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Dear Stakeholders:

This quarter saw a number of “openings” – opening up of our offices each morning, opening up of regional countries for travel and in-person coordination, and the opening of our regional energy partners to develop new policies to counter conscious and unconscious biases against women in the workplace. The USAID E4SEA Activity has been working tirelessly, in partnership with energy companies and academic institutions, to support Southeast Asia’s transitioning to a more sustainable and resilient energy sector, by accelerating the benefits of gender equality and social inclusion. Human capital development is essential to every organization, a growing body of evidence shows that increased representation of qualified women in traditionally male-dominated industries, such as energy, improves both business performance and outcomes.

The Activity engaged with partners and stakeholders throughout the region and beyond by:

- Supporting a Multi-Donor International Energy Transition Dialogue with the New Generation

- Hosting a Semi-Annual Virtual Meeting with Development Partners to Promote Inclusive Clean Energy Development in South and Southeast Asia
- Developing Toolkits to Support E4SEA's Seven Energy Company Partners and Nine Tertiary Educational Partners in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam that Support the Advancement of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- Finalizing a Regional Gender Help Desk Concept for Energy Programs

ENERGY TRANSITION DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW GENERATION

USAID E4SEA's mandate emphasizes regional perspectives, collaboration, and impact. The Activity has been in discussions with various regional entities to explore partnerships and successfully signed an MOU with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung ([FES](#)), a foundation funded by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. FES's regional program on climate and energy in Asia advocates for a just transition in the energy and transportation sectors. The program provides a forum for generating solutions to ensure the role of women as the region shifts from fossil fuel dependence to renewable resource utilization.

FES welcomed E4SEA to co-host one of eight Transformation Labs (webinar) at the *Just Transition Forum Asia (JTFA)* 2022. JTFA2022 was co-hosted by FES Climate and Energy in Asia and Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (FES) on September 7-9, 2022. The target audience included trade unions, academia, civil society organizations, think tanks, the private sector, political decision-makers, youth advocates, and gender activists.



On September 8, 2022, E4SEA engaged more than 50 participants in the “4D ASEAN Youth Lab: Decarbonization, Decentralization, Digitization, Deregulation”, which aimed to engage with students and graduates from E4SEA's partner tertiary-level educational institutions, first-jobbers at E4SEA's partner energy employers, as well as high school students in the E4SEA partner networks and other academic networks of regional entities such as FES, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), New Energy Nexus, and others by gauging their interest in the value of an inclusive transition to clean energy, collecting their perspectives, and

providing an interactive session with role models in STEM and energy in Southeast Asia. The panelists included: Belladonna Maulianda, Senior Manager of Carbon Management & Energy Transition from Deloitte; Stefanie Mayr, Program Associate from New Energy Nexus; Sindy Marattanachai, CEO & Co-Founder of Hackathon Thailand; and Nisanee Chaiprakobwiriya, Senior Gender Specialist from E4SEA.

YEAR 2 SEMI-ANNUAL VIRTUAL MEETING WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Another valuable exchange occurred on September 20, 2022, when we held the Year 2 Semi-Annual Virtual Meeting with Development Partners in Collaboration with USAID/India South Asia Regional Energy Hub (SAREH) titled “*11:1 Eleven Countries, One Mission - Inclusive Clean Energy in Asia*”.

11:1 was a partner exchange in lessons learned and key achievements for the gender-energy intersection.



The panelists included: Nisanee Chaiprakobwiriya, Senior Gender Specialist of USAID E4SEA; Sonali David, GESI Advisor of SAREH; Anne Kuriakose, Senior Social Specialist from the World Bank; and Garima Garg, Senior Vice President and Head, Talent and People Strategy, from South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE).

Over 60 participants had the chance to exchange regional perspectives between South Asia and Southeast Asia on the gender-energy nexus. The recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

TOOLKITS TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

To support our energy employer and tertiary educational institution partners in implementing interventions on gender equality and social inclusion in the energy sector, USAID E4SEA has developed four (4) toolkits that can be accessed through this [link](#), as follows:

To increase young women's exposure to STEM careers and hiring managers, the E4SEA Activity produced an internship toolkit that energy sector employer partners can utilize to develop new gender-sensitive and gender-responsive internship programs and/or strengthen existing ones.



The mentorship toolkit strengthens existing mentorship programs that prepare female employees to pursue senior roles, support career path opportunities within their organization and strengthen women's and men's skills to advance into senior positions.

The school engagement toolkit offers strategies and interventions that tertiary educational institutions and energy sector employers can carry out in partnership with primary and secondary schools to empower and support girls in exploring their STEM potential and pursuing pathways toward careers in the energy industry, thereby broadening the talent pool from which energy sector employers can recruit future employees.



SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

The social media toolkit supports partners in developing social media campaigns targeting girls, boys, families, and communities associated with schools that might have negative perceptions preventing girls from entering energy sector education programs and careers.



GENDER HELP DESK FOR ENERGY PROGRAMS

While gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) is a cross-cutting theme for all USAID development programming, Implementing Partners (IPs) often face challenges in effectively mainstreaming and integrating gender issues into their interventions. To address these challenges, E4SEA has begun the process to leverage the Activity's strong expertise and rich experience at the gender and energy nexus to develop a Helpdesk platform to support both USAID and its IPs to obtain practical and feasible advice on integrating gender equality and social inclusion in their respective energy programs utilizing best practices.

The Helpdesk platform utilizes and operates based on the GESI analysis carried out by E4SEA across six (6) GESI domains as follows: 1) Law and Policy; 2) Access to Resources; 3) Power and Decision-Making; 4) Roles and Responsibilities; 5) Knowledge and Beliefs; and 6) Human Dignity, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Depending on inquiries and demands from different stakeholders, the Helpdesk could provide a broad range of gender equality-related services and support. Illustrative areas may include gender-related training needs, training materials, gender-related policies, and how to streamline gender into specific activities. The Helpdesk platform concept can be accessed through this [link](#). Beginning November 1, the Helpdesk will be operation for one month on a trial basis. Feel free to access it for specific help.

We thank you for your continued engagement in our USAID-funded E4SEA Activity and welcome any questions or comments.

Sincerely Yours,

Khan Ram-Indra
Chief of Party

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