



Summary Report

Leadership Group for Clean Transport in Asia

2nd Roundtable Dialogue
6 -7 September, New Delhi, India

In our second year of operation, members of the Leadership Group for Clean Transport in Asia (LG-CTA), formerly the Asia Clean Mobility High Ambition Leadership Group, will converge on new impact areas on the foundation of a non-binding, regional collaboration plan to decarbonize transport and enhance sustainable economic development. This will be accomplished through the creation of a proposed *South-South Cooperation Hub on transport and climate* that will support the region in decarbonizing the transport sector.

Background

With transport demand and emissions projected to soar in the Asia Pacific region, the Global Climate Action Partnership (GCAP, formerly the Low Emissions Development Global Partnership, LEDES GP) aims to foster meaningful and sustainable regional and multilateral exchange, peer learning and ultimately integrated technical approaches across transport ministries in the region, which would be a global first.

The efforts required to enable the joint thinking and work needed to deliver transport decarbonization can be catalyzed through the creation of a *South-South Cooperation Hub on Transport and Climate*. This Cooperation Hub would help bridge the gap between transport and climate commitments in Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement and the realities of implementing sustainable low-carbon transport activities in countries in the Global South.

The proposed Cooperation Hub, as a new stream of work within the LG-CTA draws inspiration from the Renewable Energy for Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC) Initiative. The [RELAC Initiative](#) aims to accelerate uptake of renewable energy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Launched at UN Climate Change Conference COP25 in 2019, it encompasses 10 LAC countries committed to scaling up the regional renewable energy penetration by 2030.

The LG-CTA is an initiative of the Global Climate Action Partnership and was successfully launched with cooperation across the three leading implementing partners – Asia LEADS Platform (led by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) South Asia), the SLOCAT Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL - a U.S. Department of Energy federal lab). This initiative is supported by the U.S. Department of State.

Hybrid 2nd Roundtable Dialogue



Participant Countries

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam

Objective

Country representatives discussed national and regional needs and alignment around near-term impact areas that would result in a tangible cooperation plan aimed at decarbonizing the transport sector.

Host Country Partner

Hosted by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog, India)

Roundtable Dialogue Highlight

All participants from 9 countries worked together to identify impact areas that are of interest to each country as well as the region, and further identified effective modalities of support for multilateral activities.

Executive Summary

To generate multilateral impact areas focused on decarbonizing the transport sector in Asia, GCAP together with the support of the U.S. Department of State organized the 2nd Roundtable Dialogue that brought nine countries in the region to the discussion table.

During the two-day roundtable dialogue, representatives discussed national and regional needs aiming to formulate alignment around near-term impact areas that would result in a tangible cooperation plan across the region. Meeting sessions were formulated to progress from specific country priorities and challenges towards aggregate goals in the region. Productive discussions resulted in the drafting of 10 impact areas and sub-topics (see boxes on page 4) that would lead to transformative changes moving the region towards cleaner and sustainable transport options. The GCAP team will be using these impact areas to design multilateral activities for 2023 and beyond.

Opening session

The dialogue was opened by Ms. Angela Enriquez, Project Manager, Clean Energy, Office of Global Change, U.S. Department of State, who welcomed all the participants and expressed interest in engaging with the country representatives in the roundtable to understand their priorities and work together at the regional level.

Subsequently, Ms. Caroline Uriarte, Technical Director of GCAP, NREL emphasized that GCAP is now aiming to focus on implementing regional climate actions based on the suggestions made by the member countries.

The roundtable dialogue was co-hosted by NITI Aayog, the Government of India's Public Policy Think Tank, and Mr. Sudhendu Sinha, Senior Advisor, Infrastructure Connectivity and Electric Mobility, highlighted India's new initiatives and emphasized the need for regional cooperation to tackle the significant climate challenges affecting the region.

Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI and Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia (Lead Director – Asia LEDS Partnership) shared his ideas about clean mobility and briefly discussed the agenda of the roundtable.

