunities, strengthen project preparation, and discuss potential technical assistance and financing support from ACGF and other development partners.

As part of this initiative, the *Green and Resilient Ports in Southeast Asia Clinic* was held in Singapore in 2025, initiating a broader program of knowledge exchange and project development for the ports sector. Drawing on the lessons, practical experiences, and tools generated through this program, ADB created the Green Ports Toolkit to help port authorities identify priority actions, shape project concepts, and advance investment-ready green port initiatives. In preparing the Toolkit, ADB also gathered feedback from ports across Asia and the Pacific to ensure that the guidance reflects different port contexts, needs, and levels of readiness.

In 2026, the program will build on the 2025 clinic through a more focused follow-through event centered on the launch and practical application of the Green Ports Toolkit. The sessions will bring together selected port authorities and project teams for peer learning, hands-on training, live demonstrations, and project development discussions. Selected components will be delivered in a hybrid format, with the main launch segments livestreamed.

BACKGROUND

Ports are strategic gateways for Southeast Asian economies, connecting producers, consumers, and the regional and global supply chains that support trade, connectivity, and economic growth. Around 80% of global merchandise trade by volume is transported by sea, while Asia and the Pacific handle roughly half of global seaborne cargo.

At the same time, ports face growing environmental, climate, and operational pressures. They are often located in environmentally sensitive coastal areas, require significant energy to operate, and are increasingly exposed to climate-related hazards. Port authorities and project teams must therefore balance the need for efficient and competitive infrastructure with environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and social responsibility.

The Green Ports Toolkit aims to help ADB's developing member countries respond to these challenges and translate broad sustainability objectives into practical actions and potential investment opportunities. It brings together international frameworks and standards and converts them into concrete practices, supported by implementation guidance, enabling conditions, case studies, and links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It also helps users consider alignment with relevant sustainable finance frameworks, including the ASEAN Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance.

The toolkit will enable port authorities and project teams to identify the practices most relevant to their port's risks, functions, capacity, stakeholders, and investment needs. The outputs provide an initial basis for project preparation, including implementation requirements, institutional arrangements, and financing considerations.

POTENTIAL INVESTMENTS

Green port investments may span the Toolkit's three dimensions of governance, port development, and operations. These dimensions are complementary rather than sequential, and individual projects may involve interventions across more than one area. The categories below provide an indicative framework for considering potential investment opportunities and the types of actions and resources they may involve.

Governance

Governance investments can establish the direction, standards, and accountability needed to support sustained green port development beyond individual projects. These are largely investments in policy, planning, people, and reporting rather than physical assets, and are typically lower in capital cost while providing an important foundation for other investments.

Typical opportunities include developing a green port policy or strategy that identifies and sequences long-term initiatives, such as solar and wind power, rainwater harvesting, and green administration buildings, and strengthening the institutional capacity to deliver them.

They also include risk management frameworks that integrate climate adaptation and multi-hazard risk into long-term port planning, and monitoring systems that measure greening efforts against relevant benchmarks.

Structured consultation is a further area of investment, covering commercial port users, communities adjacent to and affected by port operations, nature conservation groups, government authorities, and non-government organizations.

At the regional level, opportunities may also include mechanisms for knowledge sharing and cooperation among ports, development of common or aligned green port standards, and platforms or associations that facilitate the exchange of good practices and lessons learned.

Port Development

Port development investments relate to the construction, upgrading, or retrofitting of physical infrastructure to improve resilience, reduce emissions, and support more efficient port operations. These investments are typically more capital-intensive and have longer planning and implementation



periods, making early integration of climate and environmental considerations into port master planning and infrastructure design important.

Core opportunities include climate- and disaster-resilient infrastructure such as upgraded wharves, breakwaters, storm barriers, runoff and drainage systems, and measures that improve the redundancy and scalability of critical infrastructure.

Electrification and clean energy infrastructure may include shore power systems, on-site renewable energy generation, battery storage, grid and network upgrades, and energy-efficient lighting.

Other investment opportunities may include terminal upgrades and reconfiguration to improve cargo handling and storage, as well as fixed safety and security infrastructure, green administration buildings, and supporting utilities such as rainwater harvesting systems.

Operations

Operational investments focus on the equipment, systems, and procedures used in the day-to-day management of ports. These interventions can support improvements in emissions performance, operational efficiency, safety, and resilience, and may in some cases be implemented within shorter investment cycles than major infrastructure projects.

Potential opportunities include the replacement or electrification of yard and cargo-handling equipment, as well as lower-emission port craft and plant, including harbor towage vessels, workboats, pilot vessels, dredgers, ship-to-shore cranes, and ancillary equipment. The use of shore power by vessels at berth can further reduce reliance on onboard diesel generators where the necessary infrastructure is available.

Digitalization may also support more efficient port operations through terminal operating systems, vehicle and berth booking systems, automated cargo-handling equipment, and other technologies that can improve vessel scheduling, cargo flows, and terminal productivity.

