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Regional Cooperation in Asia: the LEAD program and the Asia LEDS Partnership

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USAID Low Emissions Asian Development (LEAD) Program

Program period and funding:

- Five years (Oct. 2011–Sept. 2016)
- \$21.5m – part of USG *Fast-Start* financing

Objectives:

- Establish the enabling conditions for achieving sustained low emission development in Asia's developing countries
- Build capacity to develop and implement low emission development strategies (LEDS) through improved LEDS frameworks and tools, greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and accounting, and carbon market capabilities

LEAD also serves as a “program integrator” for relevant USG programs in Asia, and provides support for USAID bilateral mission objectives.



LEDS Global Partnership and the Asia LEDS Partnership

- The LEDS Global Partnership brings together more than 96 organizations to enhance coordination, information exchange, and cooperation among programs and countries working to advance low emissions growth.
- USAID/RDMA, designated to chair development of an Asia LEDS Partnership, helped convene more than 150 individuals from 17 Asian governments, international organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders for the Asia LEDS Forum in Bangkok during September 2012.
- Following guidance of Forum participants, plans are underway to form a governance structure, prepare a work plan, and launch training, capacity build



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Asia LEDS Partnership: Main Interests of Forum Participants

- **Financing strategies and assistance.** Very strong support for greater coordination and dialogue between governments, development finance institutions, and the private sector on ways to finance green growth and LEDS.
- **Analysis and planning tools and methods.** Need for more and better training on a variety of LEDS analytical tools and models, including how tools can inform LEDS decision-making and broader green growth planning.
- **Sectoral support.** Support for applying LEDS to the agriculture and forestry, energy, and transport sectors, and at the sub-national level, and for improving LEDS tools, receiving technical training, and sharing of best practices.
- **Research.** Interest in: 1) research on tools, techniques, and best practices, and 2) mapping of regional LEDS programs and initiatives.