

TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY AFTER COVID-19

Toolkit for Parliamentarians

 ASEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

 Hanns
Seidel
Foundation



THE OPPORTUNITY OF BUILDING BACK BETTER

The COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent economic recession have revealed the failure and fragility of our economic system, which has prioritized business interests over people and the environment, deepened inequalities, and failed to protect the most vulnerable.

To recover from the recession caused by the pandemic, countries are now adopting recovery measures to boost their economy. The type of economic model these measures will support is crucial in shaping our future, and this moment presents an ideal opportunity to break away from the past and shift towards a **more just, sustainable and resilient economy**.

Shifting towards a greener economy is an essential part of “**building back better**.”

Green recovery is the adoption of measures that aim to accelerate economic recovery while also cutting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and helping to reduce global warming.

Measures focus on shifting away from fossil fuel-dependent industries (such as oil, coal, and gas) and instead towards the development of **clean and renewable energy** such as solar power, geothermal power, wind power and hydropower.

THE BENEFITS OF A GREEN RECOVERY



Limiting global warming

Southeast Asia is amongst the **most vulnerable regions** in the world to the impacts of climate change, threatening access to food, water, and other natural resources and likely leading to heightened conflicts, poverty and pandemics.

The ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework recognizes that “*climate change represents a fundamental risk to ASEAN,*” and that “*actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change should be taken immediately.*”

With **time running out** to keep global warming below 1.5°C, as agreed in the Paris Agreement, it is crucial to urgently push forward policies for a green recovery.



Building a faster recovery and a more resilient economy

- By keeping global temperature well below 2°C, experts calculated ASEAN could **avoid a 25% drop in its GDP** by the end of the century.
- Using COVID-19 recovery funds to mitigate climate risks can **prevent the unsustainable rise in the region's debt levels** when responding to crises caused by climate change such as typhoons, pandemics, floods.
- The Asia Development Bank estimates that capital expenditure of USD 172 billion in key climate-friendly areas, such as clean energy, can **create 30 million jobs** in Southeast Asia by 2030.

MEASURES TO PROMOTE A GREEN RECOVERY



Government subsidies or tax reductions for environmentally friendly products: **Indonesia** and the **Philippines** issued tax reductions for industries and SMEs adopting renewable energy projects.



Tax increases for environmentally harmful products: **Singapore** is expected to raise the rate of petrol tax up to 15% per liter as part of its support to electric vehicles.



Investment in clean energy infrastructure: **Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore** took measures to accelerate solar energy production such as installations of rooftop solar panels, LED street lights and transmission lines.



Investment in clean transport infrastructure: The **Philippines** allocated a budget to develop accessible sidewalks and protected bicycle lanes.



Incentives for electric vehicles: **Singapore** put in place rebates on the registration and road tax for electric vehicle owners during the pandemic.



Incentives for clean energy and energy-efficient electric appliances: **Singapore** provided household vouchers for energy- and water-efficient appliances, such as climate-friendly refrigerators, water-efficient shower fittings and LED lights.



Support for building upgrades and new green housing: **Singapore** plans to raise the minimum energy performance of new and existing buildings so that at least 80% of Singapore's buildings will be greened by 2030.



Funding of clean research and development: **Thailand** approved over USD 1 billion worth of projects for the supply chain, research and development of electric vehicles.



Investment in natural infrastructure and green spaces: **Singapore** devoted resources to improve the country's natural landscape.



Green worker retraining and green job creation: No examples from Southeast Asia but Pakistan approved a Green Stimulus for unemployed youth, women, and daily wage workers to earn income from nature-based interventions such as: planting trees, enhancing the protection of natural forests, and improving water sanitation.



Conditional government support for polluting businesses with green strings attached: No examples from Southeast Asia but France included conditions to a rescue package to Air France such as: halving CO2 emissions per passenger per kilometre by 2030 and halving domestic emissions by the end of 2024.

MEASURES TO AVOID AS THEY CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL WARMING



Support for polluting businesses with no green strings attached or the need to adopt more climate-friendly practices: **Indonesia** provided state capital injections to PT Pertamina (Oil & Gas), Garuda Indonesia (Airline), and PLN (electricity), totalling more than USD 6.29 billion with no conditionality.



Providing subsidies or waived fees for environmentally harmful industries: **Indonesia** provided USD 2 million worth of jet fuel discounts for airlines across nine airports.







Providing subsidies or tax reduction for environmentally harmful products: **Indonesia** lowered the domestic price of electricity generated by fossil fuel and industrial gas.



Deregulating environmental standards: **The Philippines** lifted the ban on new mineral mines under Executive Order 130.

WHAT CAN PARLIAMENTARIANS DO?

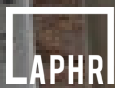
-  Use APHR's report "Building Back Better": Southeast Asia's transition to a green economy after COVID-19" to promote the adoption of the green recovery policies mentioned above.
-  Urge your government to submit more ambitious NDC targets to the Paris Agreement.
-  Prioritize budget allocations on renewable energy, public transport, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and other key areas of a low-carbon economy.
-  Promote investment in natural infrastructure and green spaces to avert potential damages from climate-related disasters such as floods.
-  Publicly raise the environmental and human rights costs of coal development and other environmentally harmful policies.
-  Promote meaningful civic participation to ensure a green recovery that supports human rights.
-  Meet constituents to understand their most urgent climate concerns, and communicate these with your government.
-  Use parliamentary committees and debates to mainstream climate issues and the benefits of a green economy.

For country specific recommendations click here: [Indonesia](#), [Malaysia](#), [Philippines](#), [Singapore](#), [Thailand](#), and [Timor-Leste](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



- [Building Back Better": Southeast Asia's transition to a green economy after COVID-19.](#)
- [COVID-19 Economic Response: ASEAN's Parliamentarians Manifesto.](#)
- Contact: info@aseanmp.org



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SEPTEMBER 2021



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