

SE4All Asia-Pacific Regional Hub Update on Activities (June 2014 – August 2016)

Summary:



Since the official launch of the Asia-Pacific Regional Hub in June 2014, the Hub has already initiated a number of activities which will accelerate and facilitate the achievement of the SE4All targets in the Asia-Pacific Region by leveraging the existing structures of the energy programs of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the strengths of all three

development partners - harnessing their convening power, country presence and networks which will be able to mobilize partnerships to catalyze concrete actions at the country level; and facilitate and coordinate core activities with respect to the SE4All goals.

Context/Objective:

In the first two years, the objectives of the Hub include: support to country action plans and action agendas; continuing constructive dialogues on policy, investment and market development; catalyzing investments in energy access, renewable energy, energy efficiency and the provision of innovative financing including through ADB's Energy for All Project Development Facility (PDF); development of market based approaches for the delivery and consumption of energy; building synergies among stakeholder through partnerships, improvement of communication and knowledge sharing; promoting joint and coordinated action among stakeholders interested in supporting the implementation of action agendas at the country level; promoting regional cooperation in SE4All activities; and mobilize resources for SE4All activities in the region.

Activities and deliverables:

Regional Hub Secretariat established

A full-fledged Secretariat has been set up at ADB Headquarters in Manila and established together with UN ESCAP and UNDP to fulfill and implement SE4All targets in the region. ADB is allocating additional resources for the Regional Hub Secretariat to continue the support being given to countries.

Tracking of SE4All Activities

The Regional Hub Secretariat has started consolidating SE4All activities in the region. Specifically, twenty (20) countries have already expressed their interest in advancing SE4All. These countries include Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan¹.

Support to Country Action Process

¹ Countries covered by ADB, UN ESCAP and UNDP.

The Regional Hub Secretariat is assisting in the facilitation of the conduct and submission of focus countries' rapid assessment/gap analysis, action agenda and investment prospectus. It is likewise assisting in providing framework for countries in the region on the formulation of actions agendas and investment prospectuses. Specifically, ADB assisted with the conduct of the rapid assessment/gap analysis of Bhutan and Nepal, while UNDP provided assistance in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Armenia and Tajikistan. Action Agendas and Investment Prospectuses are currently being developed with active and significant support also being received from partner organizations such as the UNDP, UN ESCAP, the World Bank, GIZ, the European Union and the Governments of Denmark, Germany, Japan, Norway and the United States.

SE4All Investor Forums

The Sustainable Energy for All Investor Forum brings together entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers and other key stakeholders to collaborate and find solutions to increase private sector participation in the Energy Access Sector.



ADB through its Energy for All Initiative has organized a number of SE4ALL Investor Forums which brings together key players in the energy field to discuss, collaborate and catalyze investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access.

- 1st SE4ALL Investor Forum: June 2014 during ACEF 2014, Philippines
- 2nd SE4ALL Investor Forum: October 2014, co-organized with World Bank, US Department of State, Bangladesh
- 3rd SE4ALL Investor Forum: June 2015 during ACEF 2015, Philippines
- 4th SE4ALL Investor Forum: March 2016, Nepal
- 5th SE4ALL Investor Forum: June 2016 during ACEF 2016, Philippines

2nd SE4All Forum (May 2015, New York)

Two sessions focusing on the activities of the Regional Hub and on the Project Development Facility were conducted for the Asia-Pacific Regional Hub:

- **“What’s Happening in Asia-Pacific”** highlighted the current status as well as challenges being faced by countries in terms of implementing SE4All goals in the region.
- **“Project Development Facility: Why We Need It”** highlighted the reasons why SE4All should replicate the Energy for All-Project Development Facility in its future investment efforts not just in the energy access sector but in renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors as well.

Monitoring of SE4All targets in the Asia-Pacific region

The Regional Hub Secretariat took the lead in the publication of a report that monitored the performance of the Asia-Pacific region, especially its developing member countries, in achieving the targets of SE4All. It complemented initiatives such as the Global

Tracking Framework (GTF) and the upcoming World Bank Global Status of Energy Access Report (SEAR). This report, which is the first of a series of publication to be released every two years provided added value to the literature by looking at country-level accomplishments in Asia and the Pacific as well as the overall performance of the region. This first installment gave focus on the energy-women-children-health nexus.

The “Sustainable Energy for All Tracking Progress in the Asia and the Pacific: A Summary Report” was launched by ADB Vice President Stephen Groff during the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Agenda held in New York last September 2015.

The Report can be accessed at:

<http://www.adb.org/publications/se4all-tracking-progress-asia-pacific-summary-report>

As part of the report, a Consultation Workshop was conducted in June 2015 which substantiated empirical data and documented practices, projects, and synergistic initiatives which assists the region in achieving the SE4All targets, specifically highlighting those that touch on issues relating to the nexus.

New Partnerships established

ADB has signed an agreement with the **Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore (SEAS)** providing support in the creation of the **Sustainable Energy Center of Excellence (SECOE)** in the region. The Center of Excellence was officially launched in March 2015. The Singapore-based facility is now a venue for the region’s policy makers to receive training on policy, technology, and project financing to assist the region in the achievement of the SE4All targets. The Center has already successfully conducted six workshops which were attended by policy-makers from the region, ADB staff and representatives from other partner organizations including the UN SE4All Initiative. It has also recently partnered with The National Bureau of Asian Research in organizing the Pacific Energy Summit held last June in Singapore.

ADB is moving forward with the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2014 between ADB and **IRENA** on creating and strengthening partnerships, policies, programmes, and investments that can help support the rollout of cost-effective renewables to off-grid rural communities in the Asia-Pacific region.

Discussions initiated with SE4All Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform

The Regional Hub Secretariat is looking into deepening its engagement on Energy Efficiency within the framework of the SE4All Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator. To date, 5 cities/ regions/ bodies have shown interest to participate (Ulan Bator/ Mongolia, Metro Manila/ Philippines, City of Munoz/Philippines, Iskandar Regional Development Authority, Malaysia, Thimphu/ Bhutan) in the Platform.

Communications & Knowledge Management

In the area of communications and knowledge management, the Hub looks to grow its partnerships and consolidate efforts to promote Sustainable Energy for All in the Asia-Pacific region through the conduct of workshops, communication, education and awareness raising activities.

Facebook (Sustainable Energy for All – Asia Pacific) and Twitter (@SE4All_AsiaPac) accounts have already been set up for the Hub and a web link will be established soon.

Furthermore, an online energy portal – the **UN ESCAP Asia Pacific Energy Portal (www.asiapacificenergy.org)** was created and offers access to a comprehensive set of 200+ indicators and 1300+ policy documents related to energy and development from across the Asia-Pacific region. Unique features include flexible and shareable data visualizations, multi-indicator comparisons, policy cross-sections, and searchable full-text policies. The scope of the portal includes Access, Efficiency, and Renewable Energy, as well as Environment, Pricing, Connectivity, Trade, Investment, Technology and Governance. The portal is designed to support research, analysis and informed decision-making, and, based on user needs, new features will continue to be introduced under an ongoing development process.

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