

A stylized map of the Asia-Pacific region in shades of blue and green, serving as a background for the text.

**Regional Climate Week**

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# **Asia-Pacific**

Johor, Malaysia – 13-17 November 2023



United Nations  
Climate Change



# **Overview and Outputs**

# Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023

Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023 explored resilience against climate risks, transition to a low-emission economy and collaboration on climate change solutions. Working together opens opportunities to address social inequality and invest in development that is good for humanity and nature.

APCW 2023 was a platform to enable regional collaboration on climate action, contribute to the first Global Stocktake and accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement.



# APCW 2023 Partners

Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023 was made possible through collaboration by the host government, global partners and partners in the region. Thank you to all our partners for your ongoing cooperation and support.



**United Nations**  
Climate Change



**GOVERNMENT OF JOHOR**



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA**





We must not take what we have now for granted. I urge us to maximize the opportunity we have today to make a difference. Climate change is a global problem and requires collective action from all.

**YB Tuan Nik Nazmi Bin Nik Ahmad,  
Minister of Natural Resources,  
Environment and Climate Change,  
Malaysia**

*At the Opening Ceremony of  
Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023*



You are taking action to save the world, yes. But equally you are taking action to ensure the prosperity of your citizens... Always remember the actions you take are far more beneficial if done in a climate friendly way.

**UNFCCC Director of Transparency,  
Donald Cooper**  
*At the Opening Ceremony of  
Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023*



Together, we can build a future where humanity and nature thrive in harmony, where our planet's resources are cherished and protected, and where a sustainable future is not just a dream but a reality for generations to come.

**YB Lee Ting Han, Johor State Investment, Trade and Consumer Affairs Committee Chairman**  
*At the Closing Ceremony of Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023*

# Johor Bahru, Malaysia

This year's Asia-Pacific Climate Week was held in the Persada International Conference Center in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, from 13 to 17 November 2023.



# Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony began with a cultural performance and featured speeches by Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change of Malaysia YB Tuan Nik Nazmi Bin Nik Ahmad, UNFCCC Director of Transparency Don Cooper, and our APCW 2023 global partners. Permaisuri of Johor, Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, joined as guest of honor to launch the Johor Green Deal and Johor Sustainability Centre.





The APCW 2023 Opening Ceremony featured dancing and youth voices calling on governments and stakeholders to address climate change.

# APCW 2023

## Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023

provided a platform to connect policymakers, experts and stakeholders to discuss regional challenges and solutions that inform the first global stocktake under the UNFCCC process.



## A Quick Look...

**4,000+ Registered Attendees**

**111 Countries of Origin**

**18 Thematic Track Events**

**43 Affiliated Events**

**108 Side Events**

**37 Action Hub Events**



**REGIONAL  
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WEEKS**



An Expo space with vendors and organizations from the region showcased sustainable solutions in areas like EV transportation and business development.

# Youth Engagement

**Youth engagement was in focus at APCW 2023.** This included Youth4Capacity bringing the voice of youth in the region to the UNFCCC process through a high-level dialogue, networking opportunities and sessions on empowering youth in climate policy, green jobs for a just transition and community-led climate action.





# Tree Planting Ceremony

A Tree Planting Ceremony hosted by Majlis Bandaraya Iskandar Puteri brought together APCW 2023 attendees from around the world to get a little dirty in support of a cleaner, more resilient future for the region.





# Pineapple Pledges

APCW 2023 hosts placed pineapples around the venue for participants and partners to pledge individual action and make a personal contribution to a better future for all.



# APCW 2023 Events

**Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023 featured more than 205 sessions** held in the venue. Events were organized by the host Government of Johor in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia, the climate change secretariat and partner organizations to advance discussions on key topics, showcase climate action and facilitate the UNFCCC process.





# Opportunities to Engage

Each event opened space for discussion on critical topics for the region. Side Events aligned with Thematic Tracks. Affiliated Events advanced multilateralism. An Action Hub in the Expo area showcased solutions.

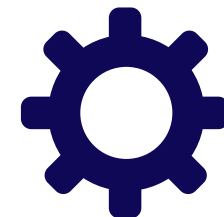


# APCW 2023 Events By the Numbers



## 108 Side Events

Side Events covered critical topics in detail. Organizers hosted events with experts to engage key stakeholders and constituents.



## 43 Affiliated Events

Affiliated Events advanced the UNFCCC process by engaging specific groups as directed by governments.



## 37 Action Hub Events

The Action Hub was held in the a dedicated space to showcase inspiring and scalable action on the ground.



