Asia EDGE – Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Asia EDGE?

Launched in July 2018 as an initiative to support the President’s vision for the Indo-Pacific region, Asia EDGE (Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy) is a U.S. whole-of-government effort to grow sustainable and secure energy markets throughout the Indo-Pacific. Asia EDGE seeks to strengthen energy security, increase energy diversification and trade, and expand energy access. The initiative draws on the expertise and resources of the U.S. government, private sector, and international financial institutions. Asia EDGE builds on decades of robust U.S. government policy and programmatic work in the Indo-Pacific and recognizes that enhanced coordination among U.S. government agencies will accelerate U.S. government engagement ultimately benefitting the region and the United States. Asia EDGE signals a long-term commitment for the region.

What are the objectives of Asia EDGE?

Asia EDGE will focus on four strategic objectives:
1. Strengthen the energy security of allies and partners
2. Create open, efficient, rule-based, and transparent energy markets
3. Improve free, fair, and reciprocal energy trading relationships
4. Expand access to affordable, reliable energy

What U.S. government agencies are involved in Asia EDGE?

Eight U.S. government agencies are active in Asia EDGE. Asia EDGE is led by the Department of State and includes participation by the United States Agency for International Development, Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, and the Department of the Treasury.

How does Asia EDGE meet its strategic objectives?

Asia EDGE will provide technical assistance to improve partner countries’ regulatory environments and procurement processes and level the playing field for foreign investors; develop national and regional energy markets; use development finance to catalyze and deploy private capital; foster business-to-business connections among U.S. firms and prescreened foreign buyers; advocate for the selection of U.S. firms in foreign government tenders; address
government actions and policies that impede exports of U.S. goods and services to the region; expand access to energy by performing feasibility studies and pilot projects for electrification in remote locations; and help countries modernize their energy infrastructure.

What markets are included in Asia EDGE?
Asia EDGE currently focuses on markets across the Indo-Pacific region, including: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pacific Island Forum Countries, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam.

What funding is currently available for Asia EDGE?
On July 30, 2018, Secretary Pompeo announced nearly $50 million for programming over the next year to help Indo-Pacific partners with the tools they need to strengthen energy security, increase energy diversification and trade, and ensure energy access.

Will there be future funding for Asia EDGE?
Asia EDGE is a priority for the Administration and as such, will be reflected in the President’s future budgetary proposals. Future funding will be determined by Congress through discussions with the Administration.

What is the time line for Asia EDGE?
Asia EDGE was officially launched July 30, 2018. Asia EDGE builds on decades of robust U.S. government policy and programmatic work in the region and recognizes that enhanced coordination among the U.S. government agencies will better accelerate U.S. government engagement that will ultimately benefit the region and the United States. Asia EDGE signals a long-term commitment for the region.

Can the U.S. private sector partner with the U.S. government Asia EDGE?
Absolutely! Asia EDGE will expand public-private partnerships, foster business-to-business connections, and help partner governments set transparent, market-based, and best-value energy policies. It will catalyze private capital by partnering with firms and international financial institutions on pooled finance, insurance and risk mitigation, commercial advocacy, and project development. U.S. industry is a natural partner in helping the U.S. government achieve its Asia EDGE objectives. The U.S. government looks forward to continuing to work closely with U.S. industry as well as identifying new areas and mechanisms for collaboration.
Is Asia EDGE seeking feedback on its structure and priorities?

The U.S. government is actively seeking recommendations on how to build this initiative. On November 21, 2018, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued a Federal Register notice to receive public comment to inform future planning and partnership opportunities. Asia EDGE welcomes feedback from relevant stakeholders on proactive solutions or actions that the U.S. government could pursue to help achieve the four strategic goals of Asia EDGE.

Will Asia EDGE partner with foreign governments?

Yes! The initiative will also seek collaboration with like-minded partners to advance the rule-based economic order that has lifted billions out of poverty and enabled unprecedented growth over the past 70 years. Asia EDGE intends to build on existing multilateral platforms such as APEC, ASEAN, the East Asia Summit, and on bilateral White House initiatives such as the Japan-U.S. Strategic Energy Partnership (JUSEP), U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership, and the Australia-U.S. Strategic Energy Partnership (AUSEP).

How does Asia EDGE relate to other Indo-Pacific Strategy initiatives such as Infrastructure Transaction and Assistance Network (ITAN and the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP))?

Asia EDGE works in close coordination with ITAN and DCCP. Asia EDGE will have a primary focus on the enabling environment that will catalyze long-term investment in the region for energy products and energy systems. Asia EDGE will leverage ITAN’s transaction-focused work to ensure deals that benefit U.S. firms come to fruition and DCCP’s expertise related to implementing data policies that support an innovative and secure digital economy.

Where can I learn more about Asia EDGE?

Visit https://www.state.gov/asia-edge/ to learn more.