



Hybrid Publication Launch

A just energy transition in Southeast Asia The impact of coal phase-out on jobs

Side Event of the 78th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
24 May 2022

Background

A just transition to sustainable development can power a human-centred approach to the future of work that transforms economies and societies, maximizes opportunities of decent work for all, reduces inequalities, promotes social justice, and supports industries, workers and communities. As a step to turn this human-centered agenda into concrete action, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative (CA4JI), designating the ILO to spearhead its implementation with other UN agencies. The CA4JI is a 10-year global initiative part of the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, to enable ambitious climate action that delivers decent jobs and advances social justice. In December 2021, the ILO launched the Just Energy Transition Innovation Challenge to identify, enhance, test and disseminate high-potential policy ideas and solutions that promote a just transition for all, breaking from business as usual.

Taking this forward in Southeast Asia, the ILO together with the UN Issue Based Coalition (IBC) on Raising Ambitions on Climate Actions – Working Group coal-phase-out [ESCAP-UNEP-ILO-UNFCCC-UNOPS – Energy Transition Partnership] are working on a regional programme on Just Energy Transition to facilitate the provision of technical expertise and implementation support to countries facing out coal while offering decent work opportunities for all. Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam being among the top five economies with the highest levels of coal consumption in Southeast Asia. Indonesia and Viet Nam are important coal producers while the Philippines relies heavily on coal imports. All three countries are simultaneously among the most vulnerable to climate change. The ILO begun activities in this programme in the second half of 2021, with a scoping analysis and consultations with ILO constituents and UN Resident Coordination Offices in the three countries. This initial phase of the regional programme produced an assessment/scoping report on employment and related implications of coal-phase-out in the 3 pilot countries.

This report discusses the need to ensure a just transition while phasing out coal examining the cases of Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. A just transition away from coal is indispensable and it can bring untapped opportunities for quality jobs that are green and decent. Yet transitioning from coal into other economic activities is on their policy agendas only to varying degrees due to the dependency of such developing countries on coal to meet a growing energy demand during their development process. The report sets out a framework of cooperation for a just energy transition in partnership with national, regional and local actors to work to mitigate the negative socio-economic effects of coal phase-out and to maximize its transformative opportunities for mining communities to foster a better future. Supported by the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and relevant programs such as ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Partnership Programme, through its project, Industry Skills for Inclusive Growth (InSIGHT) Phase 2, this initiative will continue relevant dialogues and planned actions with the tripartite constituents and including UN partners in the region.



Approach

The launch will be part of the seventy-eighth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as a **hybrid side event** on 24 May 2022 conducted on site in the United National Conference Centre in Bangkok and on an online platform via Zoom.

Event Information

Date & Time:	24 May 2022 (16.00-17.15 h, GMT+7)
Venue:	In-person attendance: CR-3 , Level 1, United Nations Conference Centre Online participation: zoom (unique link generated upon registration)
Working language:	English
Interpretation:	Simultaneous interpretation will be made available for online participants from Indonesia and Viet Nam
Zoom registration:	https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jxRKgVpuRTu6makbXoACDQ
In-person:	In the case where you will be attending the 78th session of the Commission and would be attending the side event in person, please note the requirement to register online at https://indico.un.org/event/1000381/ within 16 May 2022 or at your earliest convenience. Please select 'side event participants' under Representation Type when you register. In-person participants are also required to verify that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and complete the COVID-19 Health Declaration Form included in the ESCAP online registration form providing emergency contact details in Thailand, certifying their health status and confirming their compliance with the COVID-19 preventive measures while attending the Commission, and uploading a valid vaccination certificate. Representatives unable to confirm their vaccination status may alternatively provide proof of a negative antigen-detecting rapid COVID-19 test taken within 24 hours of the start of each meeting day.

Participants

The event will gather participants, in particular:

- policymakers and technical advisors of ministries of labour as well as other public agencies working in the area skills and human resources development with emphasis on green jobs and greening of economies;
- representatives of workers and employers' organizations involved in the area of green jobs and greening of economies; and
- experts and ILO technical staff working in the field.

