Flex and Trade: Stories from Asia
Bangkok Climate Action Week

5 October 2026 | 09:00-13:00 and 13:40-17:00 BKK

Eastin Grand Hotel Phayathai | Room: Thong Lo Room

Power systems are evolving – and resilience is becoming increasingly key. Recent disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz have once again highlighted the importance of resilient and adaptable power systems in Southeast Asia. Expanding renewable energy can reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and strengthen energy security. Rising shares of wind and solar, growing electrification and more dynamic demand patterns are transforming how electricity systems operate. At the same time, they must be able to respond to both rapidly shifting conditions and external shocks.

To help navigate this complexity, we introduce the concept of Power System Flexibility: the backbone of a sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy future. A flexible power system reduces costs by optimizing renewable energy use, minimizing curtailment, and deferring expensive infrastructure upgrades while accelerating decarbonization. The falling costs of battery storage have made it one of the most viable solutions for grid flexibility, enabling energy shifting and ensuring reliability at scale. With ASEAN Chairship in 2026 prioritizing flexibility and storage, countries now have clearer pathways to meet their energy transition goals. Yet significant gaps persist between ambitious policy targets and on-the-ground realities—from regulatory barriers and financing challenges to technical constraints that continue to slow deployment despite clear benefits. Navigating this complexity requires more than technical solutions; it demands political acumen, relationship-building, and compelling narratives.

At the same time, Southeast Asia stands at a critical industrial crossroads. As the region cements its role as a competitive industrial growth, it faces the dual challenge of decarbonising heavy industries—like steel—while navigating tightening global trade policies such as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Green hydrogen and sustainable steel production are often proposed as solutions, but the gap between high-level concepts and on-the-ground economic realities is widening. **This is where the power and industry nexus becomes transformative.**

Bangkok Climate Action Week provides an ideal platform to explore what drives real policy change for the energy transition in Southeast Asia. By convening diverse voices—from policymakers and civil society to businesses, financiers, and local communities—this session will distill proven strategies and real-world experiences into practical insights. Together, we will identify the key building blocks that support Southeast Asian countries on their journey toward a net-zero future.

Join us to play the game where resilient power systems and decarbonised industry shape Southeast Asia's future.

Programme

Time (ICT/BKK)	Agenda item
Part A	**Trade Saga: Stories from Asia on CBAM and Steel Supply Chain**
08:30-09:00	Registration **Moderation:** **Kajol**, Project Lead Climate Neutral Industry Southeast Asia, Agora Industry
09:00-09:15 **(15 minutes)**	Welcome and introduction **Julia Metz**, Director Agora Industry
09:15-10:15 **(60 minutes)**	Session 1: Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism **Dr. Nitida Nakapreecha**, Senior Researcher, Energy Research Institute. **Rheza Hanif Risqianto**, Head of Industrial Decarbonization Solutions, IESR **Ubaid ur Rehman Zia**, Senior Research Associate, SDPI **Wrap up:** **Corinna Fürst**, INETTT
10:15-10:30 **(15 minutes)**	**Group photo followed by short coffee break**
10:30-11:30 **(60 minutes)**	Session 2: Industrial decarbonisation pathways **Moderation:** **Kajol**, Agora Industry **Chandra Mohan Verma**, General Manager, Meranti Green Steel Oman **Darlene D'Mello**, Industry Data and Modelling Engineer, Agora Industry **Zun Chen**, Advisor China Industry, Agora Energy China
11:30-12:30 **(60 minutes)**	Game: Industry Trade Saga – Tradeopoly
12:30-13.00 **(30 minutes)**	Reflection wall and next steps
13:00-13:40 **(40 minutes)**	Lunch

Time (ICT/BKK)	Agenda item
Part B	**Unlocking the future of flexibility**
13:10-13:40	Registration **Moderation:** **Krisztina Zálnoky**, Knowledge and Strategy Coordinator, Agora Think Tanks
13:40-14:00 **(20 minutes)**	Setting the scene: It's all about flexibility! **Elrika Hamdi**, Director Southeast Asia, Agora Energiewende **Mentari Pujantoro**, Project Lead Flexible Electrification, Agora Energiewende
14:00-15:00 **(60 minutes)**	Battery Stories **Moderation:** **Mentari Pujantoro**, Agora Energiewende **Jaideep Saraswat**, Associate Director, Vasudha Foundation India **Monika Merdekawati**, Senior Research Analyst, ASEAN Center for Energy **Sonja Risteska**, Head of Battery Storage, Solar Power Europe **Syed Faizan Ali Shah**, Energy Advisor to Ministry of Energy Pakistan
15:00-15:15 **(15 minutes)**	**Group photo followed by short coffee break**
15:15-16:00 **(45 minutes)**	Game: Stack Attack **Moderation:** **Krisztina Zálnoky**, Agora Think Tanks **Mentari Pujantoro**, Agora Energiewende
16:00-16:30 **(30 minutes)**	Building Blocks for Battery Energy Storage **Financing of BESS:** **Mark Hutchinson**, Chief Strategy Officer, FESSIA **Innovation on BESS Ecosystem:** **Peter Baum**, Senior Energy Specialist, ADB **Regulatory Framework for BESS:** **Neil Lessem**, Principal Energy System Innovation, RAP **Planning and System Integration for BESS:** **Jephraim Manansala**, Chief Data Scientist, ICSC
16:30-17:00 **(30 minutes)**	Wrap-up and next steps **Ranisha Basnet**, Head of Policy and Network, INETTT