



21 November 2025

AKCF Newsletter



AKCMM EXPERT WORKSHOP ON ADVANCING METHANE EMISSIONS ESTIMATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY (24-26 OCTOBER, SEOUL)

Driving innovation and collaboration across ASEAN and Korea

Welcome to the AKCF Newsletter!

This newsletter highlights **key activities from AKCF-funded projects** and celebrates achievements that reflect our shared commitment to a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centered ASEAN.

From September to October 2025, AKCF projects in different areas from culture, education, environment, economic resilience to digital transformation continued to make significant progress, contributing to a more sustainable and connected ASEAN region while strengthening the ties between ASEAN and Korea.

In **Culture & Tourism**, the 2025 ROUND Music Forum and 2025 FLY Workshop contributed to the development of music and film industry in ASEAN, through knowledge sharing and capacity building activities. The **Education & Training** priority area also marked an important milestone with the 2025 ASEAN-Korea FIELD Programme Conference in Korea, reinforcing regional cooperation in football and promoting knowledge exchange. AKCF also supported the implementation of First Aid Training for ASEAN Secretariat Staffs.

In **Environment**, AKCMM project held both regional-level and national-level workshops, while the IMSWM project was featured on high-level events such as the ASEAN Circular Economy Forum 2025 and the 6th ASEAN ESC Award and 5th Certificates of Recognition. The CASA project also reached another milestone with the signing of MOU and AQMS Handover in the Philippines.

In **Economic Resilience**, one of KADIF projects held the 2nd Korea-ASEAN Data and AI Training Programme for HPC. The 2025 Annual Business Dialogue on ASEAN's Digital Economy was also held as part of the ASEAN DEAL project. Further, the Conference on Shaping ASEAN's Critical Minerals Future brought together experts from ASEAN and Korea to foster cooperation in the field. Together, these achievements reflect AKCF commitments for strengthening ASEAN's economic resilience and supporting its digital transformation.

A new project to support Timor-Leste's capacity building was also approved in September 2025. The start of the **Korea Initiatives for Capacity and Knowledge Support Towards ASEAN Readiness of Timor-Leste (KICKSTART)** project was timely, as Timor-Leste officially became the 11th member of ASEAN on 26 October 2025.

The AKCF Annual Report 2024 was also launched in September during the *AKCF Briefing for CPR Ambassadors* in Jakarta.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the AKCF Newsletter and look forward to sharing more stories of progress and cooperation in the months ahead.

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Project Title & Period

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3 6th ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award and 5th Certificate of Recognition	Advancing ASEAN-Korean cooperation in Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management (IMSWM) for Environmentally Sustainable Cities Project (2022-2026)
4 2025 ASEAN-ROK Film Leaders Incubator (FLY) Workshop	ASEAN-ROK Film Community Programme 2022-2025
5 Conference on Shaping ASEAN's Critical Minerals Future	Critical Minerals Management for Sustainable Environment in ASEAN (2024-2026)
6 AKCF Briefing for CPR Ambassadors	ASEAN-Korea Programme Management Team (AKPMT)
7 2025 ASEAN-Korea FIELD Programme Conference in Korea	ASEAN-Korea Football Interpersonal Exchange and Leadership Development (FIELD) (2022-2025)
8 Expert Workshop on Advancing Methane Emissions Estimation and Mitigation Strategy	ASEAN-Korea Cooperation for Methane Mitigation (AKCMM) (2024-2027)
9 2025 Annual Business Dialogue on ASEAN's Digital Economy	Digital Transformation: Facilitating ASEAN's Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Economy (ASEAN DEAL) (2023-2025)
10 CASA MoU Signing for Air Quality Monitoring System (AQMS) Handover in the Philippines	Clean Air for Sustainable ASEAN (CASA) (2022-2026)
11 Workshop on the Development of the Philippine Methane Reduction Plan (MRP) and Capacity Assessment for the Methane Reduction Committee (MRC)	ASEAN-Korea Cooperation for Methane Mitigation (AKCMM) (2024-2027)
12 AKCF at ASEAN Circular Economy Forum (ACEF) 2025	Advancing ASEAN-Korean cooperation in Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management (IMSWM) for Environmentally Sustainable Cities Project (2022-2026)
13 2025 ROUND Music Forum	ASEAN-Korea Music Festival (AKMF) 2025-2026
14 2nd Korea-ASEAN Data and AI Training Programme for HPC	[KADIF] Building High-Performance Computing (HPC) Infrastructure and HPC Capacity for ASEAN Data Utilization (2024-2028)
15 First Aid Training for ASEAN Secretariat Staffs	Learning and Development Programme for Community and Corporate Affairs Department of ASEAN Secretariat (2024-2027)



26-28 Aug | Da Nang

① NTFP-EP Business Planning Workshop

NTFP-EP Viet Nam hosted a three-day workshop on developing business plans under the **Capacity Building on Enhancing Resilience to Forest Fire, and Local Livelihood and Market Linkages** project.