The ILO promotes equality of opportunities. We strongly encourage the participation of women and persons with disabilities.



Provisional Agenda

MC: Dr Cristina Martinez, Sr Specialist Environment and Decent Work, ILO Bangkok

Online moderator: Ms Georgina Pascual, Technical Officer of InSIGHT2, ILO

Time	Proceedings
16:00-16:15	Preliminaries
16:15-16:30	Opening session <i>Ms Panudda Boonpala</i> , Deputy Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ILO <i>Ms Sonja Leighton-Kone</i> Acting Deputy Executive Director at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) <i>Mr Kaveh Zahedi</i> , Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development, UNESCAP
16:30-17:10	Presenting the publication and panel discussion Moderated by <i>Dr Cristina Martinez</i> , Sr Specialist Environment and Decent Work, ILO <u>Presenter</u> <i>A just energy transition in Southeast Asia: The impact of coal phase-out on jobs</i> , <i>Ms Sirin Elci</i> , President, INOMER <u>Panellists</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Workers' Organization Representative (Indonesia). <i>Ms Maria Emeninta</i>, Programme Coordinator, International Department, Konfederasi Serikat Buruh Seluruh Indonesia (KSBSI)Employers' Organization Representative (Viet Nam), <i>Mr Le Tien Dat</i> Deputy Head of Unit, Bureau for Employers' Activities Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and IndustryGovernment Representatives (The Philippines), <i>Mr Alex V. Avila</i>, CESO IV, Assistant Secretary, Labor Relations, Social Protection and Policy Support Cluster, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippines
17:10-17:15	Closing session <i>Mr Jens Radschinski</i> , Regional Lead of UNFCCC/IGES the Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific <i>Mr Yasuo Ariga</i> , Chief Technical Advisor and Overall Coordinator, ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme

For more information and updates on the program can be found in the [hybrid publication launch webpage](#). Please visit the ILO webpage [here](#) to access the report publication.



Speakers' Profiles



DR CRISTINA MARTINEZ
Senior Specialist in Environment and Decent Work
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Dr Cristina Martinez is the ILO's Senior Specialist in Environment and Decent Work in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. She is part of the ILO Global Team on Green Jobs and the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative. Previously she has served the following International Organizations: the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as an Education Specialist (skills and employment); and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) where she held positions as Advisor of the Knowledge Sharing Alliance at the Secretary General Office and Senior Policy Analyst at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development (CFE). After completing her PhD on Economic Development and Innovation Networks at the University of New South Wales in Australia, she worked at the Western Sydney University as an Associate Professor and Head of Research Area on Urban and Regional Dynamics.



Georgania Pascual
National Project Coordinator
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Country Office for the Philippines

Ms Pascual is currently the National Project Coordinator for the International Labour Organization (ILO) Philippine Country Office, mainly responsible for Green Jobs / Green Skills program activities and projects. She currently manages the Philippine component of InSIGHT Phase 2 Project, an ILO-Japan program in the region that works on a skills development pathway to promote inclusive growth and greening of the economy. Prior to this, she was likewise involved in other ILO-Japan projects, such as InSIGHT Phase 1 & Greener Business Asia PH component.

With more than 15 years of work experience on environmental sustainability of industries and related issues, she has led project management and joined technical teams for UNDP, UNOPS and GIZ, supporting different donor arrangements and covering technical cooperation projects in the Philippines & Asian region. She has broad experience in managing the implementation of projects on Green Jobs & Green Skills, Greening Businesses and Workplaces, Green TVET, Climate and Environmental Management Policy, Capacity Building and Partnerships, as applied to key industry sectors such as Tourism, Automotive, F&B, Manufacturing, MSMEs and Eco-Industrial parks. Aside from development projects, she has also handled post-disaster economic recovery & livelihoods rehabilitation projects and Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) initiatives through skills development and economic inclusion.