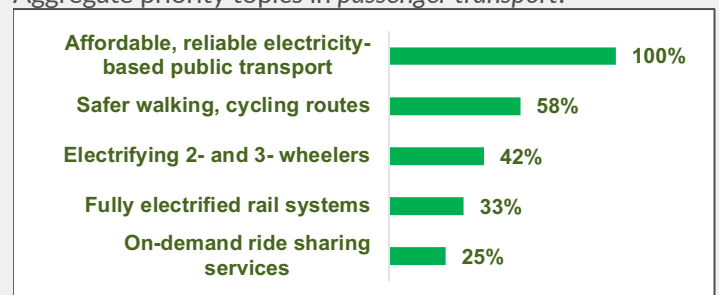
The welcome session was followed by introductions by the implementing partners from NREL, SLOCAT, and the Asia LEDS Partnership Secretariat (hosted by ICLEI). The introductions were initiated by Mr. Mark Major, Senior Advisor, SLOCAT, who moderated the entire 2-day meeting.

Where we stand

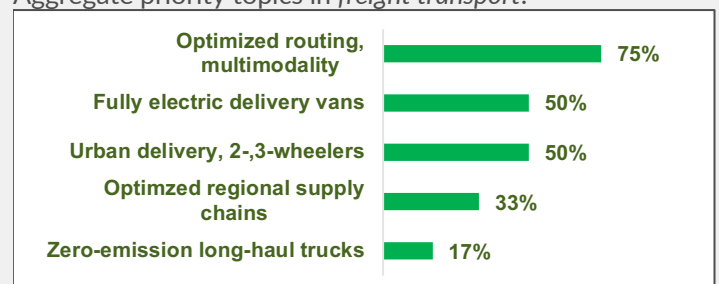
The first segment of the roundtable was focused on understanding the status of the transport sector and country specific priorities. This session was led by Dr. Sanjini Nanayakkara, Project Manager, NREL, who gave an overview of GCAP along with the proposed activities under the leadership group. Ms. Soumya Chaturvedula, Deputy Director - ICLEI South Asia (Deputy Lead – Asia LEDS Partnership) followed by introducing the participants to Asia LEDS Partnership and activities in the region. Finally, Dr. Urda Eichhorst, Director, Nationally Determined Contribution Transport Initiative Asia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation to advance the decarbonization of the transport sector in Asia.

Eighteen country representatives from the nine participant countries presented their current targets/priorities and challenges in the transport sector. The targets of all the countries primarily focussed on road improvement, promotion of electric mobility, upgrading related infrastructure, utilization of water transport, strengthening public transport etc. Analyzing participant replies to the pre-dialogue survey showed great synergy across country specific priorities. As shown below, many countries are interested in electrified public transport systems that are safe and reliable for passenger transport while for freight, optimization of routes was a key topic.

Aggregate priority topics in *passenger transport*:

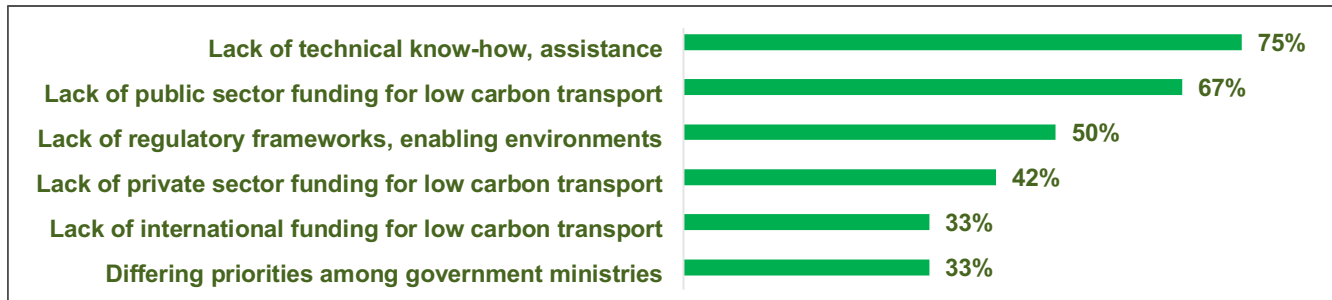


Aggregate priority topics in *freight transport*:

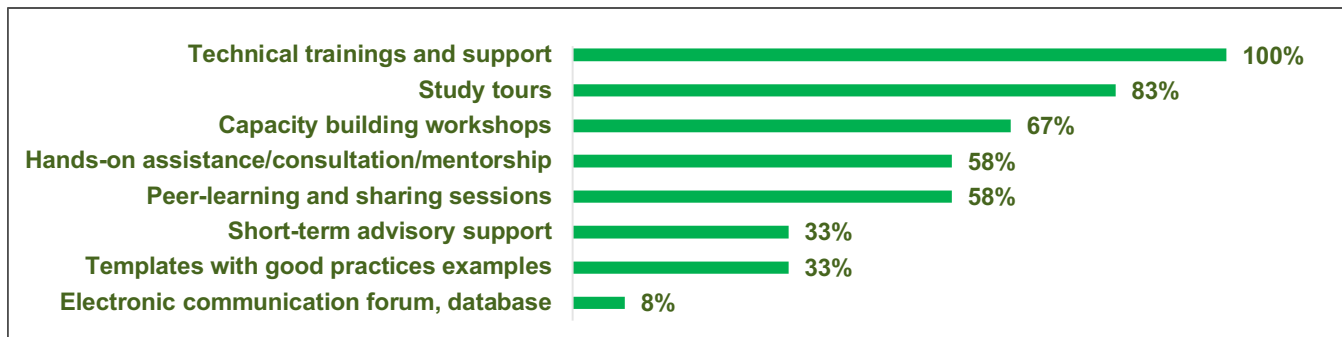


Challenges and opportunities

To understand how best to support the region, it is necessary to have a comprehensive understanding of the current challenges in the region as well as the preferred modalities of support. In a session led by Ms. Soumya Chaturvedula, the representatives discussed existing challenges to accomplish set targets in the transport sector. The top three challenges are a lack of technical knowledge and assistance, a lack of public sector funding for low carbon transport, and a lack of regulatory frameworks and enabling environments, as shown in the following chart.



Mr. Ashish Rao Ghorpade, Deputy Director of ICLEI South Asia led the discussion about modalities of support and added value by the creation of the South-South Cooperation Hub. The roundtable elicited responses related to the types of activities that representatives would prefer as a result of this regional cooperation for transport sector's impact areas. The top three preferred activities are technical trainings and support, study tours, and capacity building workshops, as shown in the following chart.



Building blocks of our cooperation agreement and ideas for multilateral activities

Towards to end of the second day of the dialogue, we converged on to discussing potential multilateral impact areas, which forms the building blocks of how we would operationalize the activities within the LG-CTA. This segment was led by Ms. Angel Cortez, Project Officer, SLOCAT. Using the discussions from the first day as well as the pre-dialogue questionnaire, 10 impact areas were identified. All the participants were given time to choose and express interest in their preferred priority and sub-priority topics by voting, and the synthesis of the discussion resulted in drafting many themes to work on under this initiative and is shown in page 4.



A snapshot of the synthesis of the impact areas and sub-topics are shown below. Each country was asked to select their top three sub-topic choices, which provided us a prioritized list of the topics for our future activities. Each  represents a country vote.



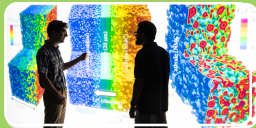
Charging Infrastructure

- Renewable Energy integration ✓✓✓✓
- Grid integration (smart+demand charging, safety, capacity, codes, standards) ✓✓✓
- Electric Vehicle (EV) bus deployment ✓✓
- Setting up Green Routes (technical considerations) ✓
- Standards for EV charging to ensure technology neutrality, e.g. public charging ✓



Planning for Sustainable Transport

- Roadmap/action plan for incorporating EV and withdrawing Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles gradually ✓✓✓
- Sustainable transport for rural sub-regions ✓✓
- Equity in transport ✓✓
- Improving the efficiency of existing fleet ✓
- Equitable use of roads ✓
- Planning for sustainable transport (master plan; strategy, action plan) ✓