## Virtual Participation

Select events were streamed to the UN Climate Change YouTube channel and MS Teams allowed for virtual participation for all events.

# APCW 2023 Thematic Tracks

Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023 opened space for policymakers, business, practitioners, and civil society to exchange on climate solutions, overcoming barriers and opportunities for Asia and the Pacific. Discussions were designed to inform the GST with region-focused contributions around four major system-based tracks:

1. Energy systems and industry
2. Cities, settlements, infrastructure and transport
3. Land, ocean, food and water
4. Societies, health, livelihoods and economies

**18 Thematic Track Events were held.**



# **APCW 2023 Thematic Track Outputs**

## **Track 1 – Energy systems and industry**

**Discussing the energy transition to efficient and low-emission energy systems, barriers to action investment and innovation for sustainable development.**

## **Track 2 – Cities, settlements, infrastructure and transport**

**Covering all aspects of cities and human settlement, infrastructure, transport, nature-based solutions, waste and social impact of policy and investment.**

## **Track 3 – Land, ocean, food and water**

**Exploring challenges and opportunities in leveraging land for adaptation, collaboration on oceans, the water-climate nexus and resilient food systems.**

## **Track 4 – Societies, health, livelihoods and economies**

**Discussing the circular economy, whole of society approaches to transformation, human health and livelihoods, including decent jobs and skills building.**

# Thematic Track 1

**Track 1 sessions on energy systems and industry were well-attended and showcased diverse speakers and audience. In these sessions, three overarching themes emerged, all emphasizing the crucial role of inclusive climate action.**

**Enhancing ambition and accelerating action – Achieving net-zero pathways involves prioritizing key sectors, especially energy supply, as it directly affects other sectors.**

- Significant untapped renewable energy potential in the region opens opportunity to scale up energy transition towards a net-zero future.
- Access to finances and enabling policies by government, such as feed-in tariffs, and provide opportunity to accelerate the energy transition.
- From the governance side, institutional coordination and collaboration with the private sector, and inclusion of youth, Indigenous peoples and local communities in the decision-making process, are key to adopt and promote low emission technologies.



# Thematic Track 1

**A just energy transition (JET) – We heard key elements for just energy transition in the region.**

- Critical elements include prioritizing women, youth, civil society and indigenous communities in transition planning, promoting skill development, locally led initiatives, empowering sustainable living as well as technical and vocational training.
- Stronger subnational policy frameworks are crucial for private sector engagement and renewable energy deployment across islands and other challenging geographies.
- The region possesses abundant critical minerals for technology and innovation. Strong legal and policy frameworks for critical minerals can minimize negative impacts of extraction on the environment and local communities, ensure efficient use of minerals and encourage circularity from E-waste in supply chains.



# Thematic Track 1

**Closing the climate finance and technology gaps in Asia Pacific – Engaging civil society and NGOs in development finance, particularly with international finance organizations such as GCF and the GEF, is essential.**

- Grants to support local, grass-roots initiatives, with a focus on empowering women entrepreneurs and indigenous communities, will be key for equitable development.
- There is a growing momentum and recognition on the need for high integrity carbon markets to reduce emissions cost-effectively and equitably. A strong governance system, as well as robust and transparent national frameworks and strategies that encompass environmental, social, and financial accountability, will be important.
- It will be critical to maximize engagement with local communities, civil society, indigenous people and youth as partners and rightful beneficiaries to enhance climate action and sustainable development.

# Thematic Track 2

**Track 2 sessions on cities, settlements, infrastructure and transport highlighted the pivotal role of local and sub-national engagement in achieving national and global climate targets. Discussion focused on the potential of sub-national leadership and multi-level governance in climate action and finance.**

**Participants underscored the significance of the development and climate nexus, advocating for collaboration between the private and government sectors to implement ambitious climate action plans.** Key points included the importance of availability of green funding from multilateral development banks, local banks, and private sector for large-scale implementation of climate resilient projects in the region.



# Thematic Track 2

**Stakeholders identified challenges related to the accessibility and affordability of climate-friendly technologies, which require extensive changes to infrastructure.** We heard that cities have opportunities to boost revenues and attract investors through effective financial management and reporting aligned with international standards.

**The discussions further delved into sustainable urban transport across Asia and the Pacific, acknowledging the need for infrastructure development through improved planning and design.** Emphasis was placed on the core role of public transport, with a call for policies that influence travel behavior and also increase public transport mode share. Electric mobility was seen as integral to achieving net-zero carbon emissions, dependent on transformation of the power sector. Strong collaboration between public and private sectors is required to enhance sustainable urban transport in the region.



