

# NEWSLETTER

E-Mobility Investment Platform  
for Asia and the Pacific

January 2025

## E-mobility support and investment platform updates

**On 16 October 2024, the e-mobility platform for Asia and the Pacific organized a panel discussion titled “A Just Transition or Just a Transition” as part of its ongoing e-mobility community meetings. The session focused on ensuring a fair and inclusive shift to e-mobility, balancing climate goals with socio-economic equity and exploring pathways for a just transition.**

E-mobility offers a dual potential: decarbonizing transport and fostering green job creation while posing risks like job displacement and economic disruption. Panelists highlighted the importance of preemptive strategies to mitigate these risks, including reskilling workers and promoting regional economic planning. Drawing on case studies from India and Germany, the discussion showcased how nations are realigning manufacturing ecosystems to embrace e-mobility goals.

The underrepresentation of women in the transport workforce was highlighted. Panelists stressed the urgency of targeted recruitment and supportive policies, such as workplace safety enhancements and flexible working conditions. Gender-sensitive measures were identified as essential to empowering women to participate in this sector's transformation.

The conversation also emphasized the broader impacts on communities, particularly those reliant on traditional automotive

clusters. With many regions economically dependent on the auto industry, the shift to e-mobility necessitates localized planning. Investments in infrastructure, the integration of informal sectors, and support for small- and medium-sized enterprises were pinpointed as crucial measures.

Panelists called for embedding just transition principles into both national and local transport policies. They underscored the importance of linking these policies to broader climate and decarbonization strategies, ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach. In particular, governments were urged to view the transition as an opportunity to foster equity, innovation, and sustainable growth.

The panel concluded that an inclusive transition is vital to harnessing e-mobility's full potential while safeguarding against socio-economic inequities. For a detailed exploration of these discussions, the recording of the panel discussion can be accessed [here](#).

## Message from ADB

**At the global climate summit COP29 in Baku, ADB engaged in key discussions on transport decarbonization with its valuable partners. Topics included greening urban transport, integrating multimodal systems, applying the avoid-shift-improve framework, and supporting maritime net-zero goals by 2050. The E-Mobility Platform offers an opportunity to continue sharing lessons learned and best practices for accelerating the electrification of transport in the Asia & Pacific region.**

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# Decarbonizing Asian Transport

Asia and the Pacific E-mobility Platform Team

# Asia EV Outlook: Thailand

Sudhir Gota and Alvin Mejia, Asia Transport Outlook (ATO)



**In the recently released blog article -through a cooperation between Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Transport Outlook (ATO) - Jamie Leather (ADB), and Sudhir Gota (ATO) highlighted six key steps to embed transport deeper into decarbonization efforts.**

Asia and the Pacific face a critical challenge in decarbonizing transport as emissions rise rapidly, threatening global climate goals. Transport emissions in the region grew 6.6% last year, contributing 40% of global transport emissions—matching Europe and North America combined. Despite advances in e-mobility and reducing fossil fuel subsidies, challenges persist, including inadequate infrastructure, weak public transport, and slow renewable energy adoption.

The Aichi 2030 Declaration, signed by 21 Asian countries, offers a pathway to cap emissions by 2030 and foster sustainable transport. The region's developing transport systems provide a unique opportunity to build efficient, climate-friendly infrastructure like electric buses, high-speed rail, and

cycling networks, avoiding outdated technologies. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement must prioritize transport decarbonization. Many NDCs lack clear targets, particularly for freight, and fail to align with national policies, hindering sustainable transport adoption. Strengthening these plans can unlock financing and foster resilience to climate impacts.

Among the six vital actions identified in the blog, promoting electric vehicles (EVs) stands out as a crucial priority. A key step is to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and adopt clear targets for EV adoption. As electric mobility plays an essential role in decarbonizing transport, these strategies will be central to the region's efforts to transition away from fossil fuels and reduce emissions. This focus on EVs aligns with the broader objective of fostering sustainable urban mobility and improving air quality across the region.

In addition to EV adoption, other crucial measures include:  
Expanding public transport - Investing in

efficient and accessible public transport systems will reduce reliance on private vehicles, with a focus on prioritizing infrastructure in Nationally Determined Contributions.

Building institutional capacity - Bolster expertise and capacity to implement transport policies is essential for aligning national goals with climate commitments. Innovative financing mechanisms - To address financing challenges, especially in low- and middle-income countries, innovative solutions like public-private partnerships and green bonds are vital for supporting decarbonization efforts.

By prioritizing transport in climate strategies, Asia and the Pacific can lead global efforts to achieve a net-zero world. Further details of the blog can be found [here](#).

**The Asian Transport Outlook (ATO) project - supported by the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank - together with the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative (UEMI) and the EU-supported SOLUTIONSplus project, are producing e-mobility profiles that focus on taking stock of the main developments relating to e-mobility transition in Asian economies. This edition of the newsletter presents the profiles for Thailand.**

Thailand's automotive sector is crucial to the economy, representing around 10% of GDP and ranking as the world's 11th largest production base, with 1.7 million vehicles produced in 2022 and employing 850,000 people, known as the "Detroit of Asia,"

Thailand is now positioning itself as a leading EV production hub in Asia. By June 2023, EV registrations had risen to 430,000—a 29% increase since late 2022 and more than double the number in 2020. Cars make up

91% of EV registrations, with hybrids (HEVs) leading at 71%.

Despite rapid growth, EVs still represent only a small fraction of Thailand's total vehicles, with about 2% of the market in 2020. Currently, 38 battery electric models from 21 companies are available. The Government is actively supporting the EV industry under its "Thailand 4.0" vision, which aims for technological advancement to make Thailand region's premier EV production hub.

Challenges include limited EV infrastructure and high costs. As of May 2023, the country had approximately 1,482 public charging stations, totaling 4,628 charging points. Electric mobility also offers a way to reduce Thailand's dependence on imported fuels, which in 2022 amounted to 1.57 million barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Electricity in Thailand is affordable at \$0.11 per kWh, with grid emissions declining from 540 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh in 2000 to 507 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/MWh in 2022. Natural gas powers 53% of the grid, while renewables and hydropower contribute 13%.



# Webinar Series

## E-mobility Support and Investment Platform for Asia & Pacific

The Asia and the Pacific e-mobility platform delivered six interesting webinars between August and November 2024. The key outcomes of those webinars were:

### 28 Aug 2024 **Monetizing Emission Reductions from E-mobility Through International Carbon Markets**

[Click to view recording.](#)

Guillaume Remy, Co-Founder and Director at Zeroca

Carbon credits from e-mobility projects are high-quality but initially low in volume, with monetary benefits market value varying significantly based on regulatory frameworks, vehicle type, usage and local context.



### 11 Sep 2024 **Creating a Sustainable E-mobility Ecosystem for Electric Scooters in Cambodia**

[Click to view recording.](#)

Andy Chun, Country Director at VERYWORDS, Cambodia

The ITMO project, a cooperative effort between the Republic of Korea and Cambodia, facilitates carbon credit transfers and supports e-mobility through investments in e-scooters and infrastructure.



### 25 Sep 2024 **New but Used: The Electric Vehicle Transition and The Global Second-Hand Car Trade**

[Click to view recording.](#)

Matteo Craglia and Andreas Kopf, Transport Analyst and Modellers at International Transport Forum

Emerging economies rely on second-hand EV imports for decarbonization, with China leading exports, highlighting the need for better tracking to enforce regulations.



### 23 Oct 2024 **E-Mobility as A Driver for Change - Towards A Gender Transformative and Just Transition to Electric Mobility**

[Click to view recording.](#)

Annika Berlin, United Nations Environment Programme and Deliani Poetriayu Siregar, Institute for Transportation & Development Policy (ITDP)

Gender-inclusive transport electrification needs policy support, incentives, coordination and green job investments.



### 30 Oct 2024 **Bangladesh Enabling Electric Vehicle Adoption**

[Click to view recording.](#)

Arif M. Faisal, Programme Specialist, BEEVA, UNDP Bangladesh

A successful transition to transport electrification requires supportive government policies, incentives, coordination among agencies and investments in green jobs through skills and capacity building.



### 06 Nov 2024 **Propelling National Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Adoption Through Public-Private Collaboration**

[Click to view recording.](#)

Makiko Hisatomi, Senior Director, Fujitsu Research of Europe  
Aditya Rai, Senior Program Manager, Amazon India  
Neeraj Gupta, Managing Director, Enetrafin

Aligning transport decarbonization strategies with efficient data-sharing and innovative financing can lower costs, de-risk ZEV investments, and boost EV adoption.



# News in short..

## ADB Supports Efficient Transport in Philippines Through PPP Advisories

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been appointed as transaction advisor to the Philippines' Department of Transportation (DOTr) on three public transport projects. ADB will support DOTr in engaging private partners for the rehabilitation of the MRT3 rail line, a modern bus system in Davao City, and the development of a nationwide automated fare collection system. These initiatives aim to improve public transport efficiency, sustainability, and innovation, benefiting commuters and contributing to climate change mitigation.

Read more here: [ADB Supports Efficient Transport in Philippines Through PPP Advisories](#)

## ADB Approves \$250 Million Loan for Uzbekistan's Green Economic Growth

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to support Uzbekistan's climate transition efforts. The program will strengthen institutions, enhance climate resilience in water, land, and social systems, and promote a low-carbon economy in energy and transport sectors. Aligned with Uzbekistan's green economy strategy, it aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030. This marks ADB's first climate-focused program in Central Asia.

Read more here: [ADB Approves \\$250 Million Loan to Support Uzbekistan's Green, Inclusive, and Resilient Economic Growth](#)

## ADB and TBS to Expand Sustainable Transportation in Indonesia

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$10 million financing deal with PT TBS Energi Utama Tbk to boost sustainable transport in Indonesia by expanding e-motorcycles and battery-swapping stations. The project, supported by ADB and the Australian Climate Finance Partnership, aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 123,000 tons annually and demonstrate the commercial viability of e-vehicles, paving the way for eco-friendly, affordable mobility solutions in Indonesia.

Read more here: [ADB, TBS Sign Deal to Expand Sustainable Transportation in Indonesia](#)

## ADB's E-Mobility-Related Activities at COP29

framework, an approach to financing climate transition projects. By integrating data, modeling, and finance mobilization, the framework addresses transport's unique challenges. It enables bankable projects aligned with national goals, bridging funding gaps and accelerating decarbonization while ensuring a just transition to sustainable mobility.

### Decarbonization and Electrification in Southeast Asia and India:

ADB's Private Sector Operations Department hosted a key event on 19 November spotlighting electric and low-carbon transport as tools to cut emissions in rapidly urbanizing regions. Case studies showcased successes in India and Southeast Asia, emphasizing policies to derisk investments and foster private-sector engagement. Collaborative efforts among governments, private entities, and development partners were highlighted as essential for closing financing gaps and building e-mobility ecosystems.

### Maritime Decarbonization Initiative:

On 20 November, ADB launched its flagship

Maritime Decarbonization Initiative to tackle emissions in the hard-to-abate maritime sector. With \$1.9 trillion needed for net-zero by 2050, the initiative focuses on financing, regional cooperation, and innovation. Projects in the Pacific and partnerships with organizations like SPREP aim to drive low-carbon shipping, vital for trade and connectivity in developing member countries.



# Advancing the Philippines' Competitive Edge in **EV Manufacturing**

Ellaine Macalino, Senior Project Coordinator, Clean Air Asia

The Philippines is positioning itself as a key player in South-East Asian Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing industry, driven by regulatory framework and growing industry synergies. Central to this transition is the EV Industry Development Act (EVIDA) which lays the groundwork for the development of the EV industry. Under EVIDA, the Electric Vehicle Incentive Strategy (EVIS) is designed to make local EV manufacturing more competitive, narrowing the cost gap between EVs and traditional vehicles to attract investors and drive industry growth.

A key partner in this transformation is the GEF-funded e-Mobility ASAP Project, led by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Board of Investments. This project provides essential support for policy development, technical regulations, and demonstration activities for electric public utility vehicles (e-PUVs) and light electric vehicles. This collaboration is helping

transition the country to electric mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with the global push for climate action.

International success stories, such as those from Norway, Thailand, and Vietnam, underscore the role of incentives in driving EV adoption and reducing emissions. Norway achieved over 50% market share for EVs in 2020 through generous tax exemptions and subsidies. Similarly, Thailand and Vietnam have accelerated EV growth with targeted government support, showing how well-designed incentives can rapidly transform markets and meet climate targets.

The Philippines is well-positioned to follow suit, with the EVIDA mandating a time-bound, targeted, performance-based, and transparent EVIS, modeled after the Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Program. By leveraging this framework, the e-Mobility ASAP Project helps align the EV industry with global best practices,

identify growth opportunities, and enhance competitiveness in the global market.

With solid foundation in local manufacturing and a proven track record in producing key automotive components, the Philippines is paving the way for the commercial production of electric two-wheelers and commercial vehicles. Furthermore, by capitalizing on its abundant nickel reserves, the country can establish a strategic niche in the EV battery supply chain, with demand expected to soar to 8.53 GWh by 2040.

This strong framework of policies, incentives, and industry strengths highlights the Philippines' commitment to scaling up EV production in support of climate mitigation and clean air goals. By aligning incentives with local manufacturing capabilities, the country can accelerate EV adoption, drive sustainable growth, and contribute to emission reductions as part of the global transition to green transportation.



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