



ASIA LEADS FORUM 2012

September 18-21, 2012
Bangkok, Thailand

Plenary Feedback and Discussion

Thursday, September 20, 2012

15:30 – 17:00



**OPEN SPACE SESSION 1:
Country LEADS Initiatives, Case Studies, and
Experiences**



OPEN SPACE SESSION 1

- Knowledge exchanges are key
 - 80% of respondents cited new initiatives, tools or lessons they felt they could replicate in their own countries
 - 80% noted specific opportunities for cross-country collaboration
- Diversity of topics that participants found interesting ranged from smart grids to twinning programs, GHG reporting rules to finance mechanisms, transport systems to policy incentives, forest management to renewable energy



Highlighted Initiatives and Topics

- Transportation initiatives received high attention (e.g., Malaysia's rail-based transport system, Nepal's efforts to implement stringent vehicle standards, banning of second-hand vehicles in Philippines)
- Many highlighted the Ecotown approach in the Philippines as a "holistic best practice for developing LEADS, with its 7 integrated strategic priorities"
- Other initiatives cited include:
 - Carbon footprint labeling in Thailand
 - Financing green growth in Vietnam
 - Special purpose financing in Bangladesh
 - India's low carbon strategy for inclusive growth
 - Climate change commissions
 - Forests and land use
 - New approaches to doing traditional projects



Opportunities for Collaboration

- Cross-border collaboration on energy, renewables, mini-grid, biomass
- Twinning line ministries, much like cities are twinned already
- Collaborate on developing standard GHG reporting rules
- ASEAN public transport authority association
- Sharing information and best practices on how to access climate funds, including regional initiatives (not just country based)
- Government to Government collaboration on low carbon strategy development



How Can the Asia Regional Platform Help?

- Most often cited need was for more technical exchanges and specifically, regional study tours (e.g., site visits to see and learn first-hand the nuts and bolts of best practice initiatives)
- Create a web portal designed to link government to government, business to business, sector to sector, city to city
- Sub-regional and sector-based conferences to provide opportunity for deeper dives
- Countries need capacity building and tools for estimating and comparing the costs of various mitigation strategies
- Standardization of MRV, with common indicators and templates
- Take a lead role in engaging the private sector, PPPs



**OPEN SPACE SESSION 2:
International Initiatives and Regional
Cooperation and Support for LEADS**



OPEN SPACE SESSION 2

- Many participants noted need for better donor coordination and “harmonization”
 - Some countries experience “overload” and “confusion”
 - Programs should avoid overlap and be “long-term” (at least five years in length)
- Asia Regional Platform could provide region-wide mapping of donor programs and could support:
 - Improved coordination
 - “Match making” of needs and resource
 - Linking among programs



OPEN SPACE SESSION 2

- Wide support for Asia Regional Platform to:
 - promote sharing of experiences, best practices, and research
 - provide “data hub” or “clearinghouse” of information
- Some participants mentioned:
 - Need to emphasize SMEs in outreach to business
 - Creation of award or recognition programs for countries and for businesses showing leadership



OPEN SPACE SESSION 2

- Wide support for additional training and technical assistance.
Topics mentioned:
 - LEADS tools, modeling, GHG inventories, MRV systems,
 - Sectoral analysis, city-level LEADS, NAMAs,
 - Resource valuation, impact assessment, improved resource efficiency, enforcement of policies
- Training should:
 - Be conducted in local languages where feasible
 - Incorporate e-learning where feasible



OPEN SPACE SESSION 2

- Many countries noted need for assistance in securing climate financing
 - Array of financing options can resemble “spaghetti”
- ARP could help countries navigate through the “spaghetti” and assist in application process
- All Green Growth and LEADS programs must do a better job of involving Planning Ministries



CONCURRENT SESSION 1: LEADS TOOLS AND PROCESSES



1a: LEADS Analytical Tools for Decision-Making

- Transparent analytical tools are critical to support evidence-based decision-making
- Needs related to LEADS tools and processes:
 - Need to guide selection of tools (e.g., pros, cons, context) such as through a decision tree
 - In addition to training users of tools, help planners and policymakers understand and use tools and results
 - Need to improve data
- Opportunity: Consider creation of platforms to address choice, transparency of models, and to improve data and support capacity building



