



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

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1. OVERVIEW

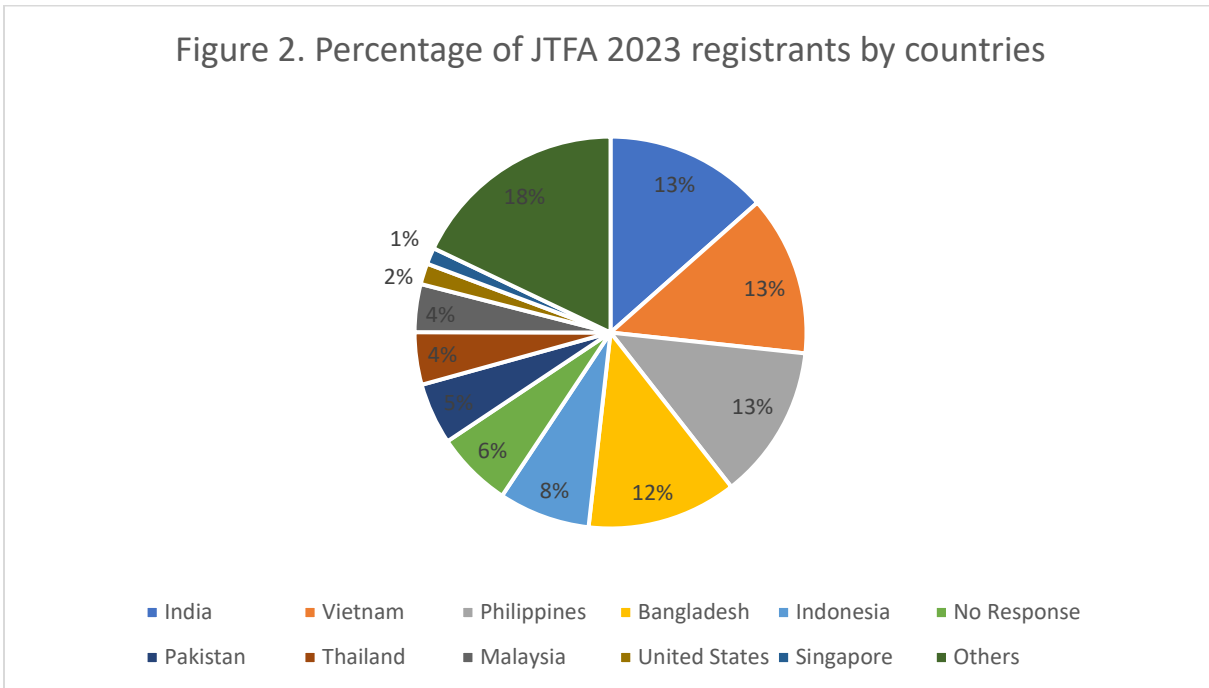
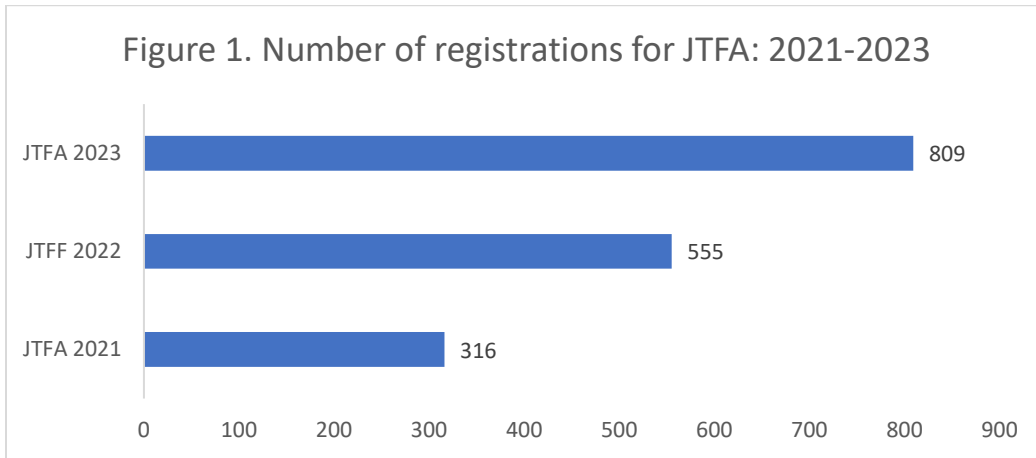
The past few years have seen landmark developments in just transition taking place worldwide at the global, national, and sub-national levels. These developments include the Just Transition Work Program adopted at the United Nations climate change conference in 2022 (COP27) and expansion of the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JET-P). To highlight these milestones, the Regional Climate and Energy Project of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Asia in collaboration with Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA) held the third edition of its flagship international virtual event – Just Transition Forum Asia (JTFA) – from 6 to 8 September 2023.

JTFA 2023 brought together representatives of stakeholders directly involved in these landmark developments – the United Nations, national and sub-national governments, trade unions and civil society organizations (CSOs) – to update participants with the latest information in two plenary sessions. Accompanying these sessions were eight transformational labs which presented good practices on implementing just transition across different sectors. Given these sectors critical roles in addressing climate change, these labs discussed groundbreaking just transition trends and models in cities across Asia. They were complemented by labs on health, plastics, and lighting.

Since its inception in 2021, JTFA has been a springboard for leading experts from governments, climate funds, businesses, think tanks, trade unions, CSOs and communities in Asia and beyond, to make policy recommendations on shaping a socially inclusive and climate-resilient future in the Asian region, based on just transition. Combined with the good practice-focused dialogue on implementing just transition through the labs, JTFA has presented evidence and pathways on making the transformation from carbon-intensive industries and practices towards a decarbonizing future.

