

The 12th Better Air Quality Conference 2026

Designing integrated bankable solutions for air quality improvement with private sector participation

11 March, 3:30-5:00pm (Bangkok time) | Venue: Theatre, Ground Floor, UNCC



Opening by
Cindy Cisneros Tiangco
Director, Emerging Areas
Energy Sector Office, ADB



Closing by
Rafayil Abbasov
Principal Energy Specialist,
Emerging Areas Energy
Sector Office, ADB



Moderator
Bayarmaa Amarjargal
Climate Change Specialist,
ADB

PANELISTS:



Nargiz Samadova
Chief Sustainability
Officer, Azerbaijan
Railway Company



Nargiz Mustafayeva
Head of Strategic
Development
Department, Baku Metro



Dastan Abdyldaev
Climate Policy, Finance and
Carbon Market Expert at the
Climate Finance Center, Kyrgyz
Republic



Piyapart Buttamart (France)
Business Developer, Electricity
Generating Authority of
Thailand (EGAT), Thailand



Delgerzul Lodoisamba
Air Pollution Expert,
ADB consultant

Context of the session

- Air quality projects made up only 1% of total international development funding from 2019-2023 while funding for projects that extend fossil-fuel use increased by 80% in 2023 from \$5.3 billion to \$9.5 billion.
- Majority of the global air quality funding from 2019-2023 went to transport sector (accounting for 61%) and multi-sectorial solutions (accounting for 28%) and the rest (building – 10%, energy generation – 6%, agriculture – 5% and waste – 4%).
- “Of the 8.1 million premature deaths from air pollution every year, over 5 million are attributed fossil fuel burning”.
- Projects with air quality co-benefits received an increase in funding from \$27.1 billion in 2022 to \$28.8 billion in 2023 which do not have explicit air quality objectives but contribute to air pollution reduction. Examples include electric-vehicle (EV) incentive programmes for commercial fleets which demonstrates importance of designing integrated interventions with multiple co-benefits.
- Evidence from the World Bank shows that integrated air quality and climate policies could save more than 2 million lives annually by 2040 and boost global GDP by up to \$2.4 trillion each year.

Source: [Clean Air Fund. 2025. State of Global Air Quality Funding 2025](#)

Objective of this session



- share examples of designing **cross-sectorial integrated solutions** contributing to air quality from transport, energy and urban development;
- present **decarbonization** as an opportunity to attract private sector in climate finance and air quality improvement;
- share **lessons learned** from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Thailand and Mongolia based on their experience of designing and implementing projects to contribute to air quality management.

Session Agenda

Agenda

Opening Remarks

Panel discussion:

- **Azerbaijan Railways Company (ADY)** decarbonization project and how it is making modal shift as part of broader clean transport.
- **Baku metro's** energy efficiency and decarbonization initiatives including modal shift, emissions reduction, and bankable clean transport solutions
- **Kyrgyz Republic: Climate Finance Center (CFC)**'s initiatives on preparing EV charging infrastructure.
- **Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT):** Vehicle-to-grid integration pilot.
- **Mongolia:** summary of efforts to reduce air pollution in Ulaanbaatar and key lessons learnt for way forward.

Moderator: Bayarmaa Amarjargal, Climate Change Specialist, ADB

Key takeaways and call to action

Speakers

Dr. **Cindy Cisneros Tiangco**, Director, Emerging Areas Energy Sector Office, ADB

Mrs. **Nargiz Samadova**, Chief Sustainability Officer, ADY

Mrs. **Nargiz Mustafayeva**, the Head of Strategic Development Department, Baku Metro

Mr. **Dastan Abdyldaev**, Climate Policy, Finance and Carbon Market Expert, CFC, Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. **Piyapart Buttamart**, Business Developer, Business Development Division, EGAT, Thailand

Mrs. **Delgerzul Lodoisamba**, Air Pollution Expert, ADB consultant

Mr. **Rafayil Abbasov**, Principal Energy Specialist, ADB



Cindy Cisneros Tiangco
Director, Emerging Areas Energy
Sector Office,
Asian Development Bank

Why decarbonization?