The workshop brought together over 40 participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, including community forest livelihood and enterprise partners. Participants gained practical knowledge to strengthen their social enterprises and worked on drafting their own business plans with guidance from trainers and NGO partners.

[Read the news in AKCF website](#)



1 Sep | Seoul

② ASPP Master's Degree Students Fall 2025 Orientation

For the Fall 2025 semester, 15 master's students from across ASEAN Member States have embarked on their two-year academic journey in **Seoul National University**. As part of the **Capacity Building Project for Data-driven Smart City Planning** project, this degree programme will provide them with the opportunity to combine their practical expertise with new knowledge and ideas, contributing to advancing smart city development in the region.

[Read the news in AKCF website](#)



2-3 Sep | Langkawi

③ 6th ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Award and 5th Certificate of Recognition

The 6th ASEAN ESC Award and 5th Certificate of Recognition Presentation Ceremony, supported by **IMSWM** project in partnership with GIZ and UNCDF, was held in conjunction with the 18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (AMME).

The initiative aims to recognise and promote exemplary efforts by ASEAN cities in achieving environmental sustainability, contributing to the ASEAN Vision 2040 for Sustainable Urban Development. The event featured a Regional Seminar on best practices in sustainable city development, presentation of IMSWM project findings in the waste sector, and a site visit to showcase Malaysia's nature-based sustainable city initiatives.



4-17 Sep | Busan

④ 2025 FLY Workshop

For the 11th edition of FLY, a total of 22 trainees from ASEAN and Korea were divided into two groups and co-produced four short films in an intensive two weeks in-person training program. They also attended advanced lectures, and participated in various roles throughout the filmmaking process, guided by leading industry experts and mentors. This is part of the **ASEAN-ROK Film Community Programme 2022-2025** implemented by the **Busan Film Commission**.

Through this workshop, FLY continues to strengthen ASEAN's creative film talent base and foster closer ASEAN-Korea cultural cooperation.

[Read more about 2025 FLY Workshop](#)



15-16 Sep | Seoul

5 Conference on Shaping ASEAN's Critical Minerals Future

The conference was organised by the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade (KIET) with support from the **Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programme (CCOP)** and **Geological Agency of Indonesia** as the co-proponents of the **Critical Minerals Management and Strategy for Sustainable Environment in ASEAN** project.

It brought together experts and officials from ASEAN Member States, Korea, and international organisations to discuss mineral development, industrial strategies, and opportunities for ASEAN-Korea collaboration in the field of critical minerals.

[Read more on AKCF website](#)



22 Sep | Jakarta

6 AKCF Briefing for CPR Ambassadors

A briefing for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR) Ambassadors presented the AKCF Annual Report 2024, mid-year updates for 2025, and upcoming priorities moving forward.

The briefing served as a platform to reflect on the achievements of AKCF-supported projects in 2024, share progress on ongoing initiatives, and outline future directions that will continue to deliver tangible benefits for the people of ASEAN and Korea.

[Read more in AKCF Website](#)



22-26 Sep | Seoul

7 2025 ASEAN-Korea FIELD Programme Conference in Korea

The conference sought to further strengthen regional cooperation in football and promote knowledge sharing among ASEAN Member States as part of the **FIELD** project implemented by the **Korean Football Association Love Sharing Foundation and Sangmyung University**.

Participants also learned about Korea's football development model, including the "Made in Korea (M.I.K)" philosophy and best practices from the K-League, and joined a field visit to the National Football Center in Cheonan.

[Read more in AKCF Website](#)



24-26 Sep | Seoul

8 Expert Workshop on Advancing Methane Emissions Estimation and Mitigation Strategy

The workshop brought together 45 participants including government representatives from ASEAN, international organisation, and experts in agriculture, livestock, and waste management as part of the **AKCMM** project.

Participants presented the current status of methane emissions in their respective countries, exchanged best practices, and discussed pathways for advancing regional collaboration. They discussed the draft on the ASEAN Methane Reduction Roadmap and had hands-on sessions using methane scenario modelling to explore practical mitigation options. Implemented by the **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)**, the workshop also featured several site visits.

