

FAB23 Bhutan

Thimphu, Bhutan

Accelerating EV Adoption in Bhutan

Yak Room, Main Building, Super Fab Lab, Thimphu Tech Park Ltd.

28th July 2023, 10:00 AM

Agenda

Background:

Bhutan is one of the few countries in the world who have committed to be carbon neutral and have achieved this status since 2011. The country has reaffirmed the carbon neutral status in 2015 for the Paris Agreement and in its second Nationally Determined Contributions. To maintain the status, the country is working towards implementing low emission strategies across different sectors. The transport sector remains an important source of air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the region. As per studies, vehicle emissions account for 60% of the total emissions from the energy sector. Almost 99.9% of vehicles in Bhutan are powered by fossil fuels like diesel or petrol leading to a rise in Bhutan's fossil fuel import bill. This makes clean mobility pivotal for meeting the climate change challenge in this emerging nation which is all set to grow while staying carbon neutral. The country launched its e-mobility initiatives in 2018 but not much progress has been made on Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption and deployment since then. To accelerate and sustain EV adoption, creating adequate charging infrastructure, adopting innovative business models, and financing becomes important for the region. This can be achieved through strategic partnerships for infrastructure and technology development, innovative business models for EV and EV charging and green investment framework. Keeping these goals in mind and in order to make tangible progress on the e-mobility agenda, a team of government officials from Bhutan including Bhutan's Technical Working Group on EVs visited India to understand and learn from India's evolving EV landscape. USAID SAREP facilitated this exchange visit which was very well appreciated by the Bhutan officials.

The session on "**Accelerating EV Adoption in Bhutan**" at **FAB23 Bhutan** will further deepen the regional collaboration between India and Bhutan with an aim to provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and collaboration, helping to foster connections and partnerships between the international and local communities that will shape the future of Bhutan in the e-mobility ecosystem.

Objective:

E-mobility as an important enabler for net zero transition

- Discuss international best practices, policies, case studies, and business models on e-mobility ecosystem which have relevance to Bhutan.
- Catalyzing partnerships with South Asian countries like India for accelerating e-mobility deployment in Bhutan.

Panel Discussion (90min):

The panel discussion will focus on how to create an enabling ecosystem for accelerating electric vehicles adoption and deployment in Bhutan. The discussion will highlight success stories of EV deployment at state and country level with a focus on creating a strong policy landscape, adopting innovative business models, advanced technologies, and creating a platform for EV investments. The

session will bring together the stakeholders from both India and Bhutan including policy makers, and manufacturers to deliberate on key challenges and solutions which need to be confronted to accelerate EV adoption in Bhutan. The discussion will also focus on how Bhutan along with other South Asian countries can collaborate with each other to effectively transition to a clean mobility ecosystem.

Potential Speakers and Panelists:

- **Welcome Remarks (5 mins)**
 - John Smith Sreen, Director, Indo-Pacific Office, USAID/India
- **Keynote Address (5 mins)**
 - Tenzin, Director General, Department of Surface Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
- **Context Setting (10mins)**
 - Apurva Chaturvedi, Senior Clean Energy Specialist, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India
- **Panel discussion (60mins including Q&A)**
 - Tshering Dhendup, Project Manager, Project Management Unit, Bhutan Sustainable Low-Emission Urban Transport System, Prime Minister's Office – Bhutan
 - Sushant Naik, Global Head – Government & Public Affairs, TATA Motors Ltd and Chairman, Electric Mobility Group, SIAM
 - Tashi Wangchuk, CEO, Thunder Motors Electric Vehicles
 - Ugyen Norbu, Offtg. Division Head, Department of Surface Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure & Road Transport (TBD)
 - Shilpi Samantray, EV Specialist, South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (Moderator)
- **Closing Remarks (10mins)**