- *“Decarbonization not only allows us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it can also contribute to cleaner air, better health outcomes, and stronger economic resilience, while creating investment opportunities that attract private capital and help scale impact.*
- *The choices we make now will determine whether our cities become healthier, greener, and more resilient, or whether we allow avoidable health, economic, and environmental losses to deepen.*
- *The time to act is now.”*

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Nargiz Samadova

Chief Sustainability Officer,
Azerbaijan Railway Company

Azerbaijan Railway Company

- *“Decarbonization is reflected in our Strategic Directions up to 2030 and is integrated along with other priorities such as digitalization, corridor competitiveness, and operational safety.*
- *Sustainability is not treated as a separate initiative, but as a core element of how we modernize railway infrastructure and our operations.*
- *Decarbonization also strengthens our ability to mobilize green and climate finance, which is essential for scaling sustainable infrastructure investments.”*

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Nargiz Mustafayeva
Head of Strategic Development
Department, Baku Metro

Baku Metro

- “Our approach is evolving from infrastructure expansion alone to understanding its holistic impact — including congestion reduction and CO₂ mitigation. Metro development becomes a catalyzer for improved urban air quality.
- In parallel, digitalization is a priority. As the system becomes more fluid and demand-driven, we are investing in AI-enabled solutions and predictive maintenance.”

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Piyapart Buttamart
Business Developer, Electricity
Generating Authority of Thailand
(EGAT), Thailand

Why e-mobility?

*"I will use "3E": **Electrification**, **Economy-of-scale**, and **Effort**.*

- ***Electrification** is the direction.*
- ***Economy-of-scale** makes it affordable.*
- *And **effort** from every sector makes it happen.*

That is how we move toward cleaner transport and a stronger power system."

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Dastan Abyldaev

Climate Policy, Finance and Carbon Market Expert at the Climate Finance Center, Kyrgyz Republic

Climate Finance Center

- *“Our mandate is to mobilize, program and channel national and international climate finance to priority mitigation and adaptation actions aligned with national development plans and NDC targets.*
- *The ADB and Climate Finance Center’s partnership in Bishkek demonstrates our model in practice: jointly designing and implementing technical assistance on EV charging infrastructure and broader e-mobility pilot for the city.”*

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Perspectives from Mongolia

- “Even the best air quality policies will fail if they do not engage the people whose lives they affect.”
- “Clean air policies succeed not only because of technology, but because people support and adopt them”.
- “Clean air is ultimately a people-centered issue — policies work only when citizens are part of the solution.”

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Delgerzul Lodoisamba
Air Pollution Expert,
ADB consultant

Key takeaways

- *“Whether it is decarbonizing rail transport and enabling modal shifts, developing EV charging ecosystems linked to power sector planning, greening industrial value chains, or transitioning from coal to solar solutions with digital monitoring systems, these initiatives show how integrated approaches can simultaneously address climate, energy, and air quality challenges.*
- *Decarbonization programs particularly in areas such as clean mobility, renewable energy deployment, and digital environmental monitoring can create new sustainable business models while delivering measurable air quality improvements.”*

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Rafayil Abbasov

Principal Energy Specialist, Emerging
Areas Energy Sector Office, ADB

Key messages

1. Design for Decarbonization

Design projects that put decarbonization at the center. This cuts emissions, improves air quality, and attracts private sector financing that can turn climate-smart solutions into real, scalable impact.

2. Integrate for Bigger Impact

Push for cross-sector approaches that link air quality, climate action, health, energy, and resilience. Integrated solutions deliver stronger co-benefits and bring us closer to net-zero while protecting communities.

3. Mobilize and Replicate What Works

Strengthen partnerships, scale proven solutions, and ensure actions benefit those most vulnerable. Replicating what works — and funding it — accelerates progress toward cleaner, greener, healthier cities.

Session photos



Group photo with speakers and moderators



Group photo with session participants



Moderator: Bayarmaa Amarjargal
Climate Change Specialist, ADB



Opening by Cindy Cisneros Tiangco, Director, Emerging
Areas Energy Sector Office, ADB



MC: Viktoriya Khaan, Energy
Specialist, ADB



BAO 2026
BETTER AIR QUALITY CONFERENCE

The 1st
Designing integr...

e 2026
for participation

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