

## **PLENARY 1: JUST ENERGY TRANSITION**

The ISES Plenary 1 panel discussed the urgent need for a global energy transition in response to the severe impacts of global warming, particularly in tropical regions. Key topics included last-mile electrification programs in Cambodia and the Philippines, along with a \$200 million funding initiative for Papua New Guinea. The panel criticized net zero targets as inadequate, noting a concerning rise in coal usage despite promises to phase it out.

Challenges in balancing energy security, sustainability, and cost management were highlighted, with the World Bank supporting energy transition roadmaps and advocating for equitable energy access. The discussion also focused on the social and economic impacts, including the need for political will, labor reskilling, and curriculum development in ASEAN universities.

Innovations in energy-efficient building design and advancements in transmission technology were presented as opportunities for job creation. The panel emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and enhanced policies to support renewable energy, with the meeting concluding with action items aimed at facilitating cross-border power trade and advancing regional cooperation in energy transition efforts.