

Report

South Asian Parliamentarians' Study Tour on Regional Cooperation in Climate and Energy

13-16 July 2026



1. Introduction

The South Asia Regional Parliamentary Forum (SARPF) for Climate, Energy and Environment led a four-day study tour to Singapore and Jakarta, Indonesia, from 13 to 16 July 2026. A thirteen-member multi-party delegation of parliamentarians representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka was part of the study tour.

The delegation comprised parliamentarians serving on energy, environment, estimates and finance committees of their respective national parliaments, including several first-term Members of Parliaments (MPs) and women legislators.

The delegation opened in Singapore on 12 July with an initial briefing before moving into two days of structured ministry briefings, institutional visits, and finance-sector dialogues. The tour then shifted to Jakarta on 15 July for its second thematic phase, concluding on 17 July after a compact six-day programme across two cities.

A key pillar of SARPF's work is to expose parliamentarians to regional best practices, institutional models, and on-the-ground implementation experiences to support effective policymaking. This study tour enhanced parliamentarians' understanding of policy frameworks and institutional approaches that can support energy transition, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and regional cooperation in South Asia. The study tour strengthened parliamentarians' understanding of policy frameworks and institutional approaches that they can support. It draws lessons from Singapore's and ASEAN's experience in climate action and energy transition and considers their relevance to South Asian contexts.

2. Singapore

The Singapore leg focused on climate governance, sustainable infrastructure, energy innovation and sustainable finance.

- **Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE) Meeting at Marina Barrage**

On day one, the MSE briefed the multi-party delegation on Singapore's Green Plan and its 2050 net-zero roadmap at the Marina Barrage. The delegates learned that climate-resilient infrastructure can serve multiple functions. The site visit opened avenues of imagination for South Asian parliamentarians regarding the ways in which a barrage could also operate as a flood barrier, freshwater reservoir, public park, and green roof. They took away a replicable model for building urban resilience and water security into a single cost-efficient system.

- **Energy Research Institute, Nanyang Technological University (ERI@N)**

The second engagement for delegates was at ERI@N. Chief Operating Officer Mr Niels de Boer hosted the delegation at the TCS-NTU GoZero Hub, an ASEAN Centre of Excellence, for lab tours on decarbonisation technologies. The engagement highlighted how research institutions can help move clean energy technologies from laboratory development to commercial deployment. The state-of-the-art laboratory visits showcased the value of public-private research partnerships in accelerating the transition from research to deployment of climate technologies.

- **The Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at National University of Singapore (NUS)**

The Singapore leg concluded with a roundtable at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore (NUS), bringing together parliamentarians and academics. The roundtable linked Singapore's climate and energy models to South Asia's policy realities. MPs learned how research institutions could bridge policy design and ground-level implementation, particularly on renewable energy, green hydrogen and climate finance. The session stressed the value of sustained academic engagement in strengthening the flow of research and evidence into legislative deliberations and parliamentary committee work.

- **National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS)**

On day two, sitting under the Prime Minister's Office of Singapore, NCCS briefed the delegation on Singapore's whole-of-government approach to climate policy. The discussion highlighted the benefits of centralising climate coordination at the centre of government,

particularly in reducing fragmentation among ministries. The participating parliamentarians saw a clear case for South Asian governments to house their respective climate strategies in a similar empowered body.

The second part of the session at NCCCS outlined Singapore's carbon-market cooperation and international partnerships. MPs learnt that trade ministries, not only environment ministries, play a central role in structuring cross-border carbon agreements. The session underscored that legal clarity and bilateral trust are prerequisites for functioning carbon markets.

- **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Singapore Sustainable Finance Association (SSFA)**

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Singapore Sustainable Finance Association (SSFA) are key players in this initiative.

A joint session with MAS and SSFA showed parliamentarians various ways a regulator and an industry association can jointly drive green taxonomy standards. Industry experts like Si Yun Neo (MAS), Kavitha Menon (SSFA), Shilpa Gulrajani (DBS Bank), and Oi-Yee Choo (Climate Impact X) demonstrated that credible carbon-credit agreements and market infrastructure unlock private capital. The delegation learnt that sustainability and climate finance scales only when banks and market operators coordinate closely.

3. Indonesia

The SARPF parliamentarian's delegation then went to Jakarta, Indonesia, engaging with ASEAN's premier regional institutions on parliamentary diplomacy and regional energy architecture.

- **ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat (AIPA)**

On day three, the secretary-general, H.E. Dr Chem Widhya, hosted a dialogue with the delegation on regional cooperation and collaborative responses to climate, energy, and development challenges. MPs learned how a dedicated inter-parliamentary regional body sustains cross-border dialogue on climate, energy, and environmental issues beyond the terms of individual governments. The visit reinforced the idea that legislatures and parliamentarians, not only executives, can also drive regional climate and energy cooperation.

- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat**

In the second half of day three, the secretary-general H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn led a high-level exchange on ASEAN's regional journey, the shifting geopolitical landscape, and South–South cooperation opportunities. SARPF delegates learned about the consensus-based regional institutions that took decades of trust-building through dialogue and political leadership. MPs took away that patient, long-term regional cooperation—not one-off summits—builds collective bargaining power on climate finance and technology transfer in the international climate change arena.

- **The National Energy Council (Dewan Energi Nasional - DEN)**

On day four, the delegates met the members of the DEN, a statutory body in Indonesia responsible for formulating national energy policy. The parliamentarians were briefed on Indonesia's energy policies, long-term planning, energy security, and a just transition pathway. The delegates learned how a national council balances affordability, security, and decarbonisation across a vast, diverse archipelago.

- **ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)**

The last engagement for the delegates was with ACE. The high officials at ACE presented ASEAN's energy architecture, including the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) and the ASEAN Power Grid, as a model for cross-border electricity trade. Parliamentarians learned that regional grid integration needs standardised technical protocols among participating countries. ACE's work on passive cooling, energy efficiency, and the ASEAN Climate Change and Energy Project (ACCEPT) showed delegates practical, near-term wins available even before full grid integration is achieved.

Over four days, South Asian parliamentarians had the opportunity to engage with national ministries, ASEAN institutions, financial regulators, researchers, and technical experts across Singapore and Jakarta. The study tour had a clear message: effective climate action rests on strong regional cooperation, long-term planning and sustained regional climate and energy ambition, supported by a national one.