

SPARK

REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON COAL PHASE-DOWN FINANCING

19-20 January 2026 | Bohol, Philippines

This event is part of the Sharing Perspectives to Advance Regional Knowledge on the Energy Transition in Southeast Asia (SPARK) initiative implemented by Asia Clean Energy Partners on behalf of the Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP).



About SPARK

This event marks the inaugural gathering under a new initiative called **Sharing of Perspectives to Advance Regional Knowledge (SPARK)**. SPARK has been established as a convening platform by the Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) to catalyze peer-to-peer learning, foster collaboration, and drive actionable strategies to finance low-carbon futures in Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Drawing inspiration from the [Wilton Park meetings](#) in the UK, SPARK will use [Chatham House Rules](#) to enable open dialogue and collaboration.

SPARK begins in 2025, with two policy dialogue events that focus on financing, convening senior policymakers and technical experts from Southeast Asia. With the aim to build relationships, strengthen institutional capacity, and generate practical insights. The SPARK initiative will complement broader regional efforts driven by governments to align climate and finance policies, including the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC), the emerging Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), intensified efforts to foster cross-border power trade through the integrated ASEAN Power Grid (APG) frameworks, the private sector to meet their decarbonization and sustainability commitments and the development of sustainable finance taxonomies for banking sectors in countries across the region.

The SPARK Event on Coal Phase-down Financing will convene policymakers, financiers, utilities, and development partners to examine the state of play and accelerate effective coal transition strategies in Southeast Asia. Through a blend of strategic dialogue and technical sessions, the event will explore innovative financing mechanisms, policy and regulatory enablers, early retirement models, and just transition approaches, while fostering peer learning and actionable partnerships to support a scalable and equitable coal phase-down pathway.

Event Details

- **Date:** 19 - 20 January 2026
- **Location:** Bohol, the Philippines
- **Target Participants:** 21 policymakers from Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines
- **Language:** English

Objectives

- Strengthen regional alignment on coal phase-down strategies and financing approaches in Southeast Asia.
- Enhance stakeholder capacity to design and implement effective coal transition financing mechanisms, including blended finance and early retirement models.
- Facilitate cross-country knowledge exchange on policy, regulatory, and technical enablers for coal phase-down.
- Promote collaboration between governments, utilities, financiers, and development partners to accelerate just transition solutions.
- Identify concrete next steps, technical assistance needs, and potential pilot initiatives to advance scalable coal phase-down action.

Draft Agenda:

Coal Phase-Down Financing

(part of the SPARK Initiative)

DAY 1 (19.01.2026) – Strategic Framing & Enabling Conditions	
8:30 - 9.00	Welcome from organizers, scene setting,
9.00 - 9.30	Participant introductions and Ice Breaker
9:30 - 10:00	Opening Plenary: Coal Phase-Down: Global Lessons and Regional Pathways <i>An expert-driven primer that: 1) traces the global evolution of coal phase-down from early US/EU retirements to Southeast Asia's emerging commitments; 2) distils the overarching case for accelerated retirement emissions cuts, avoided operating costs, energy-security and competitiveness gains; 3) maps the essential deal actors - energy & finance ministries, utilities/IPP owners, MDBs, private lenders, insurers, and civil-society advocates and 4) provides a brief overview of upstream coal mining's socioeconomic role - particularly in just transition contexts.</i> Objective: This is to introduce the various drivers for coal phase-out/phase down and set the stage for a high-level discussion. We will discuss some global case studies to exhibit the breadth of reasons that have been driving this. We will pick up case studies to reflect the reasons provided in ETP comments and some of the mechanisms related to financing as applicable to each case and other key impacts (like post mine closure etc.)
10:00-10:45	High Level Panel Discussion Objective: Given the presence of the high-ranking officials from SOME, this session is to bring out the strategic place of coal and hence coal phase down in each country's context, which will then tie into the detailed presentations in the following session. Panel discussion to surface common hurdles and unpack key obstacles across countries including regulatory rigidity, long-term PPAs, limited fiscal space, and political economic issues.
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee / Networking Break
11:15 - 12:30	Session 1: State of Play & Challenges in Coal Phase-Down – Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines <i>15-minute country briefs by government leads, highlighting existing coal fleet, retirement schedules, the key drivers, barriers and policy directions and support required. Followed by a Q&A open to audience questions</i> <i>Format: Presentation by individual countries to present the status quo.</i> Objective: To understand the current official stance on coal phase down
12:30 - 14:30	Lunch break including time for official business
14:30 – 16:00	Session 2: Financing the Transition – Aligning Sustainable Finance and Coal Phase-Down Tools <i>This session bridges Southeast Asia's growing sustainable finance ecosystem with the specific requirements of coal phase-down transactions. It will highlight how green and transition taxonomies, ESG-linked frameworks, and public-private de-risking platforms can support national coal retirement strategies. Presenters will explore how broader financial architecture reforms (e.g., GFANZ, MDB platforms, sovereign ESG strategies) can reinforce bankable coal transition deals such as those under ETM, ACT, or blended finance facilities.</i>

