



Al Gore joins unprecedented Asian investor climate change roundtable

13 September, Singapore: Convened by the Asia Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC), an unprecedented gathering of investors representing \$3.5trn in assets and former US Vice President Al Gore, met in Singapore this week to discuss climate change risks and opportunities as part of the Milken Asia Summit 2017.

“The clean economy transition is as big as the industrial revolution, but is happening at the speed of the digital revolution,” said Al Gore. “Asia has the most to lose from the climate crisis, but also the most to gain. For investors, climate change is about risk management and opportunity harvesting.” The calibre of the investors at the table in Singapore this week is testament to the importance of this issue.

In July, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) pointed out in its report ‘A Region at Risk’ that Asia faces ‘high risks and significant opportunities’ as a result of climate change. While the USD\$7.7 trillion required for renewable energy and energy efficiency to meet the demands of China, India, Japan, and South-East Asia under a 2°C warming target represents a major upside, Asian cities face the brunt of global flood losses which are expected to reach US\$52 billion a year by 2050, an eight-fold increase on 2005.

The Paris Climate Agreement sets a global goal, agreed to by more than 190 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to limit global warming to well below 2-degrees Celsius and reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by the second half of the century. Doing so entails major cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions — in the order of 80 percent by 2050.

“Climate change is a real and present global challenge compounded by extreme poverty, rising inequality and rapid growth in Asia. We have joined the AIGCC to combine thought leadership with value-aligned investors and to catalyze greater investments into effective, scalable solutions. We are delighted to participate in the discussion with Al Gore and to have Generation IM as co-investors in M-KOPA, a leading provider of affordable solar home systems in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania”, said En Lee, Partner and Head, Asia Pacific, LGT Impact.

The G20 Financial Services Board also released recommendations in June as part of their Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) on the need for greater disclosure of climate risks by investors and companies. This was endorsed by a group of insurance supervisors who make up the [Sustainable Insurance Forum](#), which includes the Monetary Authority of Singapore .

Analysis from AIGCC in 2016 showed that 31% of the financial institutions across 12 Asian markets surveyed factored climate change risks into their financing operations. While the numbers are still low, Asia has a habit of leapfrogging and learning from others and being quick to implement when opportunity strikes. With the urgent need to transition to the new and low carbon economies, there is a \$7.7 trillion dollar opportunity to take advantage of. There are encouraging signs the same will apply for climate change integration by investors in the region.

"Climate change brings risk and opportunity for investors. AIGCC's roundtable brings the leaders in finance together - to address the risks and seek the opportunities - through partnership. CalPERS is privileged to contribute to the discussion in the region" Divya Mankikar, Investment Manager for Sustainable Investment at CalPERS.

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Attendees at the roundtable

GPIF, NipponLife, Japan Post, Monetary Authority of Singapore, Temasek, GIC, National University of Singapore, CalPERS, Cathay Financial Holdings, ASABRI, International Finance Corporation, OP Trust, Catholic Super, Manulife Asset Management, Generation Investment Management, BlackRock, Investor Group on Climate Change, Milken Institute.

About the Asia Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC)

The Asia Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC) is an initiative to create awareness among Asia's asset owners and financial institutions about the risks and opportunities associated with climate change and low carbon investing. AIGCC provides capacity for investors to share best practice and to collaborate on investment activity, credit analysis, risk management, engagement and policy.

With a strong international profile and significant network, including pension, sovereign wealth funds, insurance companies and fund managers, AIGCC represents the Asian investor perspective in the evolving global discussions on climate change and the transition to a greener economy.

Investors in the region are invited to participate in the group, including China, Japan, India, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam and the Pacific.

AIGCC Members include:

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