



## Low Emissions Asian Development (LEAD) Program

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Photos: Pavol Kmeto; Andrey Khrobostov

*Low emission development strategies help countries meet economic development objectives while slowing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions from energy, industry, transport, waste, agriculture, forestry, and other land uses. The map below shows the 11 countries included in the LEAD Program.*



U.S. Agency for International Development  
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### THE CHALLENGE

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is committed to helping developing countries pursue sustainable economic development and improve living standards worldwide. Low-carbon, climate-resilient development, commonly described as “green growth”, is viewed as the most effective means of meeting these objectives. Low emission development strategies, or LEDS, provide strategic planning, analytical, and policy processes to promote economic growth while achieving significant, long-term emission reductions in key sectors.

Global climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and the threats to Asia are particularly acute. To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, such as more extreme weather, reduced agricultural productivity, and rising sea levels, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must be cut in half by 2050. Yet they are expected to double in that timeframe without concerted global action.<sup>1</sup> While GHG emissions to date have primarily come from industrialized countries, most future emissions are expected from fast-growing developing economies.<sup>2</sup> It is estimated that carbon dioxide emissions from energy use in Asia’s developing countries will increase from 33 percent of the world total in 2008 to 45 percent by 2030.<sup>3</sup> The forest and land-use sector is expected to further contribute to these emission trends.

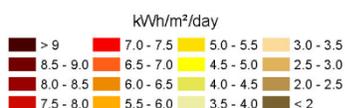
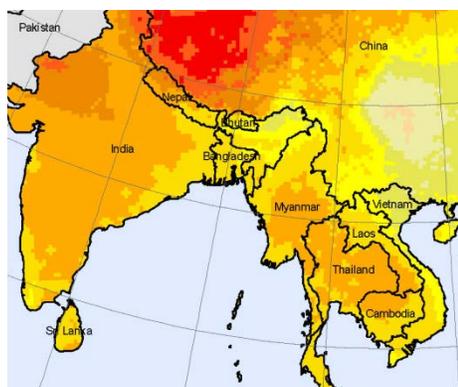
### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

USAID’s regional LEAD program helps Asian governments, businesses, and institutions develop frameworks for sustained low-carbon development across all economic sectors. This five-year program is designed to build capacity in LEDS development and implementation, GHG inventories, and carbon market development in up to 11 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. LEAD complements the U.S. Government’s global initiative for Enhancing Capacity for Low Emissions Development Strategies (EC-LEDS), and draws on specialized expertise from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service (USDA/FS).

### APPROACH

LEAD takes a regional approach in facilitating cooperation and knowledge-sharing, building capacity, replicating best practices, and encouraging public-private partnerships. The program is demand-driven and tailors its activities to specific country circumstances. LEAD supports the adoption of low-carbon policies, plans, and practices and enhanced human and institutional capacity in four interrelated areas:

CONTINUES >



Graphic: U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory

The solar resource map is an example of the analytical products available to help countries prioritize options for low emission development. The map shows how much sunlight falls by location (color coded) and is useful in determining where to install solar power facilities or solar cells.

**LEDS development and implementation:** LEDS is a country-led and country-specific national strategic analysis and planning process. LEAD supports the LEDS development process by providing training and technical assistance on analytic and decision-making tools, models, and demonstrations at both national and subnational levels. For example, the program provides training on energy models that assist in long-term planning that considers multiple technology and policy alternatives, enabling countries to better assess the costs, benefits, and impacts of different energy development options.

**GHG inventories and accounting:** Many Asian countries soon will prepare national GHG inventories every two years. LEAD provides training on developing and managing national and corporate-level GHG inventory systems and emission calculations consistent with international best practices, such as the guidelines and methodologies of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Accurate understanding of GHG emissions will enable governments, companies, and other entities to identify opportunities and develop effective solutions to manage emissions, enhance removals, and evaluate low-carbon growth strategies over time. LEAD also works to increase the capacity of GHG accounting service providers.

**Carbon market development:** Carbon market mechanisms are important vehicles for green growth and investment. Along with support for corporate GHG accounting, the LEAD program provides training and technical assistance for countries to develop carbon market platforms and systems. GHG reporting registries, for example, enable businesses to record their emissions, emission reductions, and GHG transactions with accuracy and transparency, enhancing market confidence for investment and trade.

**Regional cooperation:** LEAD works with regional and international partners to facilitate regional cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge sharing by extending new partnerships, platforms and networks across Asia. LEAD also supports engagement of the LEDS Global Partnership in order to increase regional access to extensive international resources on LEDS.

## PARTNERS

**Implementing Partners:** ICF International (prime contractor), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), International Resources Group (IRG), Nexant, Agriculture and Land Use (ALU) Group, The Climate Registry (TCR), Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI), Alliance to Save Energy

**Cooperating Partners:** USEPA, USDOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory, USDA/FS, U.S. Department of State

### Contact:

#### Orestes Anastasia

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Regional Development Mission for Asia  
Athenee Tower, 63 Wireless Road, 25th Fl.  
Bangkok 10330 Thailand  
Tel. +66 2-257-3000  
Email: oanastasia@usaid.gov

**John Bruce Wells** (USAID Contractor)  
Low Emissions Asian Development Program  
ICF International  
All Seasons Place, 87 Wireless Road  
M Thai Tower, 9th Fl.  
Bangkok 10330 Thailand  
Tel: +66 2-655-8311/2 ext. 100  
Email: john.wells@icfi.com

Web: <http://www.usaid.gov/rdma>

<sup>1</sup> International Energy Agency, Tracking Clean Energy Progress, Energy Technology Perspectives 2012 (April 2012).

<sup>2</sup> OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050: The Consequences of Inaction (March 2012).

<sup>3</sup> USAID, Energy Trends in Developing Asia: Priorities for a Low Carbon Future (2011).