1b: National and Sub-national GHG Inventories

- New challenges emerging: 2006 IPCC Guidelines, Biennial Update Reports, linking inventories to mitigation and new mechanisms
- Important to work with data suppliers/other stakeholders
- Needs:
 - Capacity building resources focusing on methodologies for inventory experts, and data collection and stakeholder collaboration for inventory coordinators
 - Training in local languages
 - New tools that link inventories to mitigation analysis, and simpler tools for local governments
- Opportunities:
 - Benefits of emission inventories for environment ministry managers



1c: Technology Assessments and Resource Assessments

- Technologies and modeling techniques are available, and can be integrated into policy and planning (e.g., NREL's Geospatial Toolkit on in-country renewable energy potential)
- Needs related to LEADS tools and processes:
 - Technology Needs Assessment
 - Build-in country capacity on the use of tools for LEADS
- Opportunities:
 - Share lessons learned in the use of tools, barriers, and LEADS
 - Have one common platform for sharing data, analyses, experiences, to enhance capacity



1d: Development Impact Assessment and M&E

- Impact assessment tools exist, and tend to be qualitative
- Tools and approaches must factor in social, economic, environmental, technological variable to find true impact
- Ensuring feedback from local communities and on-site reviews are one approach that can work
- Needs related to LEADS tools and processes:
 - Quantifiable, verifiable, analytical tools for measuring impact
- Opportunities:
 - Successful tools and approaches can be shared and replicated via exchange platforms



CONCURRENT SESSION 2: LEDS Sector Challenges



2a: Energy

- It is critical to identify what are the costs of LEADS implementation and who are going to be responsible for it; safety net for the poor needs to be provided
- LEADS implementation needs to take into account the different stages of technology development and data availability, which are key areas for support by the Asia Regional Platform



2b: Transport

- Region has developed much capacity for biofuels; however, there is concern for impact on forests and food prices
- Various life cycle factors must be considered when calculating emissions baselines and mitigation potential
- Needs related to sector:
 - Realistic alternatives analysis for transport challenge solutions
 - Data to determine benefits/costs of infrastructure development and maintenance
- Opportunities:
 - Highlight existing tools and initiatives to leverage resources
 - Learn from countries that have existing systems (e.g., MRT)



2c: Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Use

- Mitigation and adaptation in land-based sectors cannot be disaggregated as clearly as in other sectors
- Community management frameworks for natural resources are effective for facilitating climate change actions
- Needs related to sector:
 - Tools to conduct cost-benefit analysis on competing land uses including range of good and ecosystem services
 - Methodologies for quantifying ecosystem services (carbon, non-carbon)
- Opportunities:
 - Cross-sectoral sharing on good practices and lessons learned
 - Financial incentives for conservation and livelihood co-benefits from pay-for-performance mechanisms



2d: Sub-national LEADS

- Intra and inter agency close collaboration is required to achieve successful LEADS implementation on the national and sub-national levels
- Acceptable MRV scheme needs to be integrated into sub-national LEADS design in order to access global climate finance



CONCURRENT SESSION 3: Financing LEADS



3a: Government Financing for National LEADS Initiatives

- **Ready for action.** Asian countries are ready to move from NATO (no action, talk only) on LEADS and climate change to engage in the practical aspects of LEADS development and financing.
- **Policy integration essential.** Policy integration is the first necessary condition for an effective framework to accommodate LEADS financing and initiatives.
- **Top of pyramid strategy.** In order to build support and understanding for climate financing, it's important to work at the top of the pyramid – and get support from the government leadership.
- **LEADS as supplementary.** LEADS financing should be introduced as a *supplement* to mainstream development and private sector financing and not as a stand-alone financing strategy.



3a: Government Financing for National LEADS Initiatives (continued)

- **Targeted consultations.** Instead of doing traditional “capacity building” trainings, consider doing targeted consultations. For example, consultations could include officials from finance, environment, planning and sectoral ministries.
- **Public-private linkage.** The link between public and private sector finance can be made by bringing together development finance officials with bankers and investors to understand and discuss climate finance strategies.
- **Standardize tracking of finance.** Development finance agencies should come together and create a systematic methodology for characterizing climate finance, making it easier for both them and the countries to track which projects have climate impacts.



