

80th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Side Event: Connecting Voices, Transforming Coal Regions For A Better World by Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition (IKI JET)

Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok and Online: [MS Teams](#)

Date: Friday, 26 April 2024

Time: 12.45-13.45 hrs, Indochina Time (UTC+7)

Mongolia: 13.45-14.45 hrs (UTC+8); Germany and South Africa : 07.45-08.45 hrs (UTC+2)

CONCEPT NOTE

(version dated 9 April 2024)

Background

The eightieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) will be held from 22 to 26 April 2024 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok. Guided by the theme “Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”, the eightieth session will be an opportunity to strengthen region-wide cooperative action on leveraging digital innovation for the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions Knowledge Hub particularly aims to amplify the voices of workers and communities dependent on coal, showing how knowledge can work in practice. It also turns practice into knowledge by bringing local experience into global conversations and advancing just energy transition expertise. By providing regular digests of articles, research papers, news stories, and events, it serves as a “one-stop shop” for collecting up-to-date information related to just energy transitions away from coal around the world.

This side event convened by GIZ Thailand and co-sponsored EGAT, in collaboration with SDG MOVE Thailand and IISD, is a follow-up to the community of practice and will dive deeper into perspectives from IKI JET member countries on the possibilities and challenges in implementing just transition in the region, and how regional cooperation and peer-learning could further accelerate the just energy transition.

Objectives

The objectives of this side event are the following:

- I. To enhance regional cooperation for the implementation of digital innovation strategies in Asia and the Pacific to advance sustainable development goals under the 2030 Agenda.
- II. To facilitate knowledge-sharing and collaboration among IKI JET member countries to address challenges and explore opportunities for successful just energy transitions in coal regions.
- III. To foster innovation and technology adoption to address pressing challenges related to climate change, resource management, and social inclusion within the region.
- IV. To strengthen partnerships between public and private sectors to drive inclusive and sustainable growth, leveraging each other's strengths and resources for the collective benefit of the region; and
- V. To exchange insights on energy transition situations, think tanks' roles, challenges, opportunities, and recommendations for establishing a dedicated think tank.

Programme

Time	Description
12.45-12.50	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Charan Khumngeon Deputy Governor Generation, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand• Mr. Sascha Oppowa, Energy Project Director, GIZ Thailand
12.50-13.05	Opening Presentations <p>This session will include a presentation from the Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions Knowledge Hub to provide the context for the subsequent panel discussion on the possible pathways from coal and toward a low-carbon energy system in the Global South that are in line with the Paris Agreement and the ILO Guidelines for a Just Transition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bethan Jones, Senior Communications Officer, The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)• Mr. Suchart Klaikaew, Senior Energy Advisor, Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition - IKI JET Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions - JET CR Platform
13.05-13.40	Panel Discussion <p>Moderator: Ms. Suchart Klaikaew,</p>

	<p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chalie Charoenlarnopparut, Associate Professor, Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thammasat University • Ms. Patchareepan Doungmusit, Head of Smart Energy, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand • Representative from South Africa • Representative from Mongolia • Representative from Indonesia (TBC)
13.40-13.45	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Katharina Hartmann, Policy Advisor, Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition - IKI JET Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions - JET CR Platform

About the IKI JET Project

The Innovations Regions for a Just Energy Transition project is jointly funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) under the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) for the Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions Interregional Platform (JET-CR). The project is implemented by a consortium of six organisations led by GIZ as Joint Project Coordinator and with the Climate Action Network (CAN), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)/Just Transition Centre, and Wuppertal Institute für Klima, Umwelt, Energie gGmbH as implementing partners.

IKI JET and its JET-CR Platform aim to support and accelerate just energy transitions away from coal to renewable energies and other sustainable economic activities in Colombia, Chile, South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Mongolia.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action



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Co-funded by
the European Union

on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag