



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY June 5th 2018
AVPN CLIMATE FACT SHEET

Asia is the most disaster-prone region in the world and the most sensitive to climate change. It also poses a serious threat to Asia's economy, its people and ecosystems. Solutions exist to help transform Asian economies into a low carbon future but they need to be deployed at an unprecedented pace and scale if we are to keep emissions way below dangerous levels. **30%** of AVPN member funding goes to climate in Asia

In line with the UN's World Environment Day on June 5th, sessions such as [*Sustainable Finance & Impact Investment*](#), [*Financing Solutions to Climate Change*](#) and [*Social Investment in Forest Ecosystem*](#) will highlight opportunities for addressing climate action in the region.

The **Paris climate Agreement** commits the world to limiting global temperature rise to well below **2 degrees Celsius, aiming for 1.5 degrees**. By **2050**, this means achieving net zero emissions globally. This signals even more challenges for developing countries who are looking to rapidly grow their economies, lift their populations out of poverty but also minimize the environmental impacts that typically accompany rapid development.

Emissions are growing rapidly in Southeast Asia which is a step backwards as historically, developing countries have contributed the least to climate change but are now responsible for 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Nowhere is this more apparent than in Asia, where emissions are growing faster than any other region in the world. This rapid growth is being driven primarily through deforestation and growing energy demand, with five countries - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam - making up more than 90% of the region's emissions.

In Indonesia, emissions from land-use change and forestry comprised 65.5% of the country's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2013 and was responsible for the country jumping to the world's 4th largest emitter in 2015, due to peatland forest fires. These rising trends are likely to continue unless Indonesia urgently develops and implements long-term lowest emissions development pathways.

Recent analysis by the Asian Development Bank shows that Southeast Asia is likely to sustain larger economic losses from climate change impacts than the rest of the world - up to 11% of regional GDP by 2100 under a business-as-usual scenario where climate action is not prioritized by any government.

Southeast Asia's cities hold the key to its future, and the choices made over the next decade will determine whether that future is economically resilient, socially inclusive and climate safe. The urban planning decisions — or, as it currently often the case in unplanned or ungoverned urban development, the 'non-decisions' — and investments made during this period are therefore critically important.

China is the world's largest emitter, accounting for about 27% of world greenhouse gas emissions. However, by most indicators, China remains a developing country, with per capita income well below that of developed countries. With almost 13% of China's population still living below the poverty line, economic growth remains a key priority to address this disadvantage. [talk here of the innovations in finance such as green bonds that China are implementing]

Decision makers in China are facing multiple challenges including growing the economy to high income stage, securing energy systems to enable increasing urbanisation and industrialisation, improving air quality to address significant public health issues and curbing emissions to reduce the country's contribution to climate change.

Costs for very low or zero emissions technologies such as renewables are dropping rapidly and developing countries now need to use this to their advantage and 'leapfrog' the fossil fuel technologies that are typically associated with economic development.



This includes:

- Significant improvements in ‘smart grid’ technologies enabling electricity to be transported and used more efficiently
- Protecting and restoring forests presents an economic opportunity in a world where greenhouse gas emissions will increasingly face a real or implied carbon price.

To make this a reality, there must be access to substantial climate finance available from a range of bilateral and multilateral donors, philanthropy and social investors and the private sector to support these investments. When deployed in a manner consistent with long-term lowest emissions sustainable development, countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands can position themselves for successful and inclusive green growth.

There is already significant finance available to support the transition towards net zero emissions. Total global climate financing in 2014 reached an all-time high of US\$392 billion, with 61% coming from private sources and 39% from public (of which 34% is from development finance institutions). However, these current international finance flows fall well short of the levels required to meet current needs and future targets and the gap continues to grow. In order to leverage the public and private funds required to transition to a low carbon economy, a range of new innovative scalable strategies and investment vehicles are needed.

Considerable progress has been made globally in transitioning to green growth, with renewable energy and energy efficiency investments between 2011-2014 reaching \$1.195 trillion globally. While this is a good start, much greater mobilisation of private sector finance is required to support the significant action necessary for developing countries to mitigate rapidly growing emissions and adapt to climate change impacts. Addressing the barriers is a key step to unlocking the financial flows that are critical for the transition to a just, equitable, and environmentally-responsible net zero emissions future for us all.

AVPN member, Climateworks Australia, has developed the Pathways to Prosperity program which will support developing countries in achieving lowest emissions development alongside Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate change is already harming people and ecosystems, the reality can be seen and felt everywhere but more acutely in countries like India, where changes to monsoonal patterns, a modest rise in sea-levels and the impact of heat waves are experienced with increasing frequency and lead to a devastating impact on livelihoods and the environment. Yet, there is little progress on climate initiatives, as reflected [in this chart](#) that shows the work still to be done by India, and other Asian countries, towards Climate Change Sustainable Development Goals.

Philippines is promoting and supporting green technology innovations; climate-smart infrastructure and designs; and low-carbon and energy-efficient urban transport systems.

Possible climate focus interviews-

Lauren Sorkin, Managing Director, Asia Pacific for 100 Resilient Cities, Rockefeller Foundation, is an environment specialist. Before Rockefeller Foundation, Lauren spent six years working with the Asian Development Bank promoting climate responsive development in the Asia Pacific region. Her assignment included overseeing the development of the ADB’s first organization-wide Climate Change Implementation Plan and corresponding staff development program. Lauren worked through the USAID Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon to promote green growth in the region as well as with the USAID Eco-Asia Clean Development and Climate Program. [LinkedIn](#)



Vikram Widge, Global Head of Climate Finance and Policy, IFC, The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, and the largest development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Vikram leads IFC's external engagement on climate finance, delivering several award-winning, first-of-their-kind products linked to debt capital markets, results-based finance, and sustainable development including the Forests Bond, the Pilot Auction Facility, and the Carbon Delivery Guarantee. a pioneer in supporting and financing clean technologies such as renewable power, waste-to-energy, fuel cells and electric vehicles.

Naina Subberwal Batra CEO & Chairperson, Naina's leadership over the past 5+ years has grown the AVPN membership by over 300% and elevated the organization into a truly regional force for good. The organization support the entire ecosystem of Social Funders from philanthropists to impact investors and Corporate CSR professionals in Asia. She was instrumental in developing AVPN's innovative services that connect, empower and educate 400+ members of AVPN. 30% of AVPN's members fund Environment and Climate Change at this year's AVPN conference which will be attended by 1000 delegates, climate change is a key part of the discussion. Naina will be leading the discussions and convening to convince philanthropists and social investors that now is the time to step up and address the urgent issue of climate change.

For media interviews and queries contact

AVPN PR Partner
Creative Stories Communications

@Desiree- 86194881

@Ganz- 97791286