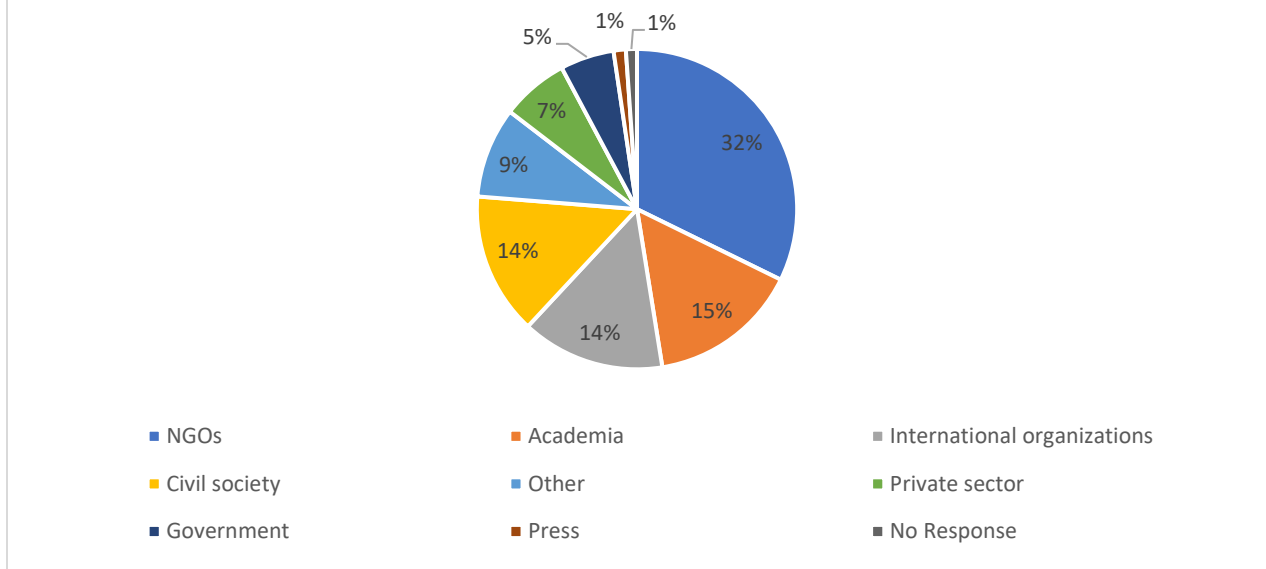
2. JTFA 2023 IN NUMBERS

In total, 809 individuals registered as participants and speakers for the forum. This reflected an increase of 46 percent over JTFA 2022 and 156 percent over JTFA 2021 respectively. They represented 62 countries with most coming from India (109), Vietnam (107), the Philippines (103), Bangladesh (100), and Indonesia (61).



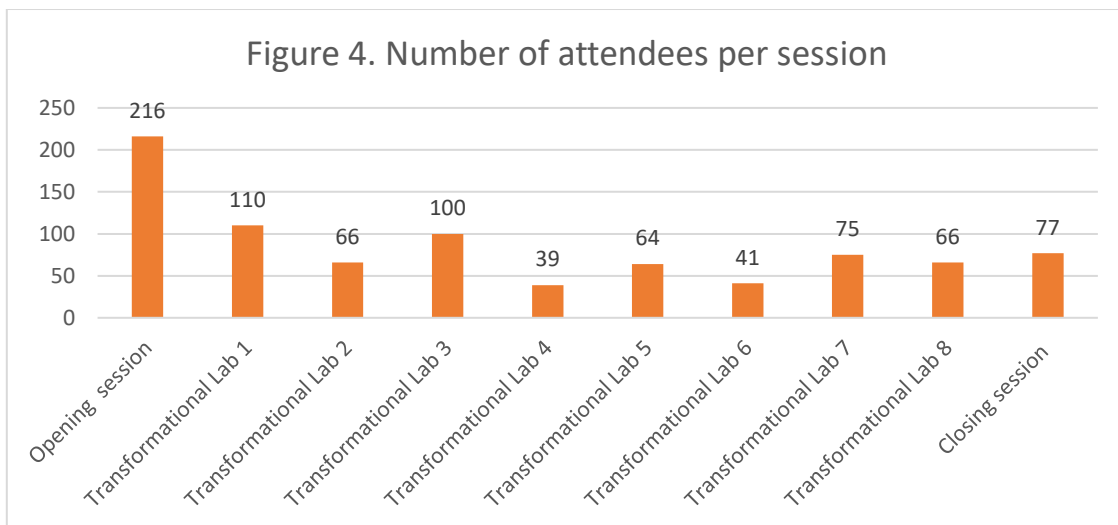
Among registrants, 32 percent (261) were from NGOs, 15 percent (123) from academia, 14 percent (117) from international organizations, and another 14 percent (116) from civil society. The remainder were from the private sector, government and other sectors. The turnout rate during the three-day forum was 63 percent, equivalent to 511 attendees.

Figure 3. Percentage of JTFA 2023 registrants by sectors



Since the launch of the forum, there were 4651 visits to the event page on the Zoom portal. The top three visited sessions were ***“Opening plenary panel session: Just transition developments worldwide – Multistakeholder perspectives”*** with 216 attendees, followed by the ***“Transformational lab 1: How cities can spearhead the energy transition in Thailand amidst high energy prices”*** and ***“Transformational lab 3: Just transition in cities”*** welcoming 110 and 100 participants respectively.

Figure 4. Number of attendees per session



The evaluation survey conducted after JTFA 2023 received 58 respondents. Forty-seven percent gave the highest level of satisfaction for the event and 54 percent said the topics of discussions were very relevant to their work and/or study. A vast majority (95 percent) said they would come back for next year’s forum.