3b: Domestic Market-based Policy Incentives and Carbon Market Platforms

- Opportunities for learning and cooperation on financing: PMR countries draw on their CDM experience (e.g., Mexico's housing POA and their urban NAMA)
- Critical for governments to create the demand; policies can restore the market and help create demand going forward
- Need to revive CDM – a universal position around CDM is necessary
- Examples of different policy and market mechanisms: PMR Market Readiness Proposals include: domestic ETS; Crediting NAMAs; Taxing system as a market instrument
- Need international means to address the risk around technologies and markets to enable private sector investments to flow to the new green growth paradigm



3c: Engaging the Private Sector, Establishing Public-private Partnerships

Two Case Studies Presented

- California Climate Policy – A LEADS Success Story
 - Action at subnational level is possible
 - Intensive stakeholder involvement in policy design
 - Transparent processes from the start
 - Instruments developed for California are workable and replicable
 - MRV system, Performance benchmarking, Registry, Cap and trade, Vehicle emission standards
- Thailand Feed-in Tariff – A LEADS Success Story
 - Research and stakeholder consultations formed the foundation
 - Flexibility – Two major policy adjustments undertaken
 - High leverage of private to public investment: 20 EUR private for every 1 EUR
 - Keys: availability of domestic private finance and supplier credit
 - Co-benefits important: increased energy security



3d: Financing Capacity Building and Improving Readiness for Climate Finance and International Carbon Markets

- Maximizing access to financing resources
 - Proposals need to reflect comprehensive plans, and to include partners, implementation plans, outcomes, monitoring systems
 - Ensure local buy-in and close collaboration among all groups
- Activities to help countries access resources
 - Technical assistance for proposal preparation
 - Case studies and guidelines (e.g., clearinghouse of information)
- Other points discussed
 - Strong interest in NAMAs
 - Countries need to clearly identify the barriers to be overcome
 - The money is out there – need to go and get it



**Pre-Event Session:
Green Growth Best Practices Initiative**

Summary from Green Growth Best Practices Session on Priority Topics for Assessment and Collaboration

- **Finance**
 - Approaches for developing a portfolio of financing strategies that tap both public and private sources
 - Strategies to increase support for GG measures from domestic financing sources (e.g. banks, etc.)
 - Information and strategies for accessing finance from domestic and international sources
 - Effective government instruments for mobilizing and leveraging private finance
 - Mechanisms for assisting poor in paying for higher cost, but cleaner technologies
- **Monitoring and evaluation**
 - Appropriate indicators, metrics, and benchmarks
 - Monitoring and evaluation plans, methods, and tools
 - Methods to evaluate impacts of capacity building
- **Planning and implementation processes**
 - Approaches for mainstreaming GG and LEDS with current planning processes
 - Approaches for building capacity of planning, finance, and sector agencies to support GG implementation
 - Approaches for coordinated strategy development across government agencies and achieving active engagement of all agencies
 - Integration of adaptation and mitigation planning and options
 - What types of targets should be established and how should be adopted
 - Lessons on effective planning and implementation approaches from both developed and developing countries
- **Building stakeholder support**
 - Tools and messages for justifying and communicating value of green growth
 - Effective approaches to overcome entrenched interests (e.g. fossil fuel industry)
 - How to document and communicate co-benefits
 - Effectively engagement of industry, including identifying drivers that will build industry support
 - How to convince industry of benefits of measures that may result in higher costs initially
 - How to achieve stakeholder support in different contexts
 - Communicating and building support for GG as new norm

Summary from Green Growth Best Practices Session on Priority Topics for Assessment and Collaboration

- **Policies**

- Success stories with high impact GG policies
- Identifying policies and programs that will best reduce poverty and lower emissions
- Designing policies to improve both climate resilience and mitigation
- Measures that will achieve rapid and large scale deployment and investment
- Policies that are most effective in different market conditions from developed and developing countries
- Appropriate time periods and phasing in and out of incentives

- **Analysis**

- Tools for evaluating opportunities and benefits of investments in longer-term sectoral and industry transformation
- Green economy accounting tools
- Enhanced benefits analysis tools and methods
- Tools for integrated analysis of both costs and benefits of options
- Data management processes
- Baseline development methods
- Options and pathway analysis and decision-making tools

- **Technology**

- Effective approaches for technology adaptation, scale-up, and diffusion
- Sharing of knowledge on technology performance, opportunities, and implementation strategies
- How to engage industry in supporting technology development and adaptation