

# ASIA

AND THE PACIFIC

# RENEWABLE ENERGY STATUS REPORT



2019

# PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members – 49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants and technical assistance.



The **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting co-operation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. It is the largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members. The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through reinforcing and deepening regional co-operation and integration to advance connectivity, financial co-operation and market integration. ESCAP, through its research and analysis, policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance, aims to support sustainable and inclusive development in member countries.



REN21 is an international policy network dedicated to building a sustainable energy future with renewables. This means having a clear vision about the future and what is needed to make the right decisions. We do this by telling compelling stories about why we need an energy transition and how renewables can contribute to this vision. We want to inspire and mobilise people across all sectors to make renewables a central part of any energy decision.

REN21's reports and activities are clustered under two main blocks: knowledge – what's happening now in the energy sector and what we think will happen; and debates – discussing a renewable energy future with players both within and outside the energy sector.

## SUPPORTED BY

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Bundesministerium  
für Wirtschaft  
und Energie

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# FOREWORD

## REN21

**A**s the world's fastest growing region, Asia requires increasing energy supplies to fuel its rapid pace of economic expansion. The sheer geographic size of Asia and the Pacific, its diversity and its varied institutional capacity offer a huge market potential for renewable energy. Renewable energy also presents an opportunity for the region to achieve a globally important position in the renewables market and to be a leader in the clean energy transition. But harnessing this momentum requires a key understanding of what is actually happening in each country.

The 2019 *Asia and the Pacific Renewable Energy Status Report* presents the current status of renewable energy uptake in the Asia Pacific region by examining the policy landscape, investment flows and how renewables are increasing energy access. Formal and informal data and information are used to reflect real-time developments in

the region. The data and information collection process uses a collaborative approach that is the trademark of REN21.

Documenting the continual evolution and uptake of renewables in a timely manner is challenging. We acknowledge that data gaps exist in this report. Nevertheless, the report provides a starting point to better understand regional developments. It also highlights where data are missing and need to be collected. Given the importance of the region in the energy transition and the current speed of change, a continual data and information collection process is key. I hope that this report is just the beginning of this process.

On behalf of the REN21 Secretariat, I extend our thanks to the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for their collaboration in the development of this report. It is my hope that this publication inspires action, discussion and exchange. REN21 welcomes your feedback and support.



**RANA ADIB**

Executive Secretary  
REN21

## ADB

**R**enewable energy plays a significant role in sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In 2015, the United Nations declared energy as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, advocating access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7) and urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (SDG 13). The Paris Agreement, through the Nationally Determined Contributions, contracted all nations to combat climate change and pursue a sustainable, low-carbon future.

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Strategy 2030 envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. ADB has committed USD 80 billion for 2019-2030 to combat climate change, and at least 75% of ADB's operations will support climate change mitigation and adaptation by 2030. The *Asia and the Pacific Renewable Energy Status Report* is in line with ADB's clean energy

development and will inform investment decisions in order to achieve renewable energy targets in ADB's developing member countries.

The *Asia and the Pacific Renewable Energy Status Report* covers 18 countries from the five sub-regions, which together represent 88% of the region's population and occupy 71% of its land area. Efforts and milestones in adopting renewable energy technologies in power generation, heating and cooling, and transport are presented. This report serves as a valuable reference for researchers, policy makers and the private sector and offers wide-ranging discussions on the renewable energy industry and market, distributed renewables for energy access, policies, regulations, investment and financing.



**YONGPING ZHAI**

Chief of Energy  
Sector Group  
ADB

# UN ESCAP

**T**he Asia Pacific region is progressing to a low-carbon energy future. Renewable energy development has gained momentum across the region and entered the mainstream, particularly in the power generation sector. Many policy makers in Asia and the Pacific and beyond have looked to renewable energy as a means of meeting multiple goals – diversification of energy resources, enhancing energy access, climate change mitigation and reducing air pollution, just to name a few. As the largest global region by population, GDP and energy use, the speed that the Asia Pacific region travels on its renewable energy journey will influence the rest of the world.

Capturing the diversity of a region such as Asia and the Pacific in one report is no easy task. Countries of the region have highly variable energy endowments and consumption patterns. By examining 18 countries in detail, drawn from across Asia and the Pacific's five sub-regions, the REN21 *Asia and the Pacific Renewable Energy Status Report* builds a comprehensive picture of the region's overall progress.

Taken together, these countries cover 88% of the region's population and are embracing a wide range of renewable technology applications, from biofuels to wind power.

By examining the progress in areas beyond renewable energy technologies – such as energy efficiency, finance and policies – the report paints a detailed picture of the developments across the region and pinpoints some emerging trends. It presents a complex picture in a cohesive, engaging and accessible format, complementing other efforts such as the multi-agency Asia Pacific Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework report and the Asia Pacific Energy Data Portal operated by ESCAP.

This inaugural report will provide stakeholders with valuable and up-to-date information from across this diverse region and supports the further development of the renewable energy sector towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



**HONGPENG LIU**

Director, Energy Division

UN ESCAP

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## AUTHORING TEAM

Katarina Uherova Hasbani (The August Company), Lead Author  
Mark Lister (Asia Clean Energy Partners – ACE Partners)  
Adriana Karpinska  
Kavita Kaur (ACE Partners)  
Peter du Pont (ACE Partners)

## SPECIAL ADVISORS

Christopher Dent (Edge Hill University)  
Clare Richardson Barlow (University of Leeds)

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

REN21 Secretariat

Vibhushree Hamirwasia

Asian Development Bank

Yongping Zhai, Kee-Yung Nam, Maria Dona D. Aliboso, Yun Ji Suh,  
Lyndree Malang

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia  
and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Hongpeng Liu, Michael Williamson, David Ferrari, Kohji Iwakami

## PROJECT ADVISORS

Divyam Nagpal  
Atul Raturi (University of the South Pacific)

## RESEARCH AND PROJECT SUPPORT (REN21 Secretariat)

Rana Adib, Thomas André, Fiona Corcoran, Jack Corscadden,  
Duncan Gibb, Eleonora Moro, Hannah E. Murdock, Lea Randalder,  
Katharina Satzinger

## COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT (REN21 Secretariat)

Laura E. Williamson, Anna Swenson, Florencia Urbani

## EDITING, DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Lisa Mastny, Editor  
ACW, London, acw.uk.com

Note: Some individuals have contributed in more than one way to this report. To avoid listing contributors multiple times, they have been added to the group where they provided the most information. Lead country contributors are in bold.

## CONTRIBUTORS AND REVIEWERS

### Bangladesh

**Shaymal Barman** (Centre for Energy Environment Resources Development Foundation)

### China

João Graça Gomes (China Three Gorges Corporation);  
Yitong Han (Electric Power Planning & Engineering Institute);  
**Kejun Jiang** (Energy Resources Institute);  
Hong Miao (World Resources Institute – WRI)

### Fiji

Atul Raturi (University of the South Pacific);  
**Anirudh Singh** (School of Science and Technology, University of Fiji)

### Georgia

**Natalia Jamburia** (Ministry of Energy)

### India

Disha Agarwal (Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation);  
Abhinav Bhatnagar (Extol Wind);  
Divya Kottadiel (Power for All);  
Deepak Sriram Krishnan (WRI India);  
Ashok Mangotra (NCBC);  
Saurab Motiwala (Adani);  
Prakash Rajendran (ABB);  
Ripu Bhanjan Singh (US Agency for International Development / India Greening the Grid Program);  
Manoj Kumar Singh (India Power Corporation Limited);

Harsh Thacker (Customized Energy Solutions);  
Daksha Vaja (Community Science Centre);

**Ranjit Chandra Vallabhaneni** (En-genuity Advisory);  
Balasubramanian Viswanathan (BGR Energy Systems)

#### Indonesia

Marissa Malahayati (National Institute of Environmental Studies Japan);

Taufiq Sunar (PT PLN (Persero));  
**Hari Yuwono** (Private Financing Advisory Network – PFAN)

#### Japan

Hironao Matsubara (Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies);  
**Mika Ohbayashi** (Renewable Energy Institute);  
Romain Zissler (Renewable Energy Institute)

#### Kazakhstan

Erlan Dairbekov (United Nations Development);  
Bozhil Kondev (American University of Central Asia);  
Ainur Sospanova (Ministry of Energy);  
Kamil Sobczak (SKOLKOVO Energy Centre);  
Vladislav Zavadskiy (Almaty University of Power Engineering and Telecommunications)

#### Mongolia

**Georgi Sanadze** (National Statistics Office of Georgia)

#### Myanmar

Ashish Dhankhar (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit);  
Min Chan Win (Myanmar Eco Solutions);  
**Ye Thu Win** (Myanmar Eco Solutions)

#### Pakistan

Shoab Ahmad (SAARC Energy Centre)

#### Philippines

Emmanuel R. Arriola (University of the Philippines Diliman);  
Simon John Corocoto (Lightup Solar);  
Jens Jaeger (Alliance for Rural Electrification);  
**Fritzie R. Vergel** (International Resources Group)

#### Republic of Korea

Tae-Jong Kim (Global Strategic Communications Council);  
Jinsun Lee (Greenpeace East Asia);  
Joanne Lee (WWF);  
Nikola Medimorec (Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport)

#### Sri Lanka

Namiz Mohamed Musafer (Practical Action);  
**Nelson Nagasinghe** (PFAN)

#### Thailand

**Boonrod Yaowapruerk** (Creagy Co.)

#### Tonga

**Tevita Tukunga** (University of New South Wales)

#### Uzbekistan

Bozhil Kondev (American University of Central Asia);  
Abdulaziz Murtozaev;  
Nizomiddin Rakhmanov (Tashkent State Technical University)

#### Viet Nam

**Vu Thi Hao** (Ministry of Planning and Investment);  
Rachael Jonassen (George Washington University);  
Hoang Nguyen Minh (Energy Conservation Center);  
Dang Anh Thi Nguyen;  
Minh-Quan Tong (Vietnam Initiative for Energy Transition – VIET);  
An Truong (VIET)

## REGIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Venkatachala Anbumozhi (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia);  
Chipampa Chola (Ministry of Energy, Zambia);  
Ashkan Etemad (Monenco Iran Consulting Engineers);  
Vanda Faasoa C T (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa);  
Sione Foliaki (Ministry of Finance, Samoa);  
Chanthachit Hongthong (Houaphanh Provincial Financial Department Ministry of Finance);  
Samuel Law (International Hydropower Association – IHA);  
Yevang Nhiavue (Ministry of Energy and Mines, Lao PDR);  
Mathis Rogner (IHA);  
Sergio Sammarchi (Shanghai Jiao Tong University);  
Sajith Wijesuriya (Colorado School of Mines);  
Lana Zaman (UN ESCAP)

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