Investments in early warning and meteorological systems can strengthen preparedness for typhoons, heavy rainfall, and other hazards, enabling timely preventive action and supporting continuity of operations. These may be complemented by multi-hazard preparedness and response procedures, as well as strengthened safety, security, access control, and operational monitoring systems.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Who should attend:

- Government agencies, port authorities, maritime administrations, regulators, and other public sector institutions involved in port and maritime development across Asia and the Pacific
- Participants and contributors to the 2025 Green and Resilient Ports Clinic and the green ports webinar series
- ADB departments, country and project teams, and technical specialists working on ports, climate, energy, environment, resilience, logistics, and the blue economy

- Multilateral development banks, development partners, and other institutions supporting sustainable infrastructure, green finance, and maritime development
- Port and terminal operators, financiers, solution providers, consultants, and other private sector stakeholders relevant to toolkit application and project development

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Test the Green Ports Toolkit and understand how it can support planning, prioritization, project preparation, and investment decisions.
- Develop preliminary project concepts and implementation pathways.
- Exchange practical experience, identify potential green port investments, and explore technical assistance and financing opportunities with ADB and development partners.



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TOOLKIT TRAINING: IN-PERSON AND SELECTED VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS	
8:30-9:00 AM	Arrival, registration, and virtual room opens
9:00-9:15 AM	Welcome remarks and group photo
9:15-9:45 AM	Session 1: Guided tour of the toolkit A live walkthrough of the Green Ports Toolkit, covering its purpose, intended users, overall structure, and key features, with a demonstration of how users can navigate and apply the toolkit in practice. Speaker: Jackie Spiteri, ADB Consultant and Managing Director, SESG
9:45-10:00 AM	Coffee break
10:00-11:30 AM	Session 2: Hands-on training on the Green Ports Toolkit A practical working session delivered through guided demonstrations and hands-on exercises, with checkpoints throughout. Participants will set up their organization and port profile, complete a maturity assessment, review the resulting recommendations, create an initial project, and download their outputs. In-person participants will receive table-based support, while online participants will be supported through the meeting chat and a dedicated screen-share breakout room. By the end of the session, participants will have a live account and first-hand experience using the toolkit. Facilitators: Jackie Spiteri, ADB Consultant and Managing Director, SESG; and Lachlan Higgins, ADB Consultant and Toolkit Developer, SESG
11:30-11:55 AM	Session 3: Q&A and participant feedback A moderated discussion to address participant questions and gather feedback from both in-person and virtual participants on the toolkit and their experience using it. Facilitator: Jackie Spiteri, ADB Consultant and Managing Director, SESG

11:55-12:00 PM	Next steps and closing of the morning session
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch
TOOLKIT LAUNCH: IN-PERSON AND ONLINE AUDIENCE	
12:50-1:00 PM	Arrival for afternoon participants and virtual room opens
1:00-1:02 PM	Welcome and brief overview <i>Host: Jackie Spiteri, ADB Consultant and Managing Director, SESG</i>
1:02-1:12 PM	Opening remarks <i>Markus Roesner, Transport Director, ADB</i>
1:12-1:20 PM	Formal launch of the Green Ports Toolkit and group photo
1:20-1:40 PM	Session 1: Guided tour of the toolkit A short public demonstration of the Green Ports Toolkit, covering its purpose, intended users, overall structure, and key features, with a demonstration of how users can navigate and apply the toolkit in practice. <i>Speaker: Jackie Spiteri, ADB Consultant and Managing Director, SESG</i>
1:40-1:50 PM	Coffee break
1:50-2:20 PM	Session 2: Port authority perspectives Port authorities share their experience testing the Toolkit and how they expect to apply it to support governance, investment readiness, project design, resilience, digitalization, and monitoring. <i>Moderator: Adrian Sammons, Senior Transport Specialist, ADB</i>
2:20-2:50 PM	Session 3: From toolkit outputs to financing and implementation A moderated discussion on how Toolkit outputs can inform project concepts, upstream technical assistance, project preparation, ADB financing, blended finance, and implementation pathways. <i>Moderator: Rodrigo Martinez, Senior Infrastructure Finance Specialist, ADB</i>
2:50-3:00 PM	Closing message / close of virtual program <i>Host: Jackie Spiteri, Managing Director, SESG & Consultant</i>
IN-PERSON	
3:00-3:10 PM	Break
3:10-6:30 PM	Business development conversations and networking event Short discussions between ADB teams and participating port representatives on specific project opportunities, readiness gaps, and potential technical assistance and financing support.



About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is a leading multilateral development bank supporting sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth across Asia and the Pacific. Working with its members and partners to solve complex challenges together, ADB harnesses innovative financial tools and strategic partnerships to transform lives, build quality infrastructure, and safeguard our planet. Founded in 1966, ADB is owned by 69 members—50 from the region.

<http://www.adb.org/>

About the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund

The ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) is Southeast Asia's largest regionally owned infrastructure financing platform. Established by ASEAN member states and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to help close the region's infrastructure investment gap, AIF mobilizes ASEAN's own resources to deliver high-priority projects that drive economic integration and sustainable development. <https://aseaninfrastructurefund.org/>

About the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility

The ACGF is an ASEAN Infrastructure Fund initiative supporting governments in Southeast Asia to prepare and finance infrastructure projects that promote environmental sustainability and contribute to climate change goals. <http://www.adb.org/acgf>