# Thematic Track 2

**While acknowledging increasing trends in cross-sectoral and cross-regional collaboration on infrastructure, participants identified untapped opportunities in areas like the built environment and road transport.** Both are crucial for mitigation and resilient development.

**Scaling proven programs and engagement of countries with well-established financial structures for technology investment was emphasised.** Cooperation on technology innovation emerged as a collaborative and interactive process, with regulatory frameworks tailored to cover specific regions. The Breakthrough Agenda was highlighted as an important tool to support an ecosystem that facilitates technology transfer and collaboration in education, harmonisation of standards, and finance for green projects.



# Thematic Track 3

**Track 3 discussions on land, ocean, food and water kicked off with nature-based solutions for systems transitions from the perspective of ‘leaving no one behind’.** Experiences and recommendations emphasize fair engagement of all actors, especially the most vulnerable. Subsequent sessions focused on water security, the climate-land-food-water nexus, and the potential of ocean-based actions for transformative adaptation and resilience.

**Local nature-based solution initiatives were showcased, including:**

- Water management solutions in Nepal
- Sustainable land management practices in Lao and Cambodia
- Restoration efforts in the Yellow and Mekong River basins as well as the Ganges River in India
- An enabling regulatory framework for the private sector in Indonesia
- Sustainable livestock management practices in Mongolia
- A Thai experience complementing gray water infrastructure

# Thematic Track 3

**Additionally, the positive outcomes of nature-based solutions for livelihoods and water resources management were highlighted by the Ecosystem-based Adaptation Fund project in Lao PDR.** We heard that waste-water treatment and sustainable ground-water management remain critical challenges for the region.

**Track 3 discussions on the nexus approach to climate-water-land-food, highlighted adaptation and mitigation benefits including addressing the looming poly-crises of livelihoods, climate, and biodiversity.** Stakeholders noted that spatial prioritization and stewardship of critical resources in the nexus should be factored into intended outcomes.

**Track 3 also discussed the potential of ocean-based action to close the emissions gap and opportunities for regional cooperation,** including a pioneering initiative for regional ocean-based climate action toward the 2024 ocean dialogue.



# Thematic Track 3

**Insights from Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Indonesia spotlighted specific challenges in the tourism sector and highlighted that the most successful stories are those where communities have been involved from the beginning and local knowledge is observed.** Local governments were identified as key actors in facilitating such processes. Emissions from the shipping sector, ocean acidification and plastic pollution are significant challenges in the region. Marine spatial planning and the need to promote suitable approaches for the blue carbon economy were discussed, with a recommendation to integrate into the NDCs and scale up through Article 6 mechanisms.

**Discussions highlighted successful partnerships at all levels,** including the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative aimed at addressing sub-regional knowledge gaps in the Hindu Kush Himalayas and the Pacific Islands.

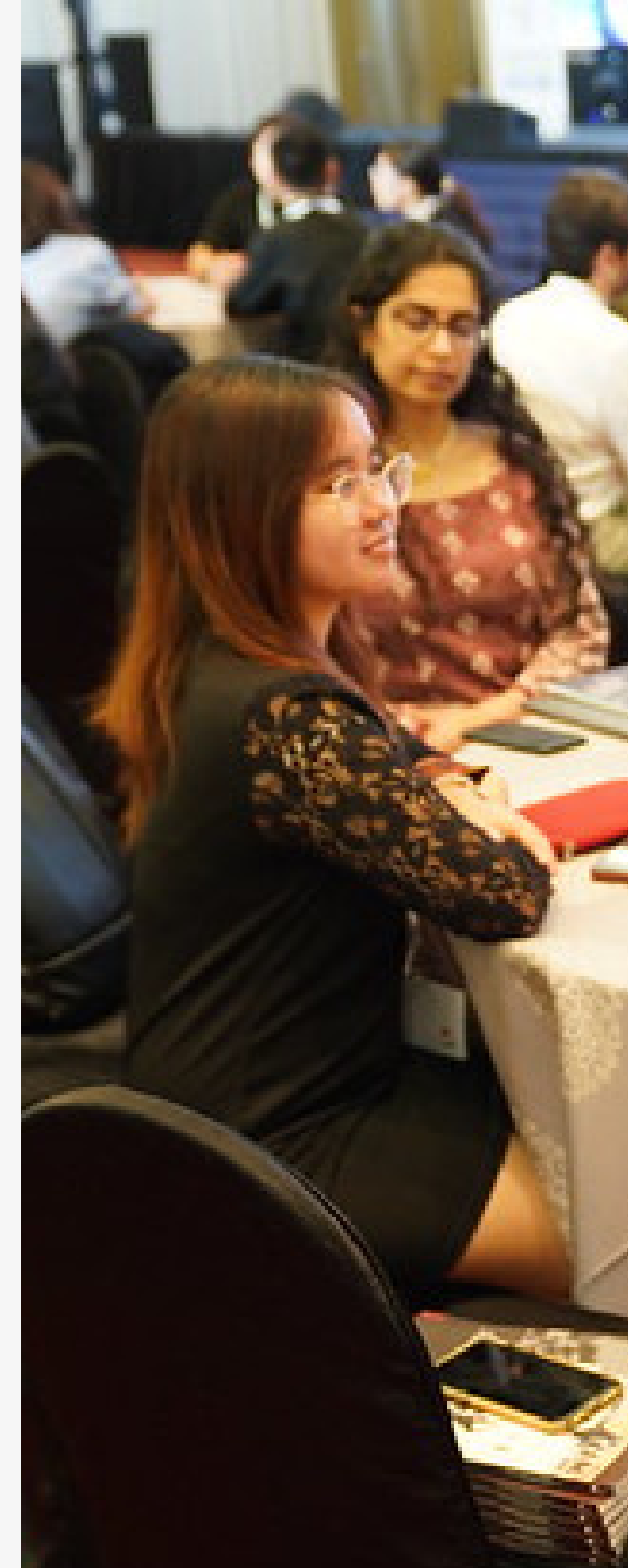
**Youth highlighted their role and shared inspiring contributions,** for instance from the World Food Forum in Indonesia. Thank you to the youth and all who participated.



