

SEADS Spotlight - March 2023



**Happening Tomorrow: Asian Development Bank Southeast Asia Development Symposium 2023: "Imagining a Net-Zero ASEAN"**

Southeast Asia is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change. Urgent action is needed to ensure that future growth is low-carbon and sustainable. Join ADB's Southeast Asia Development Symposium (SEADS) 2023, "Imagining a Net-Zero ASEAN" on 30 March to learn about innovative technologies and solutions, financing mechanisms, and policies that can help ensure the region's green growth while bolstering its climate resilience.

[Register Now](#)

With SEADS 2023 focused on advancing the region's decarbonization goals, we are highlighting our net-zero coverage in this issue of the newsletter. Here are our top stories.



**Can Green Hydrogen Help Indonesia Meet Its Net-Zero Goals?**

Indonesia faces the challenge of finding ways to make the use of green hydrogen economically feasible, financially appealing, and socially beneficial.

This article is published in collaboration with the [Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia](#)

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**Greening Islamic Finance to Scale Up Investments in Climate Action**

The fast-growing Islamic finance industry, which manages almost \$4 trillion in total assets worldwide, has the potential to support the climate agenda, but demand- and supply-side challenges need to be addressed to unlock Shariah-compliant capital for climate finance.

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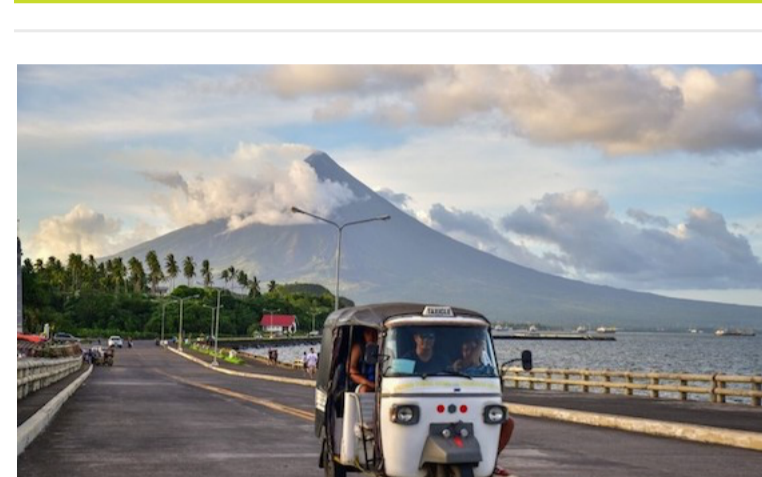


**3 Steps to Mobilize Waqf to Fund Indonesia's Net-Zero Ambitions**

To mobilize waqf for climate finance, Indonesia needs to invest in building human capital, establish coordination between government and non-government actors, and build a blueprint establishing a legal framework to tap Islamic donations for climate mitigation and adaptation.

This article is published in collaboration with the [ClimateWorks Centre](#)

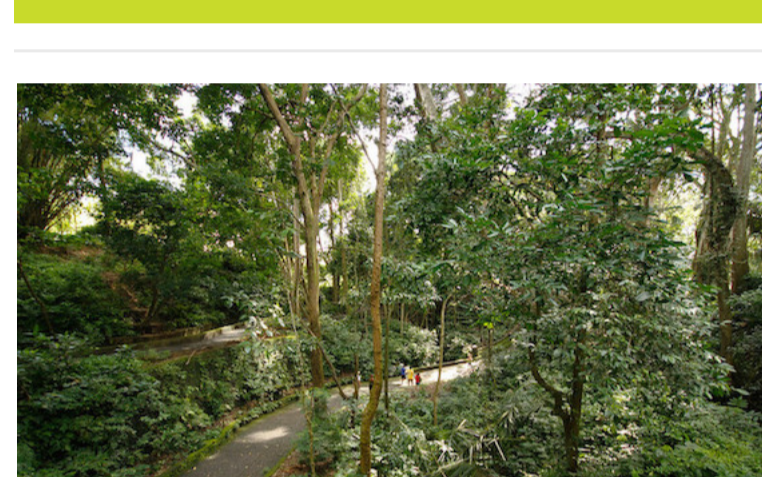
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**Jumpstarting the EV Market in the Philippines**

Zero tariff on electric vehicles and other incentives are expected to encourage more Filipinos to opt for cleaner, greener vehicles.

