



Regional: Regional Connectivity Fund for Energy in Southeast Asia Technical Assistance (RCF-TA)

Project Name
Regional Connectivity Fund for Energy in Southeast Asia Technical Assistance (RCF-TA)
Project Number
60199-001
Country / Economy
■ Regional
■ Cambodia
■ Indonesia
■ Lao People's Democratic Republic
■ Malaysia
■ Philippines
■ Thailand
■ Timor-Leste
■ Viet Nam
Project Status
Proposed
Project Type / Modality of Assistance
■ Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount

TA: Regional Connectivity Fund for Energy in Southeast Asia	
Source	Amount
Regional Connectivity Fund for Energy in Southeast Asia Trust Fund	US\$ 10.00 million

Sustainable Development Goals
■ SDG 7.1
■ SDG 9.1
Sector / Subsector
■ Energy /

Gender
Some gender elements
Description

The proposed technical assistance (TA) will support activities to prepare cross-border and domestic electricity transmission and related investments involving ASEAN developing member countries (DMCs). Eligible activities should contribute directly or indirectly to the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), i.e., the region's commitment to achieving a fully integrated regional energy system by 2045. Projects eligible for assistance will comprise cross-border transmission infrastructure, domestic grid upgrades that enable regional integration, and renewable energy projects developed to export power (i.e. generation-to-foreign-grid projects).

The TA will focus on activities to prepare projects that align with country- and regionally-led objectives on energy security and growth, resilience and decarbonization. The TA will also support investment planning, policy dialogue, capacity building, and knowledge sharing activities to address underlying technical and institutional barriers holding back projects, and to facilitate collaboration among ASEAN member countries and partners on transmission project preparation.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy
The ASEAN region is undergoing rapid economic expansion, driving a projected near tripling of energy demand by 2050. Simultaneously, countries face increasing pressure to decarbonize their energy systems, strengthen energy security, and increase the resilience of their electricity systems (to withstand climate and other shocks, and to integrate variable renewable energy generation). Across ASEAN, these imperatives are already reflected in national energy strategies, power development plans, and climate policies, creating a strong foundation for coordinated regional action.i

The APG initiative presents an opportunity to address these issues by facilitating cross-border electricity trade, optimizing resource use, and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. ADB estimates that realizing the APG vision will require an estimated minimum of \$100 billion

in capital expenditure for high-voltage transmission assets over the next two decades.

The relevant infrastructure projects including high-voltage, long distance, subsea interconnectors are technically and commercially complex, and present very different challenges from the transmission projects that the region is familiar with. Therefore, and despite growing interest from ASEAN governments, national utilities, and private developers, a lack of sufficient funding, technical capacity, and specialized expertise remains a key constraint to advancing APG-related projects. These challenges are particularly significant in relation to upfront early- and late-stage preparatory work.

Impact

Strengthened regional cooperation and integration, enhanced low-carbon development through expanded renewable energy production and trade, and increased resilience of electricity systems in Southeast Asia

Outcome

Regional connectivity projects prepared for financing

Outputs

Investment-readiness of identified APG project opportunities enhanced.

Enabling environment for regional connectivity enhanced.

Capacity for developing regional connectivity and growth through the APG initiative enhanced.

Geographical Location

Regional

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion Classification

Summary Poverty and Social Analysis

The TA will indirectly help alleviate poverty by accelerating investments in reliable, affordable, and low-carbon electricity infrastructure that support economic growth, job creation, and improved access to energy services, particularly for poorer and more vulnerable communities across ASEAN.

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Project Participation and Engagement

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Contact

Responsible ADB Officer

Lam, Eric J

Responsible ADB Department

Southeast Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division

ASEAN Power Grid and Special Funds Unit, SERD (APGU)

Executing Agencies

Asian Development Bank

Timetable

Concept Clearance

11 May 2026

Fact Finding
24 Apr 2026 to 24 Apr 2026
MRM
-
Approval
-
Last Review Mission
-
Last PDS Update
16 Jul 2026

Funding

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/60199-001/main
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