EV Batteries

- Battery disposal, recycle, critical mineral extraction, swapping policy and technology ✓✓✓✓✓
- EV batteries standard, harmonize standard in region ✓✓✓
- Retrofitting technology ✓



Capacity Building, awareness and outreach

- Stakeholder workshop for attracting EVs ✓✓✓✓
- Strategic action plan for EV promotion ✓✓✓
- EV, public transportation, logistics/freight ✓



EV Policies and regulation frameworks

- Harmonization of national EV policies/frameworks with neighboring countries, region ✓✓✓
- EV Policy and Regulatory Framework: technical charging infrastructure; work force, public transport, logistics, coordination mechanism ✓✓
- EV deployment roadmap ✓✓
- EV readiness plan ✓



Access to Finance and business models

- Public-Private Partnerships: business model; build, operate, and transfer) ✓✓✓
- Business models to attract finance in EV sector ✓
- Economic instruments to discourage use of ICE vehicles ✓
- Incentive/funding for transport operator who will shift to EV ✓
- Standards of operating procedures ✓



Workforce Development

- Capacity Building on safe EV inspection, testing and maintenance ✓✓✓✓✓
- Training technicians and other actors in repair/accident value chain ✓✓✓



Public Transportation

- Technology for converting ICE vehicles to EV ✓✓
- Phasing out inefficient buses ✓✓
- Route optimization ✓
- Bus rapid transit management, operation and safety strategy ✓



2&3 Wheelers

- Comprehensive fitness certificate system for conversion of 2/3 wheelers ✓✓✓✓
- Standard of EV conversion for 2/3 wheelers. ✓



Logistics and Freight

- Best practiced logistics for freight management ✓✓
- Dedicated lanes for electrified freight transport with charging facilities ✓
- Using railways for freight transport ✓



Group Photo; All country representatives (in-person and virtual) and implementing partners at the second day of the dialogue.

Next Steps

- We will reach out to the participants with an invitation letter to join the South-South Cooperation Hub, with a non-binding agreement to work together on collaborative activities.
- Once the invitation has been delivered to the relevant authority, a virtual meeting will be set up for all participants and their leadership to discuss any questions/concerns.
- Deeper engagement on the draft multilateral topics and types of activities will be initiated.
- We will aim to showcase this regional agreement at a ministerial level discussion at an Asia regional event in 2023.

Photo credits: Page 1, ALP; Page 4, [1-Top, 3, 4, 10-Bottom] Dennis Schroeder; [2, 6] Werner Slocum; [5, 9] Sanjini Nanayakkara; [7] Bryan Bechtold; [8] Erik Nelson; Page 5, ALP

Key Takeaways

- Overall agreement that working in collaboration with other countries in the region would lead to more impactful outcomes.
- Discussions resulted in focusing down to 10 impact areas that are the highest priority topics in the transport sector - an aggregate of what we heard from all the representatives. Summaries of the discussions can be found in the [roundtable meeting notes](#).
- Topics for multilateral activities were synthesized from the group discussions. Within each of the impact areas, representatives created sub-topics, which were voted on to prioritize topics for regional multilateral activities.
- Five countries prioritized 'EV battery – recycling and disposal' and 'Workforce development – EV battery repairs and maintenance', making these two topics the highest priority topics for the region.
- Representatives stated that their top three preferred outcomes of the roundtable dialogue were technical partnerships, funding partnerships, and knowledge exchange platforms.

Contact Us

Please email us at any time:

Asia LEDS Partnership Secretariat: alpsecretariat@iclei.org

Asia LEDS Partnership: Anandhan Subramaniam [anandhan.subramaniam@iclei.org] and Pratibha Caleb [Pratibha.caleb@iclei.org]

SLOCAT: Angel Cortez [angel.cortez@slocatpartnership.org]

NREL: Sanjini Nanayakkara [sanjini.nanayakkara@nrel.gov]

“There is a need to realize and take regional aspirations forward, so as to align with the global aspiration of decarbonizing the transport sector. The [Leadership Group for Clean Transport in Asia] is one such platform that is helping to create this regional synergy.”

– Infrastructure Connectivity & Electric Mobility Advisor, NITI Aayog, India