



THE FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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Village clean energy access in Asia-Pacific boosted in Manila.

Experts and practitioners, micro-financiers and banks, governments and NGOs, gathered this week at the Asian Development Bank in Manila to find new financing mechanisms to increase access to modern, cleaner forms of energy for the poorest in the Asia-Pacific region.

In partnership with ADB and GVEP International, the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC) is harnessing the knowledge, experience and resources of dozens of energy and finance experts to improve the lives of the one billion people in Asia and the Pacific currently dependent on wood, kerosene and traditional biomass for cooking, heating and lighting.

FDC's Executive Director, Craig Wilson, set the gathering three clear challenges to guide the discussion and the development of future strategies to increase access to clean/cleaner/more renewable energy at village level:

- "Who provides the leadership to assemble the technology and finance needed?"
- "What vehicles and channels are available or needed to get the villages powered?"
- "What is the business case to ensure that the new systems are profitable and sustainable, not reliant on grants or subsidies?"

New forms of finance are becoming available, especially from those interested to invest in cleaner energy to reduce carbon emissions, and the workshop identified real opportunities for communities to attract investment and implementation of the new technologies. The role of microfinance institutions will be critical.

ADB has launched the 'Energy for All' initiative, which is financed by a \$2.3m grant from the Netherlands, which will serve as a catalyst for the implementation of energy access projects aimed at a more efficient use of energy for the rural and urban poor.

The workshop, held at ADB headquarters in Manila from 9 to 11 April, shared the deep experience of managers of off-grid renewable and cleaner energy projects – from solar electric panels and solar cookers, small hydro electric schemes, biomass waste digesters, LPG gas cookers, briquette stoves, efficient light bulbs and less polluting transport options. All the materials will be made available through the FDC web site.

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- [The Foundation for Development Cooperation](#)
- [Asian Development Bank](#)
- [ADB News Alert – Experts Look for Ways to Expand Access to Energy in Asia](#)
- [GVEP International](#)