[Read the news in GGGI's website](#)



26 Sep | Kuala Lumpur

2025 Annual Business Dialogue on ASEAN'S Digital Economy

The 2025 Annual Business Dialogue was held on the sidelines of the 57th Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM). Organised by the **World Economic Forum** in collaboration with Malaysia's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), the one-day event brought together over 150 stakeholders from government, business, civil society, and academia.

As part of the event, findings from the Annual Business Survey covering more than 1,500 businesses across the region were also presented during the event. This event is part of the **ASEAN DEAL** project.

[Read more on ASEAN's website](#)



26 Sep | Manila

CASA MoU Signing and AQMS Handover in the Philippines

The **CASA** project marked a key milestone with MoU signing and handover of two AQMS in the Philippines.

The MoU was signed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Secretary Jacqueline Caanan and Professor Kiyong Lee of **Seoul National University**, who also serves as CASA's Principal Investigator. Two state-of-the-art AQMS units will be installed in Pasay City and Quezon City to strengthen real-time monitoring capacity and support evidence-based policymaking.

[Read the news coverage](#)



2-3 Oct | Manila

Workshop on the Development of the Philippine MRP and Capacity Assessment for the MRC

Representatives from the related ministries in the Philippines as the core members of the MRC, actively participated in the **AKCMM** project workshop implemented by the **GGGI**. The MRP will outline the necessary activities to achieve the country's methane mitigation targets and will be aligned with the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the National Action Plan on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP).

The capacity assessment of the MRC members focused on identifying their assets, needs, and gaps in developing, designing, and implementing methane reduction projects. The results of the assessment will be used to develop an action plan aimed at enhancing strategic, managerial, technical, and financial skills required for the effective operation of the MRC.

[Read more on GGGI's social media](#)



14-17 Oct | Kuala Lumpur

AKCF at ASEAN Circular Economy Forum (ACEF) 2025

The **IMSWM** Project made a strong presence at ACEF 2025, demonstrating ASEAN-Korea leadership in advancing the region's circular economy transition.

Implemented by the **GGGI**, the project was featured in a booth throughout the four-day Forum, engaging policymakers, innovators, and development partners. The booth highlighted two major achievements: the ASEAN Regional Strategy on IMSWM mainstreaming climate change and circular economy approaches, and investment project preparation support across five ASEAN Member States—Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Thailand.

[Read more on AKCF website](#)

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17-18 Oct | Seoul

2025 ROUND Music Forum

The 2025 ROUND Music Forum brought together over 150 participants from ASEAN and Korea, including government officials, music experts, and the public. Discussions explored ASEAN Pop and K-Pop collaborations, and the sustainability of regional music festivals, complemented by performances from PAMUNGKAS (Indonesia) and TELEVISION OFF (Thailand) during the Grand Mint Festival, Korea's most prominent outdoor music festival.

The forum reinforced ASEAN-Korea cultural cooperation and paved the way for the 2026 ROUND Festival in the Philippines and Korea. It is part of the **AKMF 2025-2026** project implemented by **Korean Broadcasting System (KBS)**.

[Watch the highlight video](#)

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20-24 Oct | Daejeon

[KADIF] 2nd Korea-ASEAN Data and AI Training Programme for HPC

The 2nd Korea-ASEAN Data and AI Training Programme for HPC was held as part of the KADIF's **Building HPC Infrastructure and HPC Capacity for ASEAN Data Utilisation**. It aims to transfer HPC expertise to ASEAN countries and strengthen digital capabilities. Over four years, 160 professionals from 10 ASEAN Member States will receive hands-on training from **Korea Institute of Science and Technology Innovation (KISTI)**.

[Read more on ASEAN's social media](#)

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23-24 Oct | Jakarta

First Aid Training for ASEAN Secretariat Staffs

The **ASEAN Secretariat** organised a First Aid Training level one in collaboration with SOS International as part of the **Learning and development Programme for Community and Corporate Affairs Department** project.

Attended by 28 participants from various ASEAN Secretariat divisions, the training enhanced staff knowledge and hands-on skills in CPR, choking response, wound care, and emergency assessment. Guided by certified trainers, participants gained practical experience to respond effectively in medical emergencies.

[Read more on AKCF website](#)

Featured Project



Korea Initiatives for Capacity and Knowledge Support Towards ASEAN Readiness of Timor-Leste (KICKSTART)

Objectives

Enhancing the capacities of Timor-Leste officials in economic areas such as trade, investment, customs, and tax agreements, ensuring alignment with ASEAN economic agreements and instruments to support their path towards for full ASEAN membership.

Budget

USD 713,821.25

Proponent and IA

Korea International Cooperation Services (KOICS)

Project Period

2025-2027

Thank you for reading !

AKCF ASEAN-KOREA COOPERATION FUND 한-아세안 협력기금