

JUST TRANSITION FORUM IN ASIA 2022

Summary Report

09 September 2022

1. Overview
2. JTFA 2022 in numbers
3. Opening and closing remarks
4. Keynote address
5. Panel discussion highlights
6. Transformational labs highlights
7. Media outreach

Appendix 1 - Background and programme of JTFA 2022

Organized by:



Published by:



For additional details, contact:

Thanh Vinh Nguyen
Programme Coordinator
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Vietnam Office

Website: <https://asia.fes.de>
Email: vinh.nguyen@fes-vietnam.org
Phone: +84 9884 860 75

Nithi Nesadurai
Director & Regional Coordinator
Climate Action Network Southeast Asia

Website: <http://cansea.net>
Email: nnesadurai@cansea.net
Phone: +60 17707 9313

1. Overview

Asia is facing a multitude of simultaneous challenges: vulnerable communities are suffering the most from the climate crisis caused by an extractive and inequitable system while at the same time, governments in the region seek more economic growth and wealth generation to lift millions of people out of poverty. In some countries, overall living standards have improved, yet the gap between rich and poor has widened. To bring these contradictory developments on a common path on which no one is left behind, there is a need for a just transition trajectory.

During 7-9 September 2022, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Regional Climate and Energy Project in Asia and Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) held the second edition of the Just Transition Forum in Asia (JTFA) to discuss how this just transition pathway in the fields of energy, mobility and agriculture could look like. Asian thought leaders and decision-makers from all over the continent convened for much-needed discussions on urgent climate action, with hundreds of practitioners, researchers, activists and others participating in two keynote speeches, two panel discussions and nine laboratory sessions.

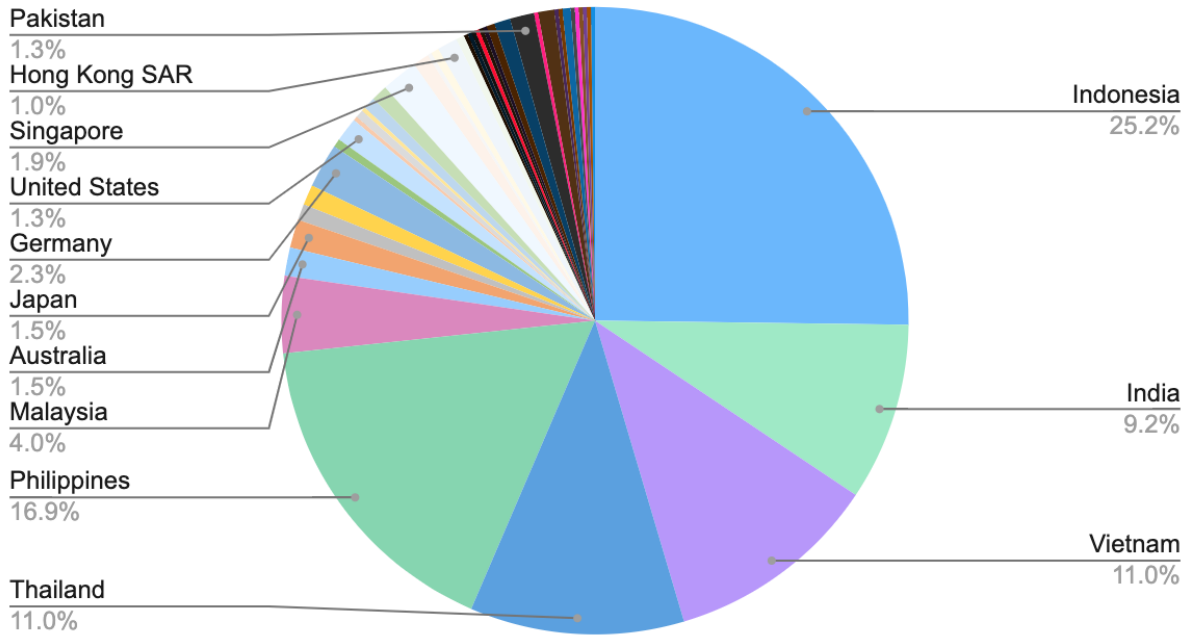
JTFA 2022 brought together United Nations agencies, think-tanks, the private sector, transport and energy sectors, civil society, the labour movement, and multilateral development banks to work together on concretely shaping a socially inclusive and climate-resilient future for Asia.

