



Workshop on

Charting a Pathway towards a Green, Climate-Resilient Economy Recovery in Asia in Post-COVID-19 Era

30 May 2023

Hybrid: Online webinar (Zoom) and In-person event (Beijing)

1. Background

The world's efforts to alleviate poverty and inequality and achieve sustainable development have been undermined by multiple crises of climate change, and biodiversity losses, coupled with the global economic downturn, the energy and food crises, geopolitical tensions and the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the IPCC report, the average global temperature may reach or even temporarily exceed 1.5°C in the near term, due to the significant gaps in mitigation ambition and action. As a result, every region of the world is predicted to experience substantial rises in extreme weather events, posing an increasing threat to both people and ecosystems, especially the vulnerable groups in developing countries. In the meantime, scientists also emphasize that this decade is the 'critical decade' of action to drive the deep, rapid, and sustained transformation towards a sustainable future. This requires a green, low-carbon, climate-resilient economic recovery, especially for developing countries in the Asian region.

Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, and home to the most vibrant growth in population, industrialization and energy consumption in the next couple of decades. Nations in the region have made climate pledges in their Nationally Determined Contributions as part of the Paris Agreement, but challenges remain in terms of limited enabling policy environment or public financial resources leveraging private capital. Regional policy dialogues, cooperation and international support will be critical, especially regarding the related policy and financial instruments necessary to the low-carbon and climate-resilient transition.

China has gained experience in air pollution control, energy transition, green finance, biodiversity conservation, and green transition in energy-intensive industries. Therefore, there could be useful lessons and experiences for other Asian developing countries in improving climate policies and actions. Also, China pledged to support other developing countries in developing green and low-carbon energy and will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad in 2021. The dialogues between China and other Asian countries in climate policies, energy transition and financing mechanisms could contribute to regional green recovery, as well as to climate risk mitigation. It will also help policy makers and stakeholders understand the needs and priorities of national partners in the region for green, low-carbon and climate-resilient cooperation.

Beijing Greenovation Institute for Public Welfare Development, supported by the Asia Foundation, in collaboration with the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute will organize a hybrid workshop on 30 May 2023, with representatives from government think tanks, academia, multilateral development financial institutions, foundations and civil societies to discuss how to accelerate Asia's energy transition and green economic recovery with the support of finance through multilateral cooperation. The workshop language will be Chinese, English and Russian.

2. Key Objectives

The event is designed to promote green, low-carbon and climate-resilient cooperation in Asia, via knowledge sharing and capacity building, with the following specific objectives:

- Better understanding of China's experiences and lessons on the green, low-carbon and climate-resilient transition in key areas such as air pollution control, energy transition and green finance development, etc.
- Better understanding of the demand and development priorities of key developing countries in Asia in terms of green and low-carbon economic recovery in the post-COVID era.
- Identify common areas for future cooperation between China and key countries in the region in the green, low-carbon and climate-resilient development in the near term.

3. Target participants

Representatives and officials from governments, financial institutions (ADB, AIIB, etc.), think tanks and social organizations working on energy transition in Asian countries.

4. Expected Outcomes

The main expected outcome of this workshop is to launch a direct and open dialogue platform for interaction and communication regarding the energy transition and in financing the green and low-carbon transition of the economies in Asia.

5. Date and Mode

The workshop will take place on 30 May, between 15:00 and 18:00 Beijing time. It will be a hybrid with online

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84395342605?pwd=UEJQSnEzR1IDNEpmQW1jeHcrREZEUT09>)

and in-person event in Beijing (location TBD). English, Chinese and Russian simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Notification

All online participants should have internet access, and access to Zoom conference software. The event will be in English, Chinese, and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation provided.

Tentative Agenda

Moderator: *GUO Hongyu, Deputy Director, Beijing Greenovation Institute for Public Welfare Development*

Time	Topics
20 min	<p>Introduction and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Zhang Jianxin, Country Representative, China, the Asia Foundation</p> <p>Mr. Kabir K. Jurazoda, Director, CAREC Institute</p> <p>Ms. Bai Yunwen, Executive Director, Beijing Greenovation Institute for Public Welfare</p>
60 min	<p>Session I: The Status and Outlook of the Energy Transition in Key Countries of the Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Outlook of Just Energy Transition in Asia in Post COVID Era TBD, Expert from Asian Development Bank • Powering Progress: Exploring Energy Transition in the CAREC Region through the Lens of China's Success Story" Dr. Asif Razzaq, Research Specialist, Research Division CAREC Institute • Energy Transition in Mongolia: Drivers, Policy and Opportunities TBD, Expert from The Asia Foundation Mongolia Office • Synergy Between Pollution Control and Energy Transition in China Fu Lu, China Director, Clean Air Asia (TBD)
10 min	Q&A
60 min	<p>Session II: The Status, Challenges and Opportunities in Financing a Green, Low-carbon and Climate Resilient Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status, Challenges and Opportunities of Overseas Green Investment in Asia TBD, Representative from Institute of Finance and Sustainability (IFS) • Ensuring green, resilient, and inclusive economic development: IWRM and Nexus approach Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Deputy Director II, CAREC Institute • Cooperation Priorities of Financing Green Recovery in Southeast Asia TBD, Expert from Southeast Asia
10 min	Q&A
10 min	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Tang Dingding, Academic Committee Member of International Finance Forum (IFF), Honorary Director of Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences (CSFS) Green Trade and Investment Committee (TBD)</p>

About the Organizers:

Beijing Greenovation Institute for Public Welfare Development (GHub) is an independent environmental think tank with a global outlook, registered with the Beijing Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau.

GHub advances the policy development and dialogues in cutting-edge areas of sustainable development, seeks innovative solutions to quality growth, climate resilience and carbon neutrality in China and beyond, contributing to a net-zero and nature-positive future.

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting economic cooperation in Central Asia through knowledge generation and sharing. The institute is headquartered in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The CAREC Institute is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the PRC, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It is a knowledge support arm of the CAREC Program.

The institute acts as a knowledge connector among the five CAREC themes – economic and financial stability; trade, tourism, and economic corridors; infrastructure and economic connectivity; agriculture and water; human development – to ensure coherence in design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects to promote regional economic cooperation and integration.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives and expanding opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Informed by decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region is focused on good governance, women's empowerment and gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international relations.