Figure 5. Level of satisfaction with JTFA 2023 on a scale from 1 to 5
(1 – not satisfied at all and 5 – completely satisfied)

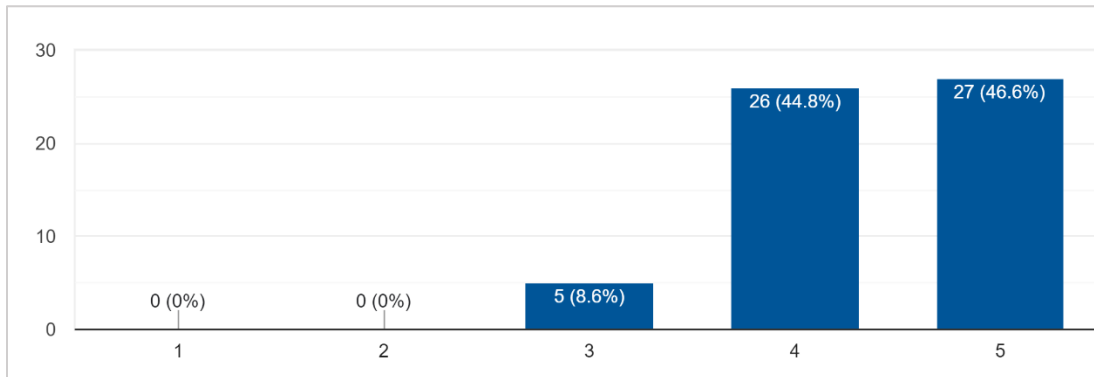
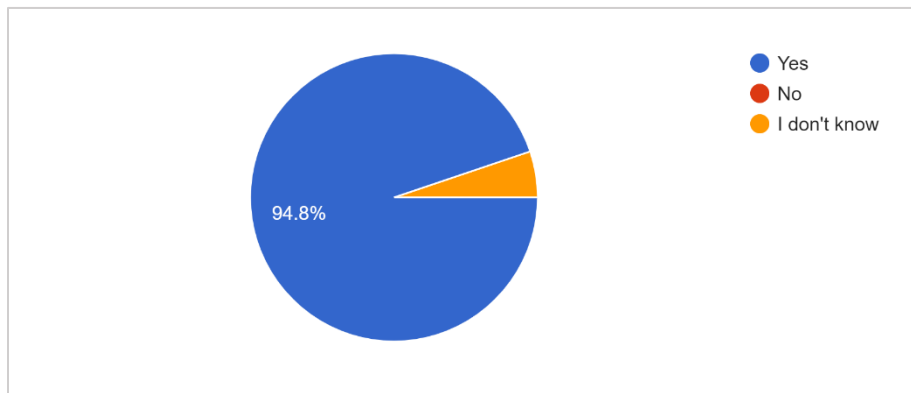


Figure 6. Participants' likelihood to come back for next year's JTFA



3. OPENING AND CLOSING PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSIONS - HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSION:

JUST TRANSITION DEVELOPMENTS WORLDWIDE – MULTISTAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

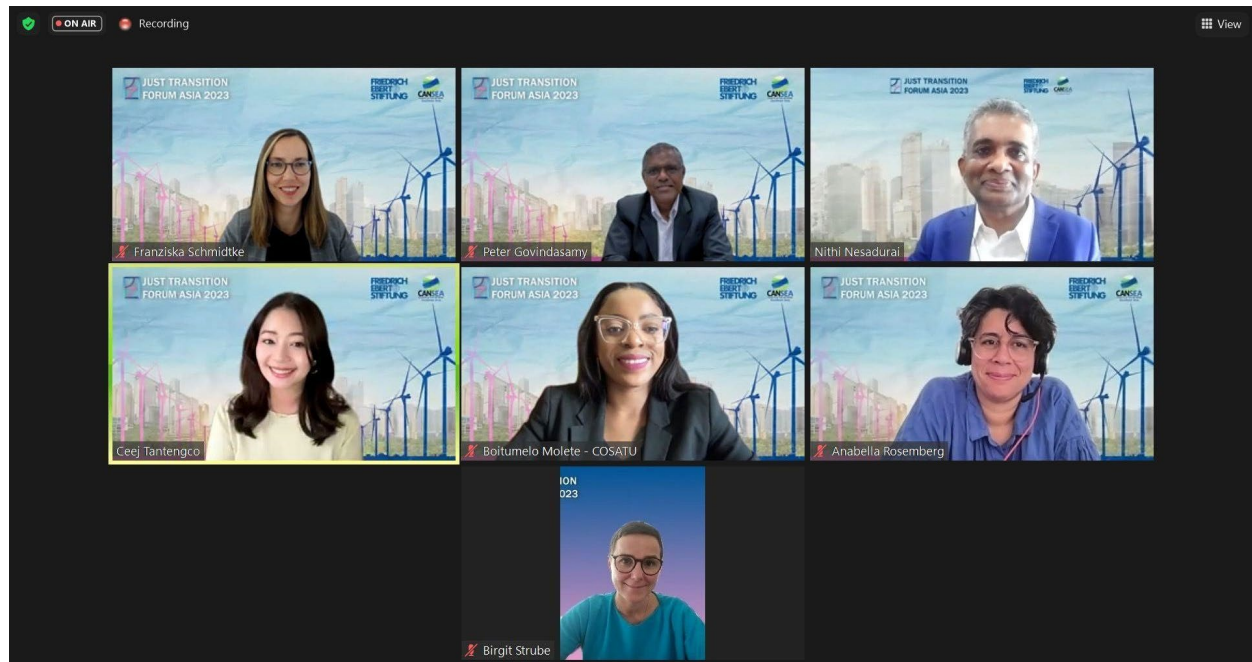
Franziska Schmidtke, Director of the Regional Climate and Energy Project of FES Asia, delivered the opening remarks of JTFA 2023. While laying great emphasis on the urgent need for a just energy transition, she highlighted the lack of policies and mechanisms to cater to a just transition. Schmidtke introduced this year's focus on global trends on just transition and its implementation on a local, national, regional, and global scale.

The opening panel session, moderated by Nithi Nesadurai, Director and Regional Coordinator of CANSEA, guided the audience through the current situation of the energy transition processes at the global level. It commenced with the experiences of South Africa as the first recipient of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P). Boitumelo Molete, Head of Just Transition at Congress of South African Trade Unions, expressed the need for a just transition. While welcoming the JET-P, she pointed out how its investment plan (IP) conflicted with the trade unions' analysis and plans, as well as the status of South Africa's infrastructure and society. Mentioning shortcomings in financial allocation, Molete underscored that South Africa would not accept privatization taking place in the transition process. She called for increased transparency, and further consultation where all constituencies would be engaged in the discussion and rollout of the transition process. This was to ensure that the IP would better address the issues faced by South Africa on energy.

Birgit Strube, Head of Climate and Development Partnerships Division in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, provided the government's high expectations for the JET-P. She said the robust partnerships and alliances provided a strong potential to push for climate protection. Strube highlighted key components of the JET-P approach that all G7 countries should consider. They included creating a regulatory framework and having a plan designed and implemented in a way that considered the needs of the people. While expressing Germany's willingness to cooperate with each country to overcome the weaknesses in the implementation process, she reminded the audience that this was a long-term process involving stakeholders from civil society, government, and the private sector.

Peter Govindasamy, Chairperson of the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), highlighted developments on the Just Transition Work Program (JTWP) adopted at COP28. It aimed to provide enablers for the political economy of a net zero future. He indicated the double impact of the energy transition on society – the effects of climate change, and the economic and social impacts of mitigation measures. This led to the conclusion that countries would need to pursue carrying out multiple national goals, including combating climate change, and addressing economic and social impacts in tandem and with similar intensity, and in alignment with the just transition vision of not leaving anyone behind. Based on these objectives, Govindasamy highlighted how KCI was undertaking capacity-building efforts to enable parties, especially developing countries, to use methodological tools to accurately determine the impacts of mitigation actions or energy transition. The tools were also meant to augment domestic support for accelerated climate action and the political economy of a net zero future.

Anabella Rosemberg, Senior Advisor on Just Transition at Climate Action Network (CAN) International, provided civil society's expectations and perspectives on the just transition at global and national levels. Pointing out the risks developing in the transition process, including a low ambition on climate and the lack of connectivity among constituencies, she emphasized the urgent need for customized strategies for each country, in which human rights must be respected. To do this, governments had to go beyond not just leaving no one behind, to putting people and communities at the center, which required active participation at the subnational and local levels.



CLOSING PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF JUST TRANSITION FROM THE NATIONAL TO SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL

The closing panel discussion, moderated by Franziska Schmidtke, provided real-life examples of projects implemented on a national and regional scale. In his keynote address, Javier Campillo, Director of the Institute for Planning and Promotion of Energy Solutions for Non-Interconnected Areas (IPES) in Colombia, shared the energy transition narrative of Colombia, and its experience and strategies for accessing climate funds. He advised selecting very specific areas and types of projects eligible for funding, as well as showing a focused approach when accessing a fund. Colombia's approach consisted of two components: they included non-conventional renewable energy-related projects, and studies for green hydrogen production. The country aimed to use a just transition as the means for transformational change in the whole country, with a focus on rural areas, gender diversity, and people's empowerment.

The panel discussion commenced with Ajay Kumar Rastogi, Chairman of Jharkhand Task Force for Sustainable Just Transition in the state of Jharkhand in India. He indicated the importance of each region within a state reaching its own net zero target for a nation to achieve one. He emphasized the need for adopting a holistic approach with short, medium, and long-term plans to secure increasing energy supply and people's livelihoods, and to create a friendly environment for businesses. While touching on the need to find alternatives before cutting down on fossil fuels, he identified job security as a key to maintaining

a sustainable transition in the long run. This required a new approach and adjustments in the education system.

Wahyu Gatut Purboyo, Head of the Economy and Natural Resources Department at BAPPEDA (Regional Planning Development Agency) in the East Kalimantan province of Indonesia, highlighted the dominant role of the coal industry and mining in the region. Coal had been the largest contributor to East Kalimantan's GRDP since 2007, peaking at 57 percent in 2012. He presented strategies being undertaken in the locality to convert its existing economic structure, which relied on coal export, to a more sustainable one, with the target of reducing emissions from business by 40 percent from 2022 to 2024. This included reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions based on forestry and land use and increasing the use of clean energy. The province had integrated the energy target in its General Regional Energy Plan into the Regional Development Plan while implementing the new Energy and Renewable Energy Program. The plan would be implemented through socializing, training, and signing memorandum of understanding (MOU) on internal energy targets and converting the impacts of reducing GHG emissions, between the provincial government and businesses. East Kalimantan envisioned its economic transformation by promoting derivative industries from the agricultural sector, mining, tourism development, and other value-added industries.

Julia Behrens, Postdoc Fellow at the University of Bielefeld in Germany, shared her thoughts on Vietnam's framework and implementation of JET-P. Affirming that an energy transition was needed for Vietnam to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as one of the countries most affected by the climate crisis, she touched on issues relating to the rollout of JET-P on a global, national, and subnational level. Regarding the political situation in Vietnam, the implementation of JET-P would lead to the question of whether the JET-P was indeed just. Space for consideration of the political climate, and what it meant for non-state actors and the voices of local communities affected by the energy transition, needed to be a concern for the donors and implementers.

Sohanur Rahman, Executive Coordinator of the YouthNet for Climate Justice in Bangladesh, highlighted young people's attentiveness to climate issues, while demonstrating their perspective about the just energy transition as a compass guiding them to the future they envisioned. He highlighted actions implemented by Bangladeshi youth. Rahman expressed his faith in young people as future leaders who can advocate, make changes, and develop policy, as well as guide and control business and the markets.

At the conclusion of this session, Nithi Nesadurai, in his closing remarks, said the forum had been a resounding success from the perspectives of content, quality of speakers and response from participants. The forum covered key issues on just transition ongoing at the international, national, and subnational levels.

Nesadurai expressed appreciation to the speakers for taking time off their busy schedules to selflessly share their knowledge, expertise, and experience with the audience. He then thanked the participants for attending the forum in large numbers. This reflected the importance and relevance of just transition. The topic of just transition would only increase in significance with the increasing need to rapidly decarbonize economies worldwide as the means to address the climate crisis.

Nesadurai congratulated the Regional Climate and Energy Project of FES Asia and CANSEA for organizing the forum effectively and efficiently. The whole event had been carried out in a seamless and smooth manner. He concluded by saying "See you at JTFA 2024".



4. TRANSFORMATIONAL LABS - HIGHLIGHTS

TRANSFORMATIONAL LAB 1: HOW CITIES CAN SPEARHEAD THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THAILAND AMIDST HIGH ENERGY PRICES (Hosted by FES Thailand)

Just energy transition should be a choice of everyone, not only the elites.

FES Thailand discussed the impact of increasing energy prices and the lack of access to clean energy technologies for low-income households and small businesses, which were exacerbating energy poverty and inequality. Taking cities as the players towards a just energy transition, researchers and community leaders suggested promoting sustainable development from the grassroots level to improve people's livelihoods, especially those working in the informal sector. Experts recommended shifting away from a linear economy to the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) economy model; applying the concepts of bioeconomy, circular economy, and green economy to develop high-value products and services that require less resource input while conserving natural and biological resources. The involvement of local authorities in the management procedures was required for the effective operation of the BCG model, as would education on the significance of a just transition and its benefits.

Speakers' quotes:



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FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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Thailand aims to strategize and implement 'circular economy' in order to make Just Energy Transition process feasible for every societal sector.



Kanittha Tambunlertchai
Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics,
Chulalongkorn University

How cities can spearhead the energy transition in Thailand amidst high energy prices
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Thailand



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FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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Fossil fuel is the main source of energy in Thailand and it's a hard fact reiterated by big corporations' dependence on it, leaving them less choices to opt for greener energy source. Big companies often feel and say that it consumes too much of their effort to go for renewable energy.



Kiriya Kulkolkarn
Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University and a committee member of the National Labour Development Advisory Council

How cities can spearhead the energy transition in Thailand amidst high energy prices
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Thailand



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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I'm a taxi motorcycle driver who wishes myself and all of us including any grassroots communities to have more energy alternatives, like opting for renewable energy source instead of fossil fuel.

We could actually save millions if we have access to such greener energy. We are fighting for our place in the just energy transition and the world needs to hear our voice.



Chalerm Changthongmadan
Representative from Motorcycle Taxi Drivers Association of Thailand

How cities can spearhead the energy transition in Thailand amidst high energy prices
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Thailand

TRANSFORMATIONAL LAB 2: JUST HEALTH TRANSITION (Hosted by Health Care Without Harm)

By including health-based considerations in the just transition conversation, we can foster an inclusive and equitable transition that prioritizes the well-being of individuals and communities.

Health, being a fundamental aspect of human life, plays a pivotal role in determining the success of any transition process. Health Care Without Harm discussed health implications associated with just transition: (i) health consequences of continuing with an unsustainable and polluting economy, particularly on vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by environmental hazards; (ii) potential health benefits of transitioning to cleaner and renewable energy sources, including improved air quality, reduced pollution-related diseases, and enhanced overall well-being; (iii) strategies and best practices for integrating health considerations into policymaking ensuring that the just transition framework promotes equitable health outcomes for all communities and stakeholders; and (iv) the role of healthcare professionals in advocating for a just transition and mobilizing public support through effective communication and education.

Experts and participants recognized the interconnectedness of environmental and social justice with public health and the need to incorporate health-based decisions to ensure just transition is environmentally sustainable and responsible.

Speakers' quotes:



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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Disruption in energy price at the global level is not effecting the local communities and their livelihood to the extent that it causes them health and harm.

Jess Beagley
Policy Lead,
Global Climate and Health Alliance

Just health transition
Transformational Lab hosted by Health Care without Harm



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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Health impact doesn't end with industry shutting down, like coal or mining factories closing down but it lasts in the communities for generations. Therefore, long-term health remediation needs to be factored in when we talk about Just Transition.

Shweta Narayan
International Climate and Health
Campaigner, Health Care Without Harm

Just health transition
Transformational Lab hosted by Health Care without Harm



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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We mainstreamed the energy transition in the presidential debate back in 2019 in order to escalate energy agenda at highest level.

We have to make sure that the government is giving importance to climate impact assessment and even more importantly, to put people first and make it a bottom-up process especially in the JETP plan.

Fajri Fadhillah
Head of Environmental Pollution
Control Division, Indonesian Center
for Environmental Law (ICEL)

Just health transition
Transformational Lab hosted by Health Care without Harm

TRANSFORMATIONAL LAB 3: JUST TRANSITION IN CITIES (Hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI))

Policies for a just transition not only benefit specific marginalized groups, they can benefit everyone and need to be communicated as such.

SEI and its partner shared their vision of a just transition in urban areas, as most resources for a just transition are concentrated in cities, which also put more pressure on the process. Researchers and practitioners discussed case studies on different city models and their efficiency in reducing energy consumption, and mobility demand from a gendered lens, as well as how transitory urbanism on modern heritage aligned with the concept of just transition. The group advised generating green urban jobs, establishing alliances to support people in infrastructure and costs of transition, and investing in public transportation systems that benefit everyone. A just transition should also create inclusionary spaces for all traditions and cultures, recognizing them as integral to a healthy and vibrant economy.

Speakers' quotes:

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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In city, Just Transition does not imply who is excluded but it should be making sure there are foundational rights for everyone who lives in the city to have all access to develop spaces, have a good quality of life and a sense of belonging.

Chloe Pottinger-Glass
Urbanist and Researcher,
Stockholm Environment Institute

Just transition in cities
Transformational Lab hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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At Hanoi Ad Hoc, we annually investigate and explore every corner of our capital city 'Hanoi' in order to intermediate and analyze to have a deep understanding about the context of cultural preservations to provoke ideas that could sound utopian. Some ideas sound crazy but they do intrigue debates about the urban elements and how to conceive a city and build it accordingly.

Mai Hung Trung
French-Vietnamese Architect and
Founder of Hanoi Ad Hoc

For us, Just Transition is a necessary process to sustain cultures and traditions of cities.

Just transition in cities
Transformational Lab hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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What do we need to do to have just transition in the urban mobility sector if women and men commute in city differently and their roles to play are also different?

One way of solutions to create equitable and sustainable mode of gendered mobility in city is to develop and strengthen public transport system, improve infrastructure for walking and cycling, not to prioritize movement of cars in cities, and design overall safer cities.

Yamini Jain
Urban and Transport Planner

Just transition in cities
Transformational Lab hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

**TRANSFORMATIONAL LAB 4: CREATING A WORLD OF ENERGY EFFICIENT AND MERCURY-FREE LIGHTING
(Hosted by Clean Lighting Coalition)**

It is time for the world to say farewell to fluorescents.

The Clean Lighting Coalition and its speakers leading the fluorescent lighting phase-out effort provided insights into policies, initiatives and actions taken from the local to global level in this process. Experts highlighted the advancements in lighting technology and the need to bid farewell to fluorescent lamps. Attendees also heard from the experience of Africa in tabling its lighting amendment proposal at COP5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (MCM) to be held in October; from India on its lighting industry transformation journey; and from Pakistan on its fluorescent lighting phase-out actions. All these experts highlighted the health, economic, environment and technology benefits of the accelerated transition to LED lighting.

Additionally, speakers presented a roadmap for the clean lighting transition – from market analysis to waste management and policy implementation – with a focus on regional efforts to advance market transformation to high-efficiency lighting. At the end of the session, Clean Lighting Coalition called for participants to sign an [open letter](#) – co-led by Climate Action Network, the Clean Lighting Coalition, and Zero Mercury Working Group – to urge delegates of the 146 Parties at the Minamata Convention COP5 to stand in favor of the lighting amendment and rid the market of toxic mercury lighting.

Speakers' quotes:

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023 | FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG | CANSEA

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It is time to bid farewell to fluorescent lamps. COP5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to be held next month must adopt a decision to eliminate these lamps by 2025. It is an unprecedented opportunity to avoid 3.3 giga tonnes of carbon dioxide and 198 tonnes of mercury pollution by 2050.

Nithi Nesadurai
Director & Regional Coordinator,
CANSEA

Creating a world of energy efficient and mercury-free lighting
Transformational Lab hosted by Clean Lighting Coalition

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023 | FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG | CANSEA

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A global shift to mercury-free lighting without delay, reinforced by a global ban on fluorescents, will ensure communities will reap the health, economic, environment and technology benefits of a clean lighting transition.

Rachel Kamande
Global Campaign Lead,
Clean Lighting Coalition

Creating a world of energy efficient and mercury-free lighting
Transformational Lab hosted by Clean Lighting Coalition

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023 | FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG | CANSEA

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Why do we move to LED?

1. It doesn't have mercury.
2. LED has a lifetime many times longer than conventional sources.
3. The affordability is clear.
4. LED can provide local employment in assembling local solutions for local use at a competitive local price.
5. Transition is possible NOW but it must be phased in to manage the change, retrofit resolutions can allow this one lamp at a time.

Frederik Bass
Lighting Expert,
Managing Director, Light Naturally

Creating a world of energy efficient and mercury-free lighting
Transformational Lab hosted by Clean Lighting Coalition

TRANSFORMATIONAL LAB 5: GENDER IN URBAN JUST TRANSITION (Hosted by Regional Climate and Energy Project, FES Asia)

The potential of cities as further testing ground for just transition is with the employability of women as the prime focus.

FES Asia Climate & Energy Project discussed the impacts of urban planning, energy systems, and climate change on women, thereby providing solutions to harness an unprecedented opportunity to address existing barriers and gaps between genders and social groups. Researchers suggested involving women in urban planning policies, including building a Feminist City and encouraging the use of public transport, emphasizing the significance of gender budgeting as the loudest policy instrument, and promoting diversity through mentoring and networking programs. Through case studies in Vietnam, Indonesia, and other Asian countries, the group explained why cities can act as potential testing grounds for a just energy transition with the employability of women as the prime focus.

Speakers' quotes:

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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When we talk about urban planning, projects, how to make a feminist city, women leadership, women employment and how the climate change interplay between gender inequalities, we see it in this so called loudest policy instrument; budget and financing. Money speaks, therefore, if it's not in the budget, then it is not a priority.

Maja Bosnic
Public Finance and Gender Budgeting Expert

Gender in urban just transition
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Asia Climate & Energy Project

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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It's not a matter of women getting jobs in the renewable energy sector, but it's a matter of them getting the right kinds of jobs that women can bring onto the table to leverage the just transition process.

Sanjukta Mukherjee
Co-founder, Sustainable Design Research Consortium

Gender in urban just transition
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Asia Climate & Energy Project

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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Cities must be livable for all and we need to focus on women's lives, their everyday experience and aspirations.

I often see that women's care work and its urban life in the community has not yet been taken into account. We need to create a city where women are equal stakeholders, take part in economies on an equal footing.

Sneha Visakha
Legal and Policy Researcher, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University

Gender in urban just transition
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Asia Climate & Energy Project

JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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In Southeast Asia, Vietnam is in a leading position to develop renewable energy and the energy transition process requires over 1.6 million laborers. Surprisingly and still, 1 out of 5 women gets rejected to this workforce just because she is female.

Phuong Tran
Founder, Vietnam Energy Efficiency Network (EEN-Vietnam)

Gender in urban just transition
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Asia Climate & Energy Project

TRANSFORMATIONAL LAB 6: FINANCING SOLARIZATION OF SOCIALIZED HOUSING: MAKING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACCESSIBLE TO THE URBAN POOR (Hosted by FES Philippines)

Solarizing socialized housing in the Philippines means clean, affordable energy for all, promoting equity and sustainability.

FES Philippines led a discussion on how to make clean, reliable, and sustainable energy, not just accessible but affordable for all Filipinos, especially the underprivileged. The lab drew from valuable experience of the Alpas community which highlighted a critical need for sufficient upfront capital to ensure the affordability of solar power for disadvantaged communities. Gender related impacts and challenges of including solar power systems in socialized housing were also highlighted.

Participants also heard panelists' perspectives on Senate Bill 378 – a legislative bill for financing renewable energy solar home systems for social housing programs – and House Bill on financing solarizing socialized housing. “No Filipino should be left behind” was the repeated message throughout discussions on the Philippines moving forward to a greener tomorrow.

Speakers' quotes:



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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The scenario of energy poverty in the Philippines is that 7 million Filipinos still have no access to electricity at home. The reason is generally poverty.

However, electricity can be made more affordable with renewable energy like solar power, but the question is: can the poor afford the renewable energy facility? This is the weakness of the last remaining sector that we also have to connect.

Maria Teresa Diokno
Executive Director, Center for Power Issues and Initiatives (CPII)

Financing solarization of socialized housing: making sustainable energy accessible to the urban poor
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Philippines



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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Transitioning to renewable energy is expensive and therefore, may not be a good option for the poorest of the poor whose income cannot even cover for decent food and shelter.

Yet, we stand with the view that a low-carbon future must be a just transition and not “just another transition” similar to the earlier episodes that left millions of people poor and marginalized.

Wilson Fortaleza
Fellow, Center for Power Issues and Initiatives (CPII)

Financing solarization of socialized housing: making sustainable energy accessible to the urban poor
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Philippines

TRANSFORMATIONAL LAB 7: TOWARDS CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN CITIES (Hosted by Regional Climate and Energy Project, FES Asia)

Any measures to address climate change must be seen as an opportunity to address development problems and reduce social inequalities and poverty.

FES Asia Climate & Energy Project and its associates discussed the impacts of climate change on marginalized communities and assessed strategies that had been applied to cope with the situations via case studies in Vietnam, Indonesia, and South Korea. While saline intrusion had been causing prolonged

drought and affected tens of thousands of people in Ben Tre, fishermen and low-income people in Indonesia were struggling with food insecurity, and the socially disadvantaged who lived in semi-basement flats in South Korean cities had to learn to live with deadly floods. Whether the solution was to invest in infrastructure and green technology or integrate current issues into city planning and climate adaptation framework, experts agreed that a human-centered approach was needed in climate policy. Any measure to address climate change had to be seen as an opportunity to address development problems and reduce social inequalities and poverty. Prompt intervention from the government was particularly essential to narrow the poverty and affluence gap, which was progressively deepening.

Speakers' quotes:



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG **CANSEA**

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Solar power and its panels will be useless unless education among our youth to equip them with the knowledge happens. We need to educate our young students about solar power and climate change and encourage them from the young age to participate in energy-saving policies and activities.

Lee Heonseok
Policy Advisor, Energy Justice Actions, Korea

Towards climate resilience in cities
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Asia Climate & Energy Project



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG **CANSEA**

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Southern Vietnam, especially in coastal province of Ben Tre, is facing salinity intrusion forcing local people to adapt and change their livelihoods.

Therefore, there needs to be people's as well as government's strategies to assist rural economies in coastal Vietnam shift their diversifying livelihood modes in order to make the city climate resilient as well as livable for the people.

Son Thanh Tung
Senior lecturer, Faculty of Urban Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanity, Vietnam

Towards climate resilience in cities
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Asia Climate & Energy Project



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG **CANSEA**

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I believe that there are no one-size-fits-all strategies for a climate resilient city but there need to be awareness of different actors to the risk that they are facing. There has to be, within the local community, capacity to identify the risk, the awareness for recognizing the risk the ability to do something to mitigate such risk.