2. JTFA 2022 in Numbers

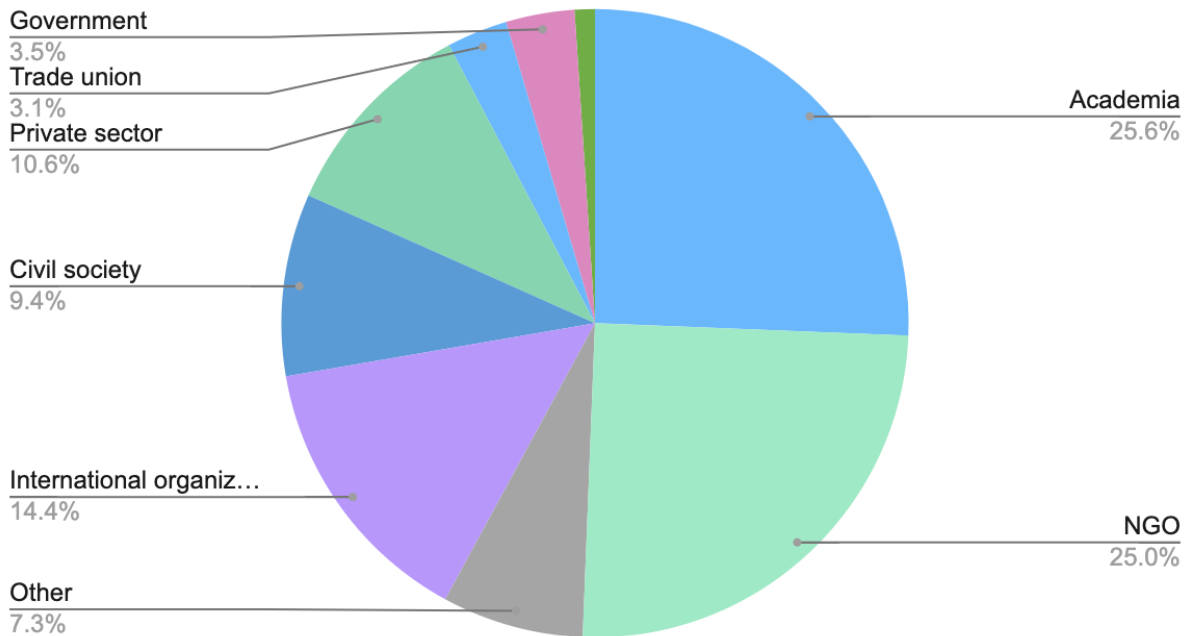
There were 555 registered participants and speakers for the forum, 43 percent higher than the attendance at the inaugural JTFA 2021. They came from 44 countries with most participants coming from Indonesia (25.2 percent), the Philippines (16.9 percent), Vietnam and Thailand (both at 11 percent) and India (9.2 percent).

Among the participants, 25.6 percent were from academia, 25 percent from NGOs, 14.4 percent from international organizations, 10.6 percent from the private sector and 9.4 percent from civil society. The remainder were from government, trade unions and other sectors.

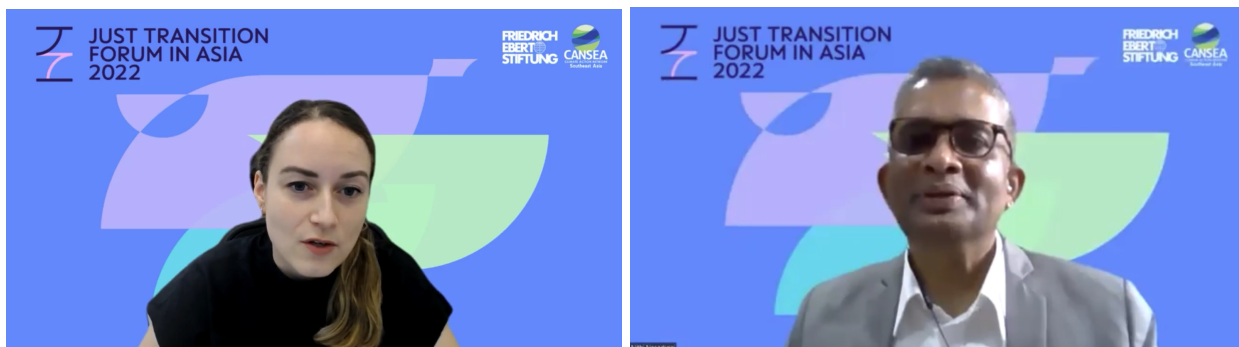
Country



Sector



3. Opening and closing remarks



Julia Behrens, Director of the FES' Regional Climate and Energy Project in Asia, opened the forum by underscoring the urgency of pushing for a just transition as the climate crisis affects millions of people in record heat waves in China, floods in Pakistan, amongst other intensifying climate-driven disasters. FES defines a “just transition” as fundamentally shifting from fossil fuel-based economies towards sustainable and non-carbon sectors, while transforming existing power structures with social justice at their core. She also underlined the criticality of taking into account the needs of workers and marginalised groups in transitioning towards a green economy.