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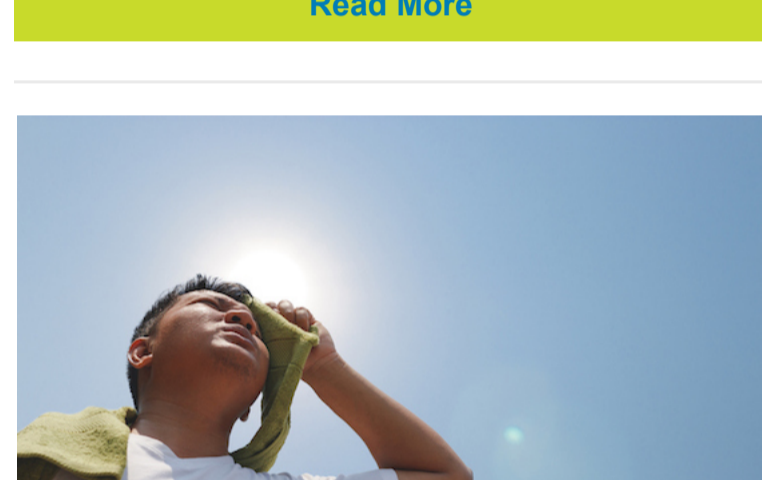


**Rebalancing and Restoring Our Relationship with Nature Entails Adopting Regenerative Design**

Regenerative design is an important mechanism for decarbonization as it aims to restore social and planetary health, revitalize biodiverse ecosystems, and renew natural capital.

This article is published in collaboration with [Aurigo](#)

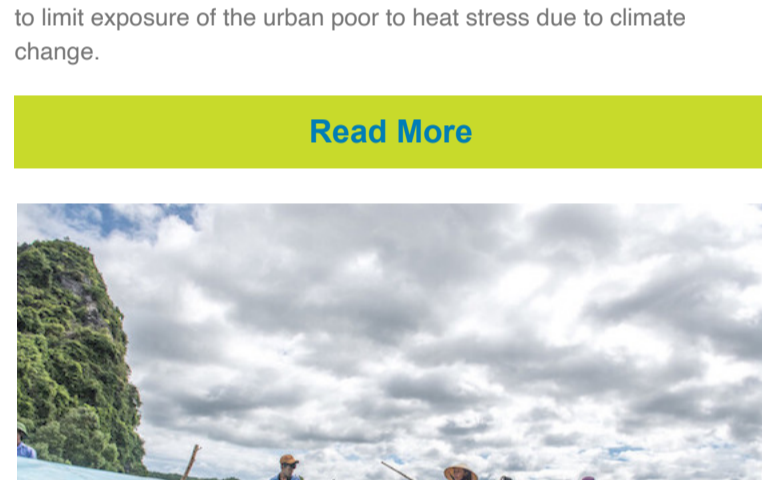
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**How to Cool Southeast Asia's Cities**

Adopting heat action plans, using heat-responsive building design, and deploying large scale "cool roof" programs among measures needed to limit exposure of the urban poor to heat stress due to climate change.

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**Climate Adaptation and Tourism: A Closer Link Than We Might Think?**

Ensuring the tourism sector adapts to climate change impacts could be both challenging and complicated, but industry players are already finding ways to mitigate climate impacts on their bottom line.

This article is published in collaboration with the [Pacific Asia Travel Association](#)

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Other Stories

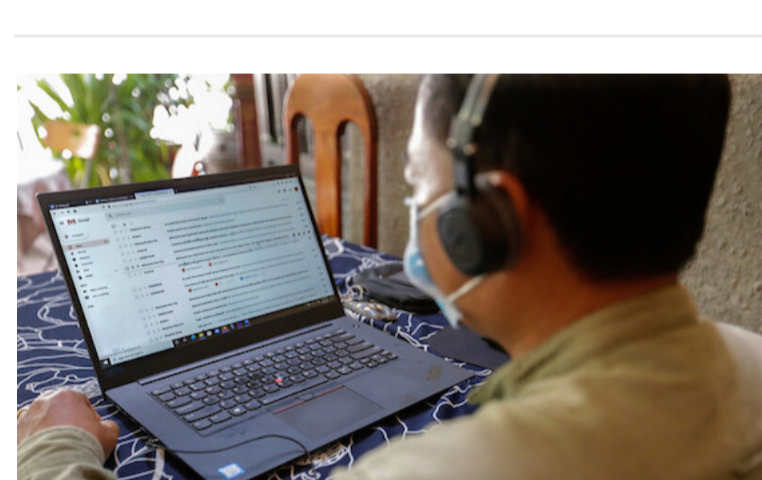


**Metaverse in the Classroom: Reimagining Learning in Southeast Asia**

The potential of the metaverse to help both students and educators has yet to be explored, but ensuring teachers have the skills and the means to use this frontier technology in the classroom is a good start.

This article is published in collaboration with [The MeshMinds Foundation](#)

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**The Future of Work in the Digital Economy: Addressing Challenges in the Road Ahead**

With the rapid growth of gig platforms, governments should design policies that give credence to workers' desire for flexibility and control.