	Objective: To explore all the tools that are available and other evolving ones. At this stage we can also cover some of the case studies pertaining to each.
16:00 – 16:30	Afternoon Break
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Session 3: Enabling Frameworks I – Policy, Legal and Regulatory Tools</p> <p><i>This session examines the policy and legal foundations needed to enable a responsible and managed just coal transition in an ASEAN in line with the evolving mandate of the Clean Coal Transformation program under APAEC 2026–2030. Experts will discuss regulatory pathways such as retirement planning frameworks, permitting and licensing adjustments, and alignment with climate and energy legislation. The focus will be on actionable reforms that give investors and operators confidence to proceed with transition plans.</i></p> <p>Objective: This will cover the key aspects of regulatory landscape, PPA changes needed, and cross-sectoral issues.</p>
18:00 onwards	Welcome Dinner
DAY 2 (20.01.2026) – Technical Deep Dives & Applied Learning	
09:00 –10:30	<p>Session 4: Enabling Frameworks II – Technical Implementation and System Planning</p> <p><i>This session focuses on the operational and system-level aspects of transitioning from coal. Experts will examine power system reliability, replacement generation and grid integration options, and approaches to manage stranded assets and contract reform. Discussions will emphasize technical readiness, regulatory alignment, and implementation challenges critical to making coal retirement plans viable.</i></p> <p>Objective: Taking a whole -of - system approach i.e. impact on genco/transco/market operator (also in the context of single-buyer markets)</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Session 5: Integrated Implementation Toolbox – Risk Mitigation, MRV, Decommissioning & Site Repurposing</p> <p><i>This session will introduce the technical toolkit for coal retirement: MRV systems, risk mitigation instruments, decommissioning protocols, and site repurposing options (e.g., solar, storage, green industry hubs). The session will feature a presentation from the World Bank on its LURA tool for land repurposing in coal-mining contexts, currently being piloted in collaboration with the Just Coal Transition Platform.</i></p> <p>Objective: To equip stakeholders with practical tools and strategies for managing coal asset retirement, covering MRV, risk mitigation, decommissioning, and land repurposing, in alignment with ASEAN’s clean energy and just transition goals.</p>
12:00 –14:00	Lunch break including time for official business
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session 6: National Transition Strategy Clinic – Charting a Stakeholder Action Plan</p> <p><i>Using a guided worksheet, country teams will identify the next steps for engaging key stakeholders, and immediate priorities specific to their national context. This exercise is designed to translate dialogue into action and align countries on</i></p>

	<p><i>practical next steps. A country representative will share the group's work and receive feedback from the experts.</i></p> <p><i>Format: Guided worksheet time + share out</i></p>
16:00 – 16:30	Afternoon Break
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Closing Plenary: National Roadmaps & Support Needs</p> <p><i>Participants articulate priority actions, TA needs, and potential pilot projects. Outputs feed into post-event policy briefs and donor coordination.</i></p> <p><i>Format: Open-mic reflections facilitated by moderator.</i></p>