While last year's inaugural JTFA focused on what a just transition meant, JTFA 2022 examined how to plan and implement the just transition in different contexts, sectors, and levels. The forum's agenda was designed and organized by FES, CANSEA and its partners in such a way that the nine transformational labs spoke to these experiences to continue building on the expertise and knowledge in the region. Julia ended her remarks with: “there is no climate justice without social justice, and no social justice without climate justice.”

Nithi Nesadurai, Director and Regional Coordinator of CANSEA, closed JTFA by acknowledging the broad range of stakeholders that took part in the discussions and thanking all organizations and individuals who contributed to make the second annual forum possible. He highlighted that all this work was noted by the Katowice Committee on Impacts of the UNFCCC to help institutionalise the just transition framework for all governments around the world to implement just transitions.

4. Keynote address



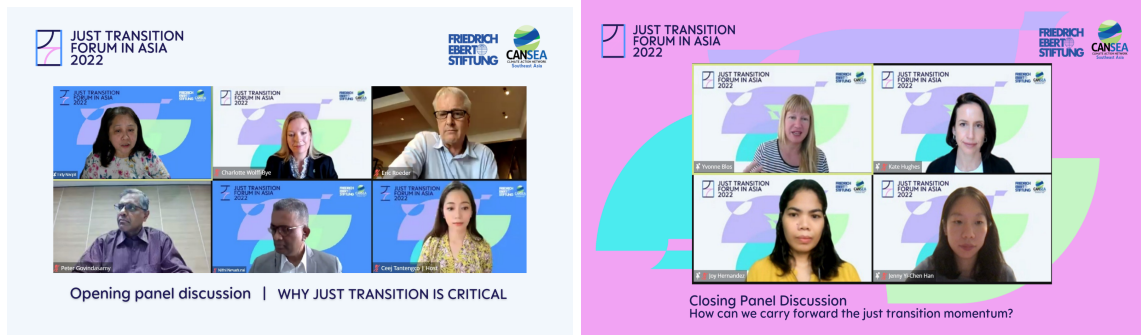
The first keynote address on the importance of a just energy transition was delivered by Peter Govindasamy, Chairperson, Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures. He pointed out the double impact of the energy transition. Firstly, climate change impacts include temperature increases, extreme weather events and rising sea levels, among others. Secondly, countries are also experiencing the social and economic impacts from adapting to climate change. As a result, transitioning to net zero will affect sectors, regions, and cities dependent on carbon-intensive economic activities most severely. He concluded that a just transition was needed to get domestic support to achieve climate action, and hence should be mainstreamed in all efforts to tackle climate change.

Watch the whole keynote [here](#).

A second keynote address by Jenny Yi-Chen Han, Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) underscored the intersectionality and gender considerations in just energy transitions. In her research, she found that transitioning to clean energy systems did not automatically translate to fairer outcomes. Inequalities may persist if deeply rooted social inequalities and systems of powers were not addressed through an intersectional perspective which included how gender, race, ethnicity, class, location, age interact with each other. Therefore, technology or technical solutions for energy transition are not insufficient to address the climate crisis. As such, there is a need for participatory frameworks to include impacts on people and communities in decision-making.

Watch the whole keynote [here](#).

5. Panel discussion highlights



5.1. Opening panel discussion: Why a Just Transition is critical

The first panel, moderated by Nithi Nesadurai, was composed of keynote speaker Peter Govindasamy, Chairperson, Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures and leaders from labour unions, civil society and the private sector and. Eric Roeder, Technical Specialist on Green Jobs, Climate Action and Resilience through Just Transition – Asia Pacific Region of the International Labour Organization (ILO) underscored that a just transition is the advancement of fair transitions for enterprises, workers and communities with the co-benefits of social justice and job creation. He promoted the ILO Just Transition Guidelines, underpinned by social protection for workers, and a social dialogue among workers, industry and governments with examples from chemical, waste and garment sectors in various Southeast Asian countries.

Lidy Nacpil, Coordinator of the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), reinforced the previous speakers' messages by highlighting the need to address the root causes of the climate crisis by profoundly transforming the global economic system through full decarbonisation by 2050. However, while the elites – rich countries and big corporations – can absorb the losses and bounce back, workers and poorer countries and communities cannot, unless there is a just transition. She called for a fair share across countries: that those who contribute to the climate crisis the most should do more so we can all achieve this goal.

Charlotte Wolff-Bye, Vice President & Chief Sustainability Officer of Petronas, which aims to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, provided the perspective of an oil and gas company in the process of decarbonisation and being resilient amidst the much needed transition to clean energy over the next 28 years. Petronas needed between USD 170 to 250 trillion to do this, but it was possible only if the company committed all its efforts now by reskilling and upskilling of workers, and working with

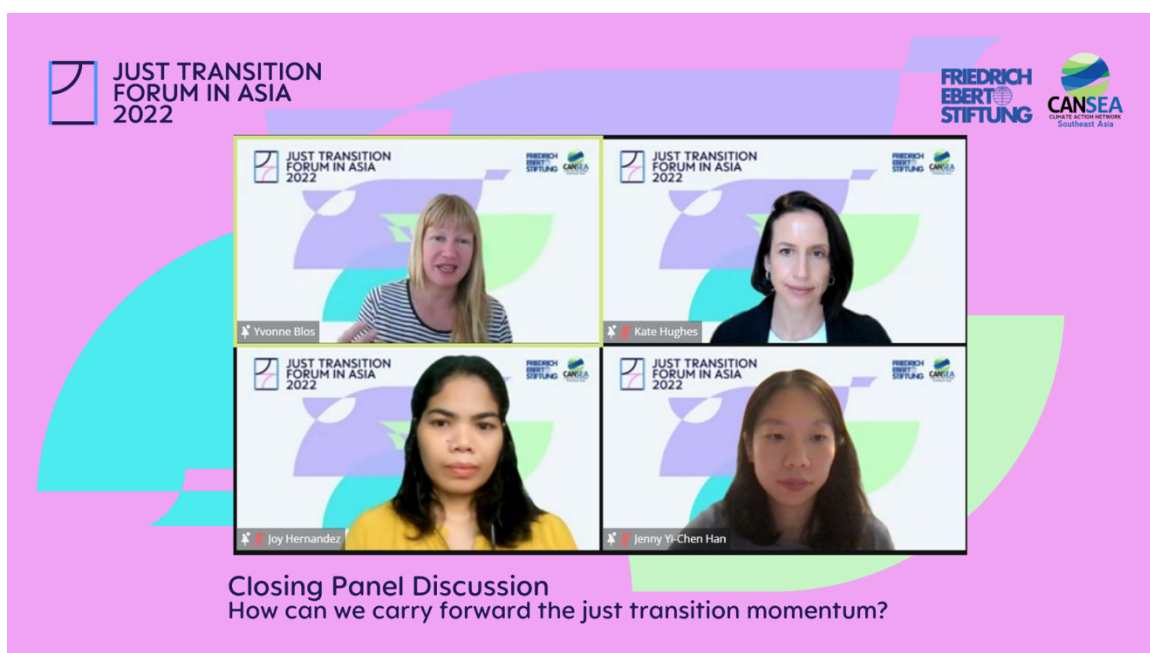
communities on phasing out or receiving new infrastructure. Charlotte admitted that it may not have all the answers now, but it was committed to a better society and hence it was critical to be part of JTFA 2022.

5.2. Closing panel discussion: Carrying forward the Just Transition momentum

The final and closing panel discussion was moderated by Yvonne Blos, International Climate Policy Officer of FES and was joined by an all-female panel. Joining her was Joy Hernandez, Communications and Advocacy Officer of the International Trade Union Confederation – Asia Pacific who identified that building environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all had roadblocks, including displaced workers and reorganisation of work. This is why a just transition must secure the workers' and communities' livelihoods and required social protection and decent jobs.

Jenny Yi-Chen Han, Research Associate of SEI provided her points from a political economy perspective, which meant changing the system by challenging dominant power structures and redistributing resources and power to local communities. It is therefore not just shifting from dirty to clean energy, but democratising how power is produced and consumed, working with grassroots communities addressing community land rights and food systems, and ultimately challenging the status quo of the world right now.

Kate Hughes, Senior Climate Change Specialist of the Asian Development Bank, highlighted that the just transition was not just about mitigating the risks of shifting away from fossil fuels, but also about supporting countries to capitalise on opportunities which could only be achieved through a well-managed just transition. It is about linking climate goals and socio-economic goals, but also integrating both perspectives to drive climate-informed socially equitable development.



6. Transformation labs highlights

6.1. Transport structure and technology shift: Lessons and challenges in transport workers' cooperative building

FES Philippines and its partners in the country's transport sector discussed the transportation crisis faced by the capital Manila and the solutions proposed by the government. Transport group representatives shared their experiences in pushing for women's participation and workers' rights amidst a modernisation programme that transitions them from their current livelihood.

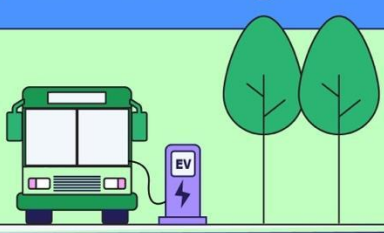


HOW TO: JUST TRANSITION

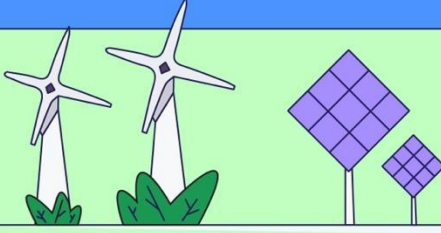


JUST TRANSITION
FORUM IN ASIA
2022


9 key takeaways from the transformational labs



1 Transport organizing requires a lot of heart, hard work, and placing faith in institutions and people despite their shortcomings



6 We need to work with higher education and governments to **adapt and prepare** young people to enter renewable energy.



2 Emissions from **food systems** are less talked about than energy and transport, and there is weak political will to address the issue. Food systems actors need to be better coordinated to be more impactful.




7 New instruments offfinancing for green transition in the backdrop of coal phase down such as Green Bonds, etc. are available and must be extended. Understanding financing requires a systemic approach and institutional recalibration.



3 Active engagement with all stakeholders, especially marginalized communities and women, is a vital component of a just transition process.




8 For a **just livestock transition**, clear goals need to be formulated. Movement building and trust-building needs to happen at the ground level; CSO's working in this space need to become more vocal; need more intersectoral collaborations.



4 In the context of potential job losses in the **automotive sector**, workplace-based assessment guidelines should be emphasized and followed, and the key performance index score should be publicized. The complete picture of transition should be shown to the workers to access the full impact. Assess the new job position requirement to develop the national human resource development plan.



9 Create space to build trust and amplify voice of urban poor; create, test and replicate multiple options for engagement at different levels and share learning, including failure, with others; engage with politics and leverage different resources.



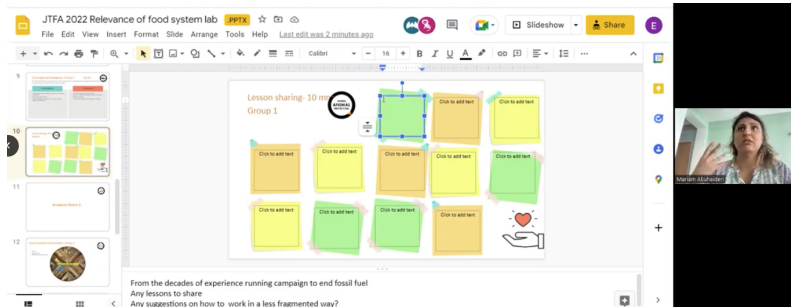
5 For young people looking to work in the field of energy transition: **Be experimental** with your career path! STEM people always need to work with social sciences and non-STEM people to address climate, gender & energy. Today's renewable energy transition is a good time to join the emerging sector for females and young people.

FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG

CANSEA
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK
Southeast Asia

6.2. Relevance of food systems for the climate movement

World Animal Protection and its allies in the sustainable food movement shared their work on a rapid transformation of the global food system to attain the Paris Agreement goals. They shared their carbon life cycle assessment of chicken and pork production in Asia and ways to solutions to accelerate change in the food system. This included a campaign on shifting public financing for industrial or factory farming, which contributes to carbon emissions and land use changes that are exacerbating the climate catastrophe.



6.3. Views from the ground – Just energy transition in East Kalimantan, Indonesia

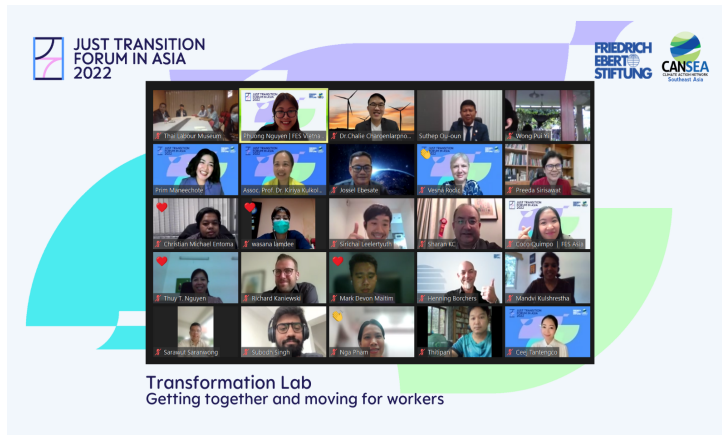
CANSEA and its fellow consortium members of the Innovative Region for a Just Transition (IKI-JET) project presented its experiences in working together for a just transition in East Kalimantan, an active coal mining region in Indonesia. Coal represents about 12 percent of government revenue and 8 percent of employment, but has negative impacts on water supply and quality, and public safety. The group came up with a plan to implement the just transition in the next four years which can be a model for other subnational entities.



6.4. Getting together and moving for workers

FES Thailand and experts from politics, academia, electric engineering and trade unions came together to discuss how to achieve a just transition in the Southeast Asian

country's automotive industry from combustion to electric engines. As the shift will affect about 30 percent of workers in the industry, the various sectors supported the transition by providing training for new skills, new technologies, sharing knowledge and providing new forms of employment for displaced workers.



6.5. 4D ASEAN Youth Lab: Decarbonisation, Decentralisation, Digitisation, Deregulation

E4SEA and FES Vietnam shared the vision of the ASEAN youth for a future of a world with clean air, healthy populations, and inclusive society through a fair energy sector. Experts from the private sector and international organizations promoted careers of young women in Southeast Asia to inspire participants to pursue opportunities in renewable energy, science and technology, as well as start-ups and non-profits working in sustainability or climate change.



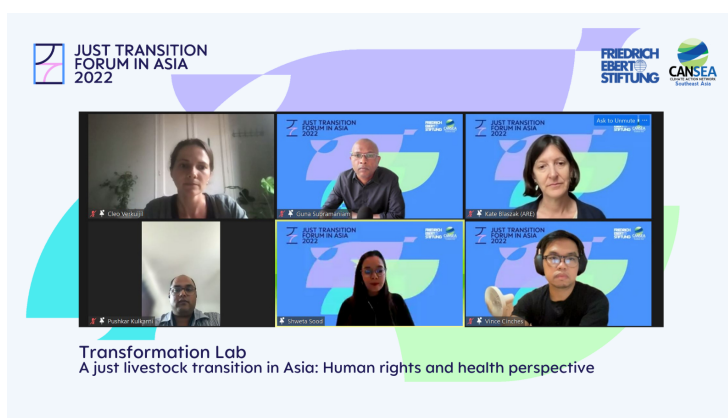
6.6. Unpacking the puzzle on financing the energy needs in the backdrop of coal phase down

FES India and Indicc Associates were joined by their partners from academia and think tanks in discussing the challenges faced in India as it phases down coal which contributes to about 50 percent of electricity capacity and to taxes for State and federal governments. The impacts on the transition include deployment of renewable energy generation projects that will have to be financed by the private sector through green bonds, but also be propelled by State-level entities.



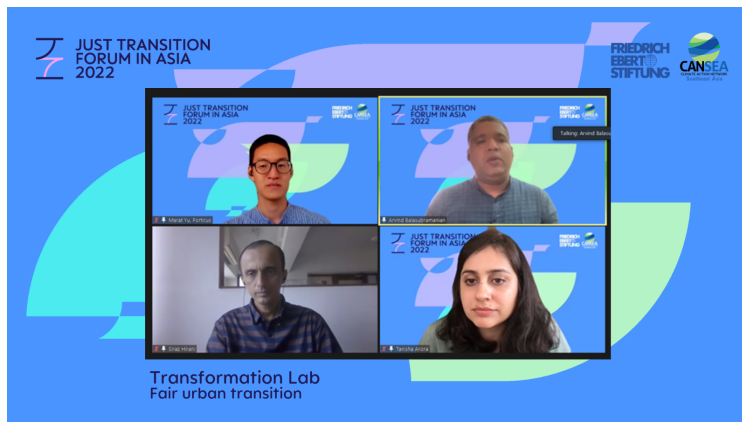
6.7. A just livestock transition in Asia: Human rights and health perspective

50by40 presented its efforts in addressing unsustainable food systems, which are responsible for at least 14.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. As there are more than one billion people working in the agriculture and livestock sector, a just livestock transition may be a new concept. But it will have significant effects on health, food systems, human rights and finance. The group advocates for more evidence-based policy changes in food production, behavioural change in realising changes in food consumption, and an open dialogue among the actors behind those changes.