This article is published in collaboration with the [Tech for Good Institute](#)

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Publications

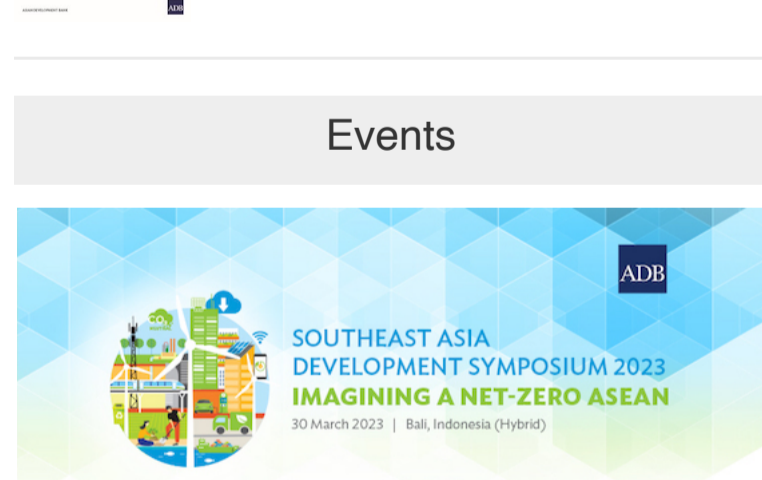
**Asian Economic Integration Report 2023: Trade, Investment, and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific**

This report from ADB shows how smart trade and investment policies, and regulatory cooperation can help Asia-Pacific economies tackle climate change, recover from the pandemic, and support resilient and sustainable development. [Download](#)

**Unlocking Islamic Climate Finance**

This report from ADB outlines how greening Islamic capital markets and social finance, mobilizing project finance for infrastructure, and boosting financial inclusion, can play a key role in funding the climate agenda. [Download](#)

Events



**ADB Southeast Asia Development Symposium 2023: Imagining a Net-Zero ASEAN**  
Tomorrow • 30 March • Bali, Indonesia (Hybrid)

Nine out of 10 ASEAN member states have committed to net-zero targets by 2050. ADB's Southeast Asia Development Symposium (SEADS) 2023, "Imagining a Net-Zero ASEAN", will bring together thought leaders and decision makers from government, industry, academia, and the development sector to discuss innovative solutions that can help countries focus on becoming net-zero economies and rebound from the COVID-19 crisis.

[Register](#)



**Asia Clean Energy Forum 2023: Navigating toward a Carbon-Neutral Future through Clean Energy Solutions**  
13-16 June • Manila (In-person)

The Asian Development Bank cordially invites clean energy practitioners to participate in the 18th Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) taking place in Manila on 13-16 June. This forum is co-organized with the United States Agency for International Development and the Korea Energy Agency.

ACEF is a forum for clean energy practitioners to come together and share insights into possible actions using clean energy solutions, for a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

To stay informed on registration and other updates, please [subscribe](#) and join our community.

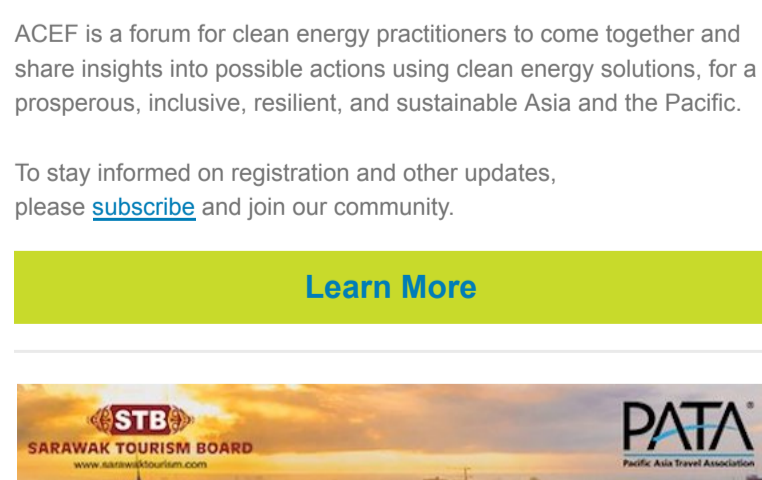
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[Learn More](#)



**PATA Destination Experience Forum and Mart 2023**  
21-23 June • Sarawak, Malaysia

The PATA Destination Experience Forum and Mart, to be held in Kuching in Sarawak, Malaysia, will showcase the host city as a top destination for sustainability and adventure travel destination. The forum, themed "Responsible Tourism, Gastronomy Tourism and Ecotourism," aims to help secondary and tertiary areas grow and develop into widely recognized, bucket-listed tourism destinations.

[Register](#)

