



“Pathways for Indigenous-Led Energy: Voices of Indigenous Women and Youth in Asia”

Side Event: 12th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

*February 27, 11:30-12:45 GMT+7
Virtual via Zoom*

Register: <https://forms.gle/2dvXsf6X2GsnDCHE9>

Organizer(s)

Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples

Co-organizer(s)

UN Women Asia and the Pacific, UN Environment Programme Asia and the Pacific, Heinrich Boehll Stiftung-Southeast Asia

Background

This side event addresses the dual challenge of imposed renewable energy projects and the urgent need to support Indigenous Peoples-led initiatives, with a particular focus on Indigenous women and youth. Drawing on the Declaration and Roadmap developed at the Regional Conference on Indigenous Women and Youth for a Just and Sustainable Energy Transition (Bangkok, September 2024), the session will explore the socio-environmental impacts of projects conducted without Free, Prior and Informed Consent. These externally-driven initiatives often result in displacement and loss of livelihoods, disproportionately impacting Indigenous women and youth. Aligned with the APFSD 2025 theme and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the event also showcases pathways for Indigenous-led renewable projects, emphasizing SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Through panel discussions and interactive dialogue, participants will explore policy recommendations, community priorities, and successful Indigenous-led models for energy sustainability. This side event aims to elevate the perspectives of Indigenous women and youth, foster partnerships, and contribute actionable insights for the 2030 Agenda, supporting a just transition that leaves no one behind.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This side event will delve into the challenges Indigenous Peoples, particularly Indigenous women and youth, face with imposed renewable energy projects, while also spotlighting their leadership in community-driven renewable initiatives. It aims to highlight the unique insights and contributions of Indigenous women and youth in shaping sustainable energy transitions in the Asia-Pacific region.

Guiding questions include:

- 1. What unique challenges do Indigenous women and youth encounter in imposed renewable energy projects, and how do these projects impact their communities' social and environmental well-being?*
- 2. How can traditional Indigenous knowledge, particularly from Indigenous women and youth, complement science-based solutions in advancing sustainable energy transitions?*
- 3. What policy measures and resources are required to support and scale Indigenous-led renewable energy projects in the region?*
- 4. In what ways can government and stakeholders adapt policies to ensure Indigenous-led projects receive priority and support within national energy frameworks?*
- 5. How can we build/strengthen a stronger partnership between government, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders*

The event's expected contribution to APFSD is to provide policy insights, showcase best practices, and promote collaborative solutions that elevate Indigenous voices and leadership in the global energy transition.

Programme

Time	Agenda	
11:30 - 11:35	Opening remarks	<p>Maria Holtsberg Deputy Regional Director UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Robeliza Halip Executive Director Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples</p>
11:36 - 11:44	Challenges and Community Impacts of Geothermal and Mining Projects in Indonesia	Surti Handayani PPMAN, Indonesia
11:45 - 11:53	Challenges and Community Impacts of Nickel Mining in the Philippines	
11:54 - 12:02	Integrating Traditional Indigenous Knowledge with Science-Based Solutions for Sustainable Energy Transitions	Joe Baxter TONIBUNG Sabah, Malaysia
11:45 - 11:53	Perspective on Disability and Youth - Just Energy Transition	
12:03 - 12:11	Q&A	
12:12 - 12:17	Policy Frameworks that Support Community-Led Renewable Energy Projects	Monika Merdekawati ASEAN Centre for Energy

12:18-12:23	Policy Frameworks that Support Community-Led Renewable Energy Projects	Parbata Bhatta Deputy Director, AEPC Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
12:24-12:29	Supporting Indigenous Peoples Advocacy for a Just Transition	Heinrich Boehll Stiftung-Southeast Asia
12:30-12:35	Q&A	
12:36-12:41	Building and Strengthening Partnerships Among Government, Civil Society, and Stakeholders	Breshna Belal Khel Programme Analyst Humanitarian, DRR and Climate Change UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
12:42-12:44	Reflections, Summary and Closing Remarks	Adrian Lasimbang Board Member Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples