Our common challenges

Increase in energy consumption in the transport sector is set to continue to grow, with the greatest growth in Asia. Meanwhile, 66% of the population of the Asia-Pacific region will live in urban areas in 2050, exacerbating congestion, pollution and GHG emissions. The growing population results in increased passenger transport demand, which is, for Asia, estimated to double by 2050. Given that oil products will still account for 75% - 80% of transport consumption in 2030, the growing levels of transport demand will result in the rapid increase of CO₂ emissions. In the BAU scenario, transport CO₂ emissions in Asia will increase by 47% between 2015 and 2050, with road vehicles as the major contributor.

Increase in travel demand and the associated CO₂ emissions can be addressed sustainably by promoting public transport and electrifying it while utilizing renewable energy.

Paris Declaration on Electro-Mobility and Climate Change and Call to Action

“Limiting the global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius requires changing the transport emissions trajectory, which involves the development of an integrated electromobility ecosystem encompassing various transport modes. At least 20% of all road transport vehicles globally to be electrically driven by 2030.
To achieve this goal, electric drive vehicles, including two and three wheelers, cars, light commercial vans, buses, trucks and others need to represent 35% of global sales in 2030.”

Electrification of public transport in cities is a low-hanging fruit

Because public transport vehicles cover high daily distances and the sector is often regulated by the Government, which offers opportunity to influence its development. Furthermore, transport electrification creates domestic demand for electricity, as such increasing energy security through fossil fuels import reduction. Despite these advantages, electrifying urban public transport has been facing many obstacles from high up-front costs, lack of standardized and interoperable charging infrastructure, immature technologies for battery disposal and recycling, to lack of human resources and institutional capacity. For national governments, electric vehicles also bring new challenges in urban management and fiscal policies.
Potential & opportunity

Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region have high renewable energy mix, which creates potential for adoption of electric mobility. However, their existing policies focus mostly on either private cars or electric two and three wheelers and lack comprehensive policy and strategy that supports commitments made in the Nationally Determined Contributions. There remains an opportunity to develop short-, medium and long-term comprehensive policies and strategies with focus on public transport fleets and high mileage vehicles.

Sharing experience and lessons

Several countries in the region have successfully made progress particularly in promotion and use of electric and hybrid vehicles. Accelerating the transition to electro-mobility at scale will require robust fiscal, regulatory and infrastructure policy frameworks that engage all relevant stakeholders in the development of an electric vehicle ecosystem that include manufacturing, charging infrastructure, technology, financing mechanism, human resources and consumers. There is thus an opportunity to share the experience and lessons among countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

Benefits to the participants

The benefits of the Initiative to the participants include the opportunity to connect with other countries with similar challenges in promoting electric mobility focusing on public transport, and to network with EV industry to stay updated on latest EV technologies, EV Ecosystem, charging infrastructure, and financing models. The participants will also have the opportunity to participate in technical training workshops and capacity building activities organized within the Initiative.

What the Initiative offers

- Provide policy support to the member countries upon request
- Organization of meetings, events, and workshops to build the capacity of members
- In collaboration with various partners, we will organize and implement online and in-person multi-stakeholder meetings and national, subregional and regional consultations to further support the countries.

Objectives of the Initiative

- Support the acceleration of transition to electric mobility focusing on public transport fleets, taking into account the uniqueness of Asia-Pacific countries.
- Enhance regional cooperation, provide opportunities for peer learning and sharing of experiences among private and public sector stakeholders.
- Strengthen the capacity of countries to formulate national policies and strategies.
- Enhance multi-sectoral collaboration among energy, transport, finance, and other sectors.
- Develop a knowledge base on electric mobility ecosystem.