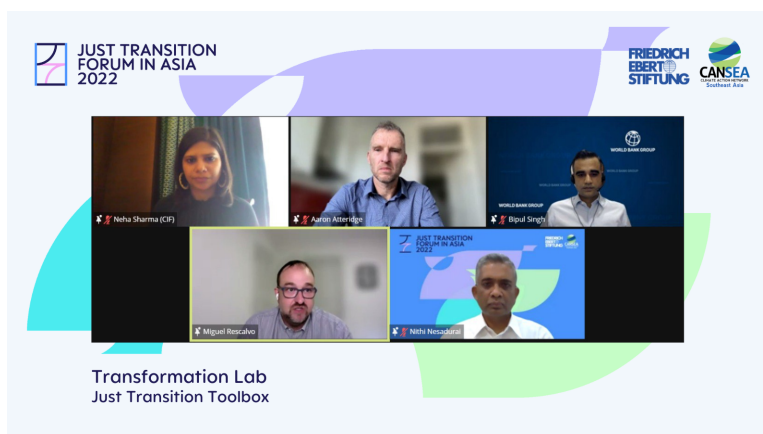
6.8. Fair urban transition

Porticus and its partners discussed the problems faced by dense urban populations in Asia and solutions for climate action in cities towards a regenerative post-carbon economy. The group shared case studies on the ground from Indian cities where grassroots mobilisation was done through innovative engagement and campaign tactics. The session highlighted that those voices needed to be amplified so lessons on successes and failures can shape policies at city level.



6.9. Just Transition Toolbox

Climate Investment Funds (CIF) promoted its new Just Transition Toolbox, which can help practitioners in planning a socially inclusive process to take advantage of opportunities in the green economy whilst also tackling systemic inequities and injustices. The toolbox includes mobilising stakeholders, developing a vision and strategy, identifying opportunities and impacts, and lastly maintaining social inclusion.



7. Media Outreach

The JTFA sent out a press release to share the event and quotes from the speakers to a wider audience. Stories about JTFA 2022 were published through earned media in news and other platforms below:

09 November	The Diplomat	Op-ed: Why Asia Needs 'Just Climate Finance
14 September	Eco-Business	News: 'Just transition' pushed by experts, activists and sectors amid record floods, droughts in Asia
14 September	The Gylt	News: 'Just Transition' Pushed By Experts, Activists And Sectors Amid Record Floods, Droughts In Asia
14 September	Yes4CleanWater	Blog: 'Just transition' pushed by experts, activists and sectors amid record floods, droughts in Asia
September	Viet Nam Energy Partnership Group	Event posting: Just Transition Forum in Asia 2022
September	Eco-Business	Event posting: Just Transition Forum in Asia 2022
September	Stockholm Environment Institute	Event posting: Just Transition Forum in Asia 2022

Appendix 1 - Background and programme of JTFA 2022:

BACKGROUND

The inaugural Just Transition Forum in Asia (JTFA) was held on 9 September 2021. It was organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Regional Climate and Energy Project in Asia in collaboration with Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) to respond to the growing urgency for a Just Transition and the need to have a multistakeholder discussion on the topic.

JTFA 2021 brought together leading experts from government, business, think tanks, labour movement, civil society and national and international organisations from the region and beyond, for a dialogue on shaping a socially inclusive and climate-resilient future in Asia powered by renewable energy.

Attended by more than 250 participants representing over 117 organisations from 22 countries, the forum was well received. Their demand for JTFA to be held the following year led to its institutionalisation as an annual event.

Since then, the momentum on raising the profile and importance of Just Transition has increased. A Just Transition Declaration was made at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, Scotland on 4 November 2021. Its aim is to ensure no one is left behind in the transition to a net zero and climate resilient future.

Moreover, in the Glasgow Climate Pact adopted at COP26, all 197 states agreed that the use of unabated coal should be 'phased down', as should subsidies for fossil fuels. The 2022 reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Groups II and III have also created an added sense of urgency for Just Transition.

