Regional Dialogue on

Advancing Power System Transformation in Southeast Asia

Dusit Thani Makati, Manila, The Philippines

8 December 2026

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
8.30-9.00	Registration and coffee

9.00 –10.00	• **High-level Opening:** National Policy Ambitions, ASEAN Priorities and Implications for Regional Power System Transformation
	  ○ Philippines Department of Energy (DOE)
	  ○ CEM Secretariat
	  ○ National Energy Council Indonesia (DEN)
	  ○ ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)
	  ○ ClimateWorks Foundation
	• **Launch of CEM Action Plan for Power System Transformation for Philippines and Indonesia**
	The CEM Action Plan for Power System Transformation - led by CEM 21st Century Power Partnership Initiative - is a voluntary tool for countries to showcase their leadership in implementing existing power sector modernization goals. Structured around three phases – Planning, Building and Operating – it provides a practical platform to highlight concrete actions, share experiences and lessons learned, and facilitate peer learning across countries.

10:00-11:00	**Session 1: Planning for - and responding to - new energy demands** *The session will begin with 2-3 scene setting interventions/presentations followed by roundtable discussion* Data centres and AI, rising cooling needs and the electrification of transport are reshaping electricity demand across Southeast Asia, while the expansion of energy infrastructure is increasing demand for land and ocean space. These developments bring new planning challenges and greater interactions between energy systems, local communities and natural ecosystems. Managing these impacts responsibly will be essential to ensuring a rapid, sustainable and equitable energy transition. This session will explore the implications of evolving demand patterns for demand forecasting, generation and grid planning, and how new loads can be integrated in ways that enhance flexibility rather than strain power systems. Building on the work of the CEM 21st Century Power Partnership Initiative coordinated by WRI, the CEM Long-term Energy Scenarios (LTES) Initiative, coordinated by IRENA, and the WEF Responsible Renewable Energy Initiative, the discussion will examine the tools, data and modelling approaches needed to support informed national and regional planning, including long-term energy scenarios, while addressing land-use challenges, community engagement and the responsible development of renewable energy infrastructure.

11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-12.30	**Session 2: Regulatory Forum** *The session will begin with 2-3 scene setting interventions/presentations followed by roundtable discussion* The clean energy transition requires not only ambitious policies and targets, but also effective regulatory institutions capable of translating them into action, mobilising investment and enabling the infrastructure development needed for rapidly evolving electricity systems. Regulators play a critical role in ensuring appropriate mandates, institutional capabilities and tools while balancing investment needs with affordability, reliability and resilience. Led by the CEM Empowering Regulators for Accelerated Decarbonisation (ERAD) Campaign, coordinated by Regulatory Assistance Project, the session will bring together senior regulators, policymakers and international partners to discuss practical regulatory approaches to accelerating power system transformation. Drawing on the first ERAD/RAP Regulatory Institutional Energy Transition Health Check in South Africa, Georgia and Brazil, it will share country experiences and recommendations, facilitate peer learning, identify priority regulatory actions and strengthen collaboration to support resilient electrification and an enabling environment for investment.
12.30-14.00	Networking Lunch
14.00-15.00	**Session 3: Enabling Deployment of Grids and Storage at Scale** *The session will begin with 2-3 scene setting interventions/presentations followed by roundtable discussion* Grids and energy storage are fundamental to the energy transition, enabling renewable integration, electrification and reliable electricity supply. Distribution grids, in particular, must evolve to accommodate changing demand patterns, decentralised generation and growing system complexity. Drawing on recent CEM work from International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN), a central focus of this session will be the long-term planning and implementation of smart distribution grids, exploring how more forward-looking, adaptive and coordinated approaches can support investment and system transformation. The discussion will also consider the role of storage in building more resilient power systems, leveraging on the work of the CEM Supercharging Energy Storage initiative.
15.00-16.00	**Session 4: Enhancing a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition** *The session will begin with 2-3 scene setting interventions/presentation followed by roundtable discussion* A transition on the scale ASEAN is planning depends on people as much as it depends on infrastructure. This session will discuss practical pathways to close the clean energy skills gap, advance gender equality across the energy workforce, and keep energy affordable and accessible as systems change. It will feature two resources, presented by CEM Secretariat, launched at COP31 and developed with the support of the Tara Climate Foundation: the Toolkit on Clean Energy Workforce Readiness for Southeast Asia and the toolbox on Gender Equality and Inclusivity in Southeast Asia's

	Energy Workforce.
16.00-16.15	Coffee break
16.15-17.00	**Closing segment: Interactive Roundtable** Concluding session highlighting key areas for international collaboration and policy levers to help spur the ASEAN energy transitions, drawing from experiences including the regional toolkits on gender and skilling, Power Sector Action Plans (launched by Indonesia and The Philippines) and leveraging other CEM initiatives and the larger community of partners and experts.
17.00 onwards	**Networking Reception**