PANUDDA BOONPALA
Deputy Regional Director
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Ms Panudda Boonpala is appointed Deputy Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, with effect from 1 January 2018. Prior to that, Ms Boonpala has held the position of Director of the ILO Decent Work Team for South Asia and Country Office for India. Ms. Boonpala has been with the ILO since 1995, serving the ILO in Geneva, Bangkok, Dhaka and New Delhi. Her professional experience covers several areas in the World of Work, working with Government, employers' organizations and trade unions, on issues such as social protection, fundamental principles and rights at work, labour market governance, labour migration, informal economy workers, youth employment and skills training. Ms Boonpala holds an MA in Labour Administration and Management from the Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand.



SONJA LEIGHTON-KONE
Acting Deputy Executive Director of the
UN Environment Programme

Ms Sonja Leighton-Kone is the Acting Deputy Executive Director at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. She has been the Director of the Corporate Services Division at UNEP since 2018, leading the organization's strategic engagement with Member States, UN agencies and partners in global environmental financing mechanisms, resource mobilization and, financial and human resource management.

Ms. Leighton-Kone has more than 30 years of experience in international development overseeing operations in complex environments, including emerging and fragile States. As a senior member of the UNEP leadership team, she has introduced a wide range of initiatives to strengthen the organization's systems, donor partnerships and capacity building programmes.

Prior to joining UNEP, Ms. Leighton-Kone served as Deputy Director of Operations and Finance at UNICEF in Geneva, where she led the development of the management framework for private sector partnerships and integrated private sector fundraising processes within UNICEF's global systems. She has held a series of high-level positions at UNICEF, including Regional Chief of Operations in Jordan, Chief of Operations in Ethiopia, Senior Operations Officer in South Sudan and Operations Officer in Myanmar.

Ms. Leighton-Kone started her international career as a humanitarian worker engaged in the Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict. Subsequently, she supported several projects in the former Soviet Union as they transitioned to newly independent States. Her UN career began with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Afghanistan in 1999.

During her 22 years in the UN system, she has participated in several UN management reforms and supported key global partnerships with the private sector, including Unilever, Ikea, MAC Cosmetics, FC Barcelona and H&M.



Ms. Leighton-Kone is a dual national of Jamaica and the USA. She holds a Master's in Business Administration from Fordham Graduate Business School, USA and a Bachelor's in Management Science from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica. She is married with two children.



KAVEH ZAHEDI

Deputy Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Mr Kaveh Zahedi is Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. He oversees ESCAP's programmes, including finance, trade, energy, natural disasters, statistics and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Over two decades, he has worked for the United Nations in Kenya, Mexico, Europe and Thailand. Previously, he worked on micro credit and development projects in Latin America and the Middle East. He holds a Master's degree from the Fletcher School, Tufts University, and a BSc degree in Economics & Geography (1st class) from University College London.



SIRIN ELCI

ILO Consultant

President, INOMER

Sirin Elci is the President of INOMER, an international consultancy specialised in sustainable and inclusive development with head office in Paris. She is also a professor of innovation policy and ecosystems at the Institut Mines-Télécom Business School in Paris and a senior researcher at the European Future Innovation System Centre in Brussels. She has a professional experience of 30 years in her field. During her career, she has led and conducted strategic projects for/related to international organisations, such as the ILO, World Bank, OECD, UN agencies, European Commission, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, etc. as well as for national authorities in developed, developing and transition economies. Her experience covers over 60 countries around the world. Previously she was a Director and Board Member of the Technopolis Group UK. She received her BSc in the Department of Mining Engineering and M.S. in Science and Technology Policy Studies from METU.



MARIA EMENINTA
Programme Coordinator, International Department
Konfederasi Serikat Buruh Seluruh Indonesia (KSBSI)

Ms Maria Emeninta currently leads KSBSI's Climate Change and Just Transition program and is responsible for tackling internal and external engagements of KSBSI on these issues. She is a member of Indonesia National Task Force on Climate Change issue, standing in as an observer for government policy and program, and is likewise the National coordinator for Indonesia Trade Union Alliance on Just Transition. Her most recent role is to Co-Chair Indonesia's Labour20/L20 proceedings, to represent the interests of workers at the G20, where Indonesia is currently holds the Presidency of the 17th Summit.