While the traditional focus has been on a Just Transition in the energy sector, various organisations are actively working on Just Transition on other sectors including food systems and cities. Efforts are also ongoing around the world to define Just Transition as well as create an international platform for collaboration.

This year, JTFA brings together representatives of a broad cross-section of stakeholders – United Nations' agencies, government, civil society, private sector, think tanks and frontline communities – to discuss Just Transition from their perspectives and learn from their initiatives.

JTFA 2022 OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate regional sharing, peer learning and coalition building among different stakeholders working on Just Transition in Asia and globally, with the aim of promoting the development of actor networks for exploring energy pathways towards decarbonisation in the region; and
- To share best practices and common understanding of Just Transition with multi stakeholders, including government, on how they can be applied at the local, national, regional and global levels.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 7 September

2:00 - 2:10	Opening by FES Climate and Energy Project in Asia
2:10 - 2:30	Keynote address by Peter Govindasamy Chairperson, Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures, UNFCCC & Senior Director, Climate Change International Team, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore
2:30 - 3:30	Opening panel discussion: WHY JUST TRANSITION IS CRITICAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Govindasamy, Chairperson, Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures, UNFCCC & Senior Director, Climate Change International Team, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore Eric Roeder, Technical Specialist on Green Jobs, Climate Action and Resilience through Just Transition – Asia Pacific Region, International Labour Organization Lidy Nacpil, Coordinator, Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development Charlotte Wolff-Bye, Vice President & Chief Sustainability Officer, PETRONAS Moderated by: Nithi Nesadurai, Director & Regional Coordinator, CANSEA
3:30 - 3:45	Break and networking
3:45 - 5:00	Transformational Labs (parallel sessions) TRANSPORT STRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY SHIFT: LESSONS AND CHALLENGES IN TRANSPORT WORKERS' COOPERATIVE BUILDING Hosted by FES Philippines (Filipino with English translation) RELEVANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS FOR THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT Hosted by World Animal Protection VIEWS FROM THE GROUND – JUST ENERGY TRANSITION IN EAST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA Hosted by CANSEA

Thursday, 8 September

2:00 - 2:20	Keynote address by Jenny Yi-Chen Han Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute
2:20 - 3:35	Transformational Labs (parallel sessions) GETTING TOGETHER AND MOVING FOR WORKERS Hosted by FES Thailand (Thai with English translation) 4D ASEAN YOUTH LAB: DECARBONIZATION, DECENTRALIZATION, DIGITIZATION, DEREGULATION Hosted by E4SEA and FES Vietnam - IKI Project

3:35 - 3:45 Break and networking

3:45 - 5:00 Transformational labs (parallel sessions)

UNPACKING THE PUZZLE ON FINANCING THE ENERGY NEEDS IN THE
BACKDROP OF COAL PHASE DOWN
Hosted by FES India

A JUST LIVESTOCK TRANSITION IN ASIA: HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH
PERSPECTIVE
Hosted by 50by40

Friday, 9 September

2:00 - 3:15 Transformational Labs (parallel sessions)

FAIR URBAN TRANSITION
Hosted by Porticus

JUST TRANSITION TOOLBOX
Hosted by Climate Investment Funds

3:15 - 3:30 Break and networking

3:30 - 4:30 Closing panel discussion

CARRYING FORWARD THE JUST TRANSITION MOMENTUM

- Joy Hernandez, Communications and Advocacy Officer, International Trade Union Confederation – Asia Pacific
- Jenny Yi-Chen Han, Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute
- Kate Hughes, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Division, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank

Moderated by Yvonne Blos, FES International Climate Policy Officer

4:30 - 4:40 Closing remarks by CANSEA

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG

Founded in 1925, it is named after Friedrich Ebert, the first democratically elected president of Germany. FES is committed to the advancement of both socio-political and economic development in the spirit of social democracy, through civic education, research, and international cooperation.

asia.fes.de [f](#) FESinAsia [t](#) FESinAsia

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SOUTHEAST ASIA

Established in 1992, Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) is the regional node of Climate Action Network (CAN), the world's largest environmental network of over 1,800 civil society organisations in more than 130 countries fighting the climate crisis. CANSEA serves as a catalyst in the Southeast Asian region for mainstreaming and integrating climate change into national and regional development processes through advocacy and awareness-raising, capacity-building, networking and partnerships.

cansea.net [f](#) CANSEAClimate [t](#) CANSEAClimate
[@](#) CANSEAClimate