# Thematic Track 4

**Track 4 discussions on societies, health, livelihoods and economies covered crucial themes, including health, community-based climate actions, and climate-related displacement in the Asia-Pacific region.**

**In health, the focus was on a practical, systems-oriented approach that recognizes the central role of health in effective climate interventions.** We heard a call for locally relevant frameworks and tools, with an emphasis on building climate-resilient healthcare facilities while balancing adaptation, mitigation, and social justice. Concerns over health are something that unites people. Therefore, this lens can be used to move climate action forward, while ensuring just, healthy and equitable long-term transformation. To achieve this, we heard a need to build the capacity of health professionals as well as use a “health-in-all” climate policy approach.



# Thematic Track 4

**We heard that community-based climate actions emphasize collaborative efforts involving governments, civil societies, local actors, and international partners.**

**Multi-stakeholder platforms must prioritize the inclusion of grassroots communities, indigenous groups, slum dwellers, and other marginalized groups.** It is essential to facilitate their participation in sharing concerns and crafting climate solutions tailored to local needs. The implementation of community-based climate action should ensure active engagement by these local communities. Easy access to climate funds for affected communities is vital, ensuring no marginalized group is left behind in a just climate transition.

**NDCs must serve as roadmaps, guiding adaptation and mitigation processes.** Implementing NDCs can reduce risk and vulnerability, enhance adaptive capacity, build resilience to climate change at regional and local levels and benefit communities.



# Thematic Track 4

**Track 4 also explored the nexus between human rights, climate change, and human mobility. Participants identified a need to shift the focus from “risk-centered” to “people-centered” approaches.** Discussions on climate-related displacement considered varied mobility experiences, including challenges for labor migrants. The emphasis is on community-based frameworks and closing research gaps, particularly for health issues of returning female migrant workers. Recognizing climate-related mobility's global nature, we heard a call for integration into national policies and COP processes. Real-world challenges like planned relocations and limited state support in the Pacific were explored.

**Throughout, there was a consistent call for practical, context-specific strategies, resource allocation, and comprehensive measures to holistically address the interconnected challenges** of health, community-based climate actions, and climate-related displacement across the diverse Asia-Pacific region.

# APCW 2023 Recognition

**Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023** successfully brought together leaders and stakeholders for solution-oriented discussion. UN Climate Change would like to recognize leadership by the Government of Johor, Malaysia, collaboration by global and regional partners and participation of dignitaries, delegates and all stakeholders.

**The success of APCW 2023 is your success to share.**



# APCW 2023 Resources

Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023 featured over 205 sessions, four Thematic Track discussions and virtual participation. More information on APCW 2023 can be found at these links:

- [APCW 2023 Webpage on the UNFCCC.int site](#)
- [APCW 2023 Session Details](#)
- [APCW 2023 on YouTube](#)
- [APCW 2023 on Flickr](#)



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# Thank You