Rizqa Hidayani
Program Manager for Urban Resilience, Kota Kita Foundation, Indonesia

Towards climate resilience in cities
Transformational Lab hosted by FES Asia Climate & Energy Project

TRANSFORMATIONAL LAB 8: JUST TRANSITION IN PLASTICS (Hosted by Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group and FES India)

If we all would like to transition away from single-use plastics, we must answer the same question of what a just transition is for people whose livelihood depends on these plastic wastes.

This transformational lab reflected various senses of just transition, not only for humans but also for biodiversity. Experts started with the impacts of plastics on birds and wildlife, then looked at the transition

emerging from India’s ban on various single use plastics in 2022, particularly at millions of waste pickers, recyclers, and small traders who are heavily dependent on plastics for their livelihood. Participants also discussed why the current Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework is robbing the informal sector to enrich the formal sector and how to fix this imbalance. The discussions, based on data from the Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group and the Plastic Solutions Fund, dug into solutions from the grassroots, and advocated for more robust systems of refill and reuse. The pivotal role of policies, the necessity for capacity building and developing robust infrastructure to navigate the shift in plastics in a manner that is sustainable and just, were also highlighted.

Speakers’ quotes:



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

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Now the plastic reduction is not realistic. There are no alternatives to plastics because there have been no efforts to make it happen. However, if we could set up micro enterprises with a localized recycling facility, and then we are able to create jobs with it then making the work inclusive to the needs of people.

Jai Prakash Choudhary, Waste Worker New Delhi, India

Just transition in plastics

Transformational Lab hosted by Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group and FES India



JUST TRANSITION FORUM ASIA 2023

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG CANSEA

“

We need a very efficient recycling mechanism to reduce the goal of plastic materials reduction because the use of plastic materials is increasing every year and unless we find cost-effective solutions, we must focus on having a truly efficient recycling mechanism.

Kawar Bir Singh Founder of Indian Birds (one of the largest bird groups in the world on Facebook)

Just transition in plastics

Transformational Lab hosted by Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group and FES India

5. MEDIA COVERAGE

News items on JTFA 2023 appeared in the media and other platforms as shown below:

The Nation Thailand	September 15, 2023	Op-ed: https://www.nationthailand.com/more/seminars-forums/40031060
Plastic Pollution Coalition	August, 2023	Event posting: https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/event/just-transition-forum-2023

APPENDIX 1: JTFA 2023 PROGRAM

Wednesday, 6 September	
2:00 - 2:10	Opening and welcome remarks by Franziska Schmidtke, Director, Regional Climate and Energy Project, FES Asia
2:10 - 3:10	Opening plenary panel session JUST TRANSITION DEVELOPMENTS WORLDWIDE – MULTISTAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boitumelo Molete, Head of Just Transition, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), South Africa ● Birgit Strube, Head of Climate and Development Partnerships Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany ● Peter Govindasamy, Chairperson, Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ● Anabella Rosemberg, Senior Advisor on Just Transition, Climate Action Network (CAN) International <p>Moderated by Nithi Nesadurai, Director & Regional Coordinator, CANSEA</p>
3:10 - 3:30	Break and networking
3:30 - 4:50	Transformational labs (parallel sessions) LAB 1: HOW CITIES CAN SPEARHEAD THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN THAILAND AMIDST HIGH ENERGY PRICES Hosted by FES Thailand LAB 2: JUST HEALTH TRANSITION Hosted by Health Care Without Harm
Thursday, 7 September	
2:00 - 3:20	Transformational labs (parallel sessions) LAB 3: JUST TRANSITION IN CITIES Hosted by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) LAB 4: CREATING A WORLD OF ENERGY EFFICIENT AND MERCURY-FREE LIGHTING Hosted by Clean Lighting Coalition
3:20 - 3:40	Break and networking
3:40 - 5:00	Transformational labs (parallel sessions) LAB 5: GENDER IN URBAN JUST TRANSITION Hosted by Regional Climate and Energy Project, FES Asia LAB 6: FINANCING SOLARIZATION OF SOCIALIZED HOUSING: MAKING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACCESSIBLE TO THE URBAN POOR Hosted by FES Philippines

Friday, 8 September	
2:00 - 3:20	<p>Transformational labs (parallel sessions)</p> <p>LAB 7: TOWARDS CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN CITIES Hosted by Regional Climate and Energy Project, FES Asia</p> <p>LAB 8: JUST TRANSITION IN PLASTICS Hosted by Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group and FES India</p>
3:20 - 3:40	Break and networking
3:40 - 4:40	<p>Keynote address COLOMBIA'S PATHWAY IN IMPLEMENTING JUST ENERGY TRANSITION AT NATIONAL LEVEL Javier Campillo, Director, Institute for Planning and Promotion of Energy Solutions for Non-Interconnected Areas (IPES), Colombia</p> <p>Closing plenary panel session IMPLEMENTING JUST TRANSITION: FROM THE NATIONAL TO THE SUB-NATIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Javier Campillo, Director, Institute for Planning and Promotion of Energy Solutions for Non-Interconnected Areas (IPES), Colombia ● Ajay Kumar Rastogi, Chairman, Taskforce, Sustainable Just Transition, Government of Jharkhand, India ● Wahyu Gatut Purboyo, Head of Economy and Natural Resources Department, BAPPEDA (Regional Planning Development Agency), East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia ● Sohanur Rahman, Executive Coordinator, YouthNet for Climate Justice ● Julia Behrens, Postdoc Fellow, University of Bielefeld <p>Moderated by Franziska Schmidtke, Director, Regional Climate and Energy Project, FES Asia</p>
4:40 - 5:00	<p>Closing remarks and vote of thanks by Nithi Nesadurai, Director & Regional Coordinator, CANSEA</p>