



# SUMMARY MEETING REPORT

## Asia LEDS Forum *Catalyzing an Era of Green Growth*



September 18-21, 2012

Bangkok, Thailand



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



## OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

More than 150 representatives from governments, international organizations, civil society groups, businesses, and other stakeholders from 17 Asian countries met during September 18-21, 2012 for the first Asia Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) Forum in Bangkok, Thailand to establish a new Asia LEDS Platform to promote low emissions, climate-resilient development across the region. This was the first regional forum organized under the LEDS Global Partnership, an international partnership of more than 90 governments and other organizations worldwide working collaboratively to promote low emissions, climate-resilient economic growth.

The objectives of the Asia LEDS Forum were to:

- **Build a regional network** of partners and practitioners working to advance and implement LEDS;
- **Facilitate regional coordination** among governments, multilateral organizations, donors, non-governmental organizations, and others actively promoting green growth and LEDS;
- **Share resources, tools, models, approaches, and best practices** in LEDS and green growth planning and implementation; and
- **Chart a path forward** for the Asia LEDS Platform under the LEDS Global Partnership, building on a shared vision and mission.

## SESSIONS

Utilizing a variety of session formats, the Forum provided opportunities for peer learning, collaboration around key issues related to LEDS and green growth, and consideration of how the new Asia LEDS Platform can support LEDS and green growth planning, implementation, and coordination in the region.

The Forum opened with *plenary presentations* that introduced key LEDS and green growth concepts, provided an overview of existing and emerging LEDS and green growth initiatives in Asia, and summarized resources and programs available to support further action. Two “*marketplace*” style *open space sessions* provided an opportunity for small group and one-on-one discussions. In the first open space session, Asian countries presented displays highlighting current and planned LEDS and green growth policies and initiatives, LEDS governance and institutional arrangements, tools used in LEDS decision-making, and lessons learned. A second session featured displays by development organizations on their programs, networks, and resources available to support Asian countries in achieving low emission development.

The second day of the Forum featured a series of 12 *technical concurrent sessions* on issues related to LEDS tools and processes, LEDS sector challenges, and financing for LEDS and green growth. International experts and country representatives shared experiences and ideas, and engaged in moderated group discussions on areas of interest and relevance to participants.



Presentation prior to panel discussion.



Participant presenting a country display in Open Space Session 1.



Group discussion to share experiences, ideas, and lessons learned.

On the final day of the Forum, in an inclusive *all group process*, attendees reviewed and added to a list of possible focus areas and activities for the Asia LEDS Platform based on the discussions and presentations in the previous day’s sessions. All participants then “voted” on the activities they would like to see undertaken by the Asia LEDS Platform, and indicated their interest in participating in or leading identified activities.

## OUTCOMES

The following summary of outcomes of the Forum is based on responses to evaluation and feedback forms filled out during the event, and the results of the prioritization process in which participants “voted” on possible functions and activities for the Asia LEDS Platform.

According to the feedback from participants, a large majority felt the various forum sessions proved “very useful” or “somewhat useful” for their everyday work, and a large majority also identified through the Forum new opportunities for regional collaboration and applying LEDS and green growth tools or lessons from other countries.

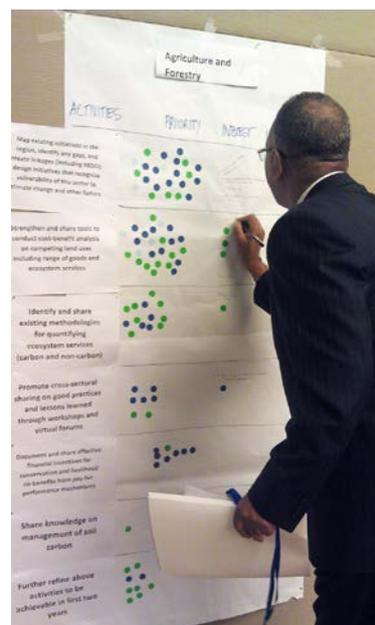
In addition to the peer exchange and learning that occurred during the Forum, another key outcome was the results of the prioritization process on the final day.<sup>1</sup> Votes were aggregated to begin identifying preferences and priorities for ongoing peer learning and collaboration through the Asia LEDS Platform.

For the topics included in the exercise, the proposed activities with the highest number of votes fell into three main categories:

- **Financing strategies and assistance.** LEDS finance was a top priority area for participants. There was very strong support for greater coordination and dialogue between governments, development finance institutions, and the private sector on ways to finance LEDS and green growth.
- **Analysis and planning tools and methods.** Interest was widespread in more training and better training on a variety of LEDS analytical tools and models, including how tools can inform LEDS decision-making and broader green growth planning.
- **Sectoral support.** Participants saw value in support for applying LEDS to the agriculture and forestry, energy, and transport sectors, and at the sub-national level. Participants indicated strong support for mapping of sectoral LEDS and green growth initiatives, sharing and improving LEDS tools, and receiving technical training and sharing of best practices.

Over 80 percent of participants cited new initiatives, tools, or lessons they felt they could replicate in their own country. An equal share noted specific opportunities for cross-country collaboration to mutually advance LEDS.

- Summary of feedback forms from Open Space Session 1



Participant voting on priorities for the Asia LEDS Platform.

<sup>1</sup> The list of issues used in the prioritization process was illustrative and not definitive as some important categories were not included, such as LEDS governance issues. It is also important to point out that although participants to the Forum who voted on the potential focus areas for the Asia LEDS Platform were diverse—mostly representatives from Asian governments (from various ministries and agencies) with a smaller number representing development organizations, businesses, and NGOs—the group is not fully representative of all LEDS stakeholders within the region.

The top 12 activities that participants prioritized for the Asia LEDS Partnership, listed by focus area, were:

1. **Finance** – Improve public-private linkages by bringing together development finance [institutions] with bankers and investors to understand and discuss climate finance strategies.
2. **Agriculture and Forestry** – Strengthen and share tools to conduct cost-benefit analysis on competing land uses, including the range of goods and ecosystem services.
3. **Sub-national** – Provide technical training, advice, and peer learning forums for local government officials on topics related to LEDS, including performance indicators and links between national and sub-national activities.
4. **LEDS Analytical Tools** – Strengthen and disseminate tools for benefits assessments (e.g., social, environmental, and health dimensions).
5. **LEDS Analytical Tools** – Provide training and technical assistance on modeling techniques that can be integrated into policy and planning (e.g., economy-wide modeling and MAC curves).
6. **Finance** – Share lessons learnt from countries designing and implementing market-based instruments (e.g., via case studies, e-learning, and web-based platform).
7. **Agriculture and Forestry** – Map existing initiatives in the region, identify any gaps, and create linkages; design initiatives that recognize vulnerability to climate change and other factors.
8. **Energy** – Offer expert advice to countries and share best practices on design of a portfolio of clean energy policies, including incentives for private sector investment.
9. **Sub-national** – Explore how to mobilize more LEDS pilot projects at the local level, including local projects integrated with national LEDS plans.
10. **Energy** – Develop technical resources and convene peer learning forum(s) on contributions of policies to development goals and on evaluating development impacts of policies, along with on designing policies to reflect technology and market status.
11. **LEDS Analytical Tools** - Provide targeted training and expert assistance on GHG inventories (e.g., data collection, inventory compiling, linkage to mitigation and policymaking, communicating results)
12. **Transportation** – Convene forums and prepare materials for peer learning and training on mass transit and alternative fuel strategies, including life cycle impacts of mass transit

The group also expressed preferences on the types of support the Asia LEDS Platform could provide:

- **LEDS training, capacity building, and knowledge-sharing.** There was very strong interest in this area, specifically for short and long-term technical assistance and an Asia LEDS training center(s).
- **Linkages to donor-funded and other LEDS initiatives.** Strong support for streamlining coordination and access to information and resources, which aligns with the envisioned role of the Asia LEDS Platform as a central network for LEDS in Asia.
- **Research.** Participants showed strong interest in: 1) research on tools, techniques, and best practices, and 2) mapping of regional LEDS programs and initiatives.

## NEXT STEPS

As Co-Chair of the Asia LEDS Platform, Orestes Anastasia of USAID led a plenary discussion on suggested next steps for the Asia LEDS Platform:

**Leadership Structure.** An initial priority is to identify a co-chair from an Asian country government for the Asia LEDS Platform. Participants were invited to volunteer for this role.

**Membership Development.** To ensure broad participation and regional ownership, the structure and activities of the Asia LEDS Platform should be guided by a Steering Committee comprised of a representative group of LEDS leaders in Asia. Participants were invited to volunteer to participate in a Steering Committee or in other capacities.

**Work Plan Development.** The design and implementation of the Asia LEDS Platform should be guided by a formal Work Program (work plan), developed through a collaborative process that includes the Co-Chairs, Steering Committee, and full Working Group.

The Work Program should identify:

- The vision, goal, and objectives of the Asia LEDS Platform
- Management structure
- Membership, communications, and outreach strategy
- Regional Working Group activities (e.g., network development, capacity building, knowledge-sharing, and tool and resource development)
- Linkages with other Working Groups and the Secretariat of the LEDS Global Partnership
- A sustainability plan

*For additional information about the Asia LEDS Forum, please view the full meeting report and meeting materials available at <http://LowEmissionsAsia.org/content/asia-leds-forum>.*