

# **Special Lunch Time Talk**

Wednesday, 19 June 2019, 1:00-2:00 p.m. K-HUB

# **ADB's Innovation Challenge**



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#### Background

- ADB is developing a conditional technology innovation grant challenge funded by the High-Level Technology Fund under Technical Assistance Cluster "Support for Innovation and Technology Partnerships in Asia and the Pacific" to speed up adoption and achieve increased development results from new technologies.
- ADB will issue up to 9 sector and thematic development challenges and advertise these on ADB websites and other platforms. The first round of 3 innovation challenges will start with the energy sector in 2019.
- Engagement Process: ADB will manage a two-stage response from interested providers:
  - o Technology providers with innovative solutions may send an initial Expression of Interest via an online platform. ADB experts will longlist submissions based on a set of criteria (see below).
  - Detailed responses will be requested via a Call for Proposal. 3 grants totaling up to \$1.5m will be awarded in a first round in the energy sector, with co-financing from technology providers encouraged.
- Technology solutions proposed must focus on **proof-of-concept and pre-feasibility studies** and not full implementation. Grants may be used to adapt existing, but for the targeted country new, solutions in an ADB member country to generate insights, data and modified solutions.
- Benefits for technology providers include: de-risking entry into new markets and provision of conditional grant funding to apply and test new technology in a developing country, whilst staying eligible for subsequent ADB sovereign and non-sovereign operations business opportunities derived from the engagement under the project.
- Benefits for Developing Member Countries (DMC): Capacity development to acquire and implement innovative solutions by focusing on results; understand related policy, training and

- maintenance requirements; de-risking implementation of the new technology (its application will be tested and independently verified); potential to share intellectual property rights which could decrease costs; technology transfer; and potential stimulation of local industry development.
- Benefits for ADB: Building a sustainable platform for technology applications and rolling out new
  approaches to engage early with technology providers through proposals, before an ADB project is
  prepared, whilst also building capacity in DMCs. Understanding and addressing technology transfer
  requirements in DMCs.

### Objective

Objective of this session is to share information about this first ADB technology innovation challenge and also share the 3 energy related development challenges:

- Better clean heating and cooling
- Sustainable renewable energy-based microgrids
- Application of Artificial Intelligence for energy demand management

## Agenda

- 1) Susann Roth, Principal Knowledge Sharing and Services Specialist: Provide an overview of the project and the challenge objectives (15 min)
- 2) Yoonah Lee, Young Professional, Energy Sector Specialist: Explain the energy sector related development challenges (8 min)
- 3) Sarah Cotgreave, Senior Procurement Advisor, ADB consultant: Explain the procurement process (15 min)
- 4) Q&A

#### Indicative List of Speakers

See above