Ms Maria Emeninta leads the International Department of the Confederation of Indonesia Prosperity Trade Union, KSBSI (Konfederasi Serikat Buruh Seluruh Indonesia) and is also the Programme Coordinator of the International Institute for Workers Education (IIWE) for the Regional – Asia Pacific Program of ACV-CSC. At the National level, she coordinates KSBSI and its 10 national federations for its program to promote social dialogue to defend workers rights at multinational companies and supply chain. In the Asia region, she coordinates Cambodia and Indonesia Trade Union in the Networking for Workers in Multinational Companies and Supply Chain. Being immersed for more than 20 years in the trade union and labour movement, she is a Trainer for trade union leaders and members for thematical program of Organizing, Social protection, Paralegal, Collective bargaining Agreement (CBA), Gender and Climate Change issue. She graduated from the University of Tri Karya, Medan, South Sumatra, Indonesia, with a Major in Banking and Finance.



LE TIEN DAT
Deputy Head of Unit, Bureau for Employers' Activities
Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr Le Tien Dat is the Deputy Head of the Bureau for Employers' Activities attached to the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. His responsibility is on monitoring of the various programmes. His interest lies in the field of social insurance and health insurance.



ALEX VILLAROSA AVILA
Assistant Secretary of Labour Relations, Social Protection and Policy Support
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippines

Mr. Avila is the Assistant Secretary for Labor Relations, Social Protection and Policy Support of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippines. He headed the inter-agency committee which drafted the implementing rules and regulations of the Green Jobs Act of 2016 and supervised the formulation of the National Green Jobs Human Resource Development Plan 2020-2030. Mr. Avila is the vice-chair of the DOLE inter-agency committee tasked to coordinate the implementation of the Green Jobs Act, including monitoring and reporting of accomplishments within and outside the DOLE.



JENS RADSCHINSKI

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Regional Lead of the UNFCCC/IGES Regional Collaboration Centre for
Asia and the Pacific (RCC Bangkok)**

Mr Jens Radschinski has taken on the role of the Lead of UNFCCC's Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) for Asia Pacific, situated in Bangkok in the beginning of 2017. Prior to his current stint in Thailand, Jens was working with the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany for over five years. At RCC Bangkok, he leads activities the Centre is undertaking, namely in the fields of climate finance, carbon markets and carbon pricing, support to project participants and Designated National Authorities (DNAs) on the implementation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, MRV/Transparency, Capacity building, NDC support and Global Climate Action (under the Marrakesh Partnership). Before joining UNFCCC, Jens has had extensive professional experience in Asia-Pacific where he was active as a university research assistant for a Thai-German technical cooperation project and later as consultant and CDM project developer in the region. It was during this time that he built expertise in waste and wastewater management, renewable energy, climate policies and carbon markets. Jens holds a degree in Geology/Hydrogeology from the Free University of Berlin, Germany.



YASUO ARIGA

**Chief Technical Advisor and Overall Coordinator
ILO/Japan Multi-Bilateral Programme**

Mr Yasuo Ariga is the Chief Technical Advisor and Overall Coordinator of ILO/Japan Multi-Bilateral Programme, Regional Office Asia and the Pacific. He leads the implementation and management of a number of projects under the ILO/Japan Multi-Bilateral Programme.

Prior to joining the ILO, he was the Deputy Counsellor of Office of Overseas Human Resources Development and Deputy Regional Director of Japan Vocational Ability Development Association at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

He also was the Deputy Director of the International Affairs Division attached to the Minister's Secretariat from 2010 to 2014; and the Deputy Director of the International Office in OSH Department from 2007-2010 and Technical Official in Labour Administration from 1997-2004 under the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan.

He also served a tour as Second Secretary for Economic Division of the Japanese Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic in 2004 to 2007.