

Summary Report

1. Background

A series of knowledge sharing events on the green agenda was organized in the margin of GGGI's the 9th Session of the Assembly and 13th Session of the Council (Joint Session) during the last week of October 2020.

The purpose of the events is to provide a forum for participants, who are representatives from governments and donors, partner organizations as well as GGGI country/thematic teams:

- To present GGGI and its Members & Partners' efforts and commitments to green growth solutions, highlighting key achievements and initiatives, and
- To share experiences, good practices, and lessons learned on Members' transition towards green growth and identify common regional perspectives, priorities and solutions.

2. Event Overview

Event title	Green Deal & Green COVID Recovery
Date and Time	October 26 th , 2020, 15:00 – 17:00 Korea Standard Time (KST)
Venue	Hybrid (a combination of in-person attendance – usually GGGI HQ staff – and online participants through Zoom)
Format	Webinar – presentations and Q&A
Number of attendees	146 participants (including 8 speakers)

** Sessional documents, including presentation slides and recordings, are available at the Sway platform: <https://sway.office.com/WMdiTILgEp7SeDCU?ref=Link>

3. Key highlights

1) Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has brought unprecedented challenges to every aspect of our life and economy all around the world. The impacts of the pandemic saw millions of jobs lost, economic recession and even more divided society than pre-COVID. Most importantly, the crisis had made policy makers and governments' commitment towards green growth and sustainable development in question/on hold, as stated by *Frank Rijsberman, Director-General of GGGI*. In particular, air pollution crisis and plastic crisis in the oceans were overruled by the COVID-19.

The adverse impacts of the pandemic were felt harder in developing countries. This point was well presented by *Alue Dohong, Vice Minister of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia*, that the pandemic has put a great challenge towards achieving its National Determined Contributions (NDCs). Due to the



fiscal restraints, caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the climate change mitigation budget in Indonesia is expected to decrease down to 55%, while the adaptation budget will be at 45% of the planned.

2) Green Recovery amid COVID-19

- **Why “greening” recovery?**

Despite the challenges, faced around the green agenda, there are a growing number of evidences that “green recovery” can yield better outcomes in job creation, economic growth and sustainable development.

As indicated in GGGI’s green recovery publications – 1) [Technical Report 12: Employment Assessment of Renewable Energy](#) (June 2020), 2) [Technical Report 13: Achieving Green Growth & Climate Action Post COVID-19 \(July 2020\)](#) – green job potential on renewable energy sector as well as positive outlook of green growth to deal with sustainability crisis are evident.

Stelios Grafakos, Principal Researcher, GGGI, further reinforced this point by highlighting GGGI’s recent study which indicates that renewable energy generates more jobs per Gwh and per unit of investment compared to fossil fuel-based technologies. Furthermore, for every job created in the renewable energy sector, at least an additional job will be created in the overall economy.

Representative from the EU, *Yvon Slingenberg, Director International, Mainstreaming & Policy Coordination, DG-CLIMA*, made remarks that some countries/regional association, have not lost speed on Green New Deal despite the COVID pandemic. She further emphasized the need for strong targets on climate change and relevant legislations in place in order to achieve carbon neutrality at global level.

In the agriculture sector, the need for innovative approach is even more timely in the context of the pandemic where the issue of food security is directly hit. *Rokiatou Traore, Director of Irrigation and Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Hydri-agricultural Development, Burkina Faso*, explained that in a country, like Burkina Faso, where 56% of the population is employed in the agriculture sector, a smart agriculture approach using renewable energy will bring great potentials and opportunities for agricultural sector development.

- **Initiatives/commitments by countries/region**

GGGI is well positioned to promote and recommend Green Deal for emerging and developing countries, leveraging its positionality embedded in the governments of its Member and Partner countries and regions.

In addition to the study publications, including the recent “[Insight Brief 3: Green Deals to accelerate Climate Action](#)” (October, 2020), GGGI’s efforts to support green recovery from COVID-19 are in full speed. GGGI has developed a number of project proposals on green recovery that are under evaluation by donors – Qatar Fund for Development, UK -BEIS, KOICA, GCF and EU - and is in discussion to establish Green Deal Fund.



GGGI has partnered with Qatar Fund for Development on Green entrepreneurship, which aims to have: 1) more than 6000 direct jobs created, 2) 150 business formed, 3) 600 entrepreneurs supported, including employment of vulnerable communities (youth and women).

GGGI also developed a comprehensive package of green investments and policies, called Green Deals, to create green jobs and accelerate climate action and are following up with Member/Partner countries, such as Mexico and Peru on the development of Green Deal proposals.

Financing climate initiatives/industry through “Green Bonds” is well perceived in a global scale. In Peru, as presented by *Aaron Drayer, Country Representative of GGGI Peru*, GGGI is supporting government and relevant sectors on the development of Green Bond Framework and is in the process of applying for UK Pact Challenge Fund for supporting governance structure, communications campaign, and training for public servants on Green Bond benefits. The Indonesian government is also developing/utilizing various financing channels and mechanisms to finance government programs on climate change. The notable examples include Indonesia’s first “Green Sukuk”, developed by the Ministry of Finance, SDG Indonesia One and Environment Fund Agency (BPDLH).

3) Ways forward

As explained by *Didacus Jules, Director-General of OECS*, the current COVID-19 pandemic must be an opportunity for new development of paradigm and pivot, involving a greener approach, and the acceleration of green agenda globally.

The pandemic crisis also revealed the need for the green approach in Fiji, as presented by *Makereta Konrote, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economy*, in the following points: 1) employment data and system implementation, 2) women employment and MSME, 3) resilience against future pandemic and disasters.

As emphasized by multiple speakers during the event, green recovery from COVID-19 should combine green job creation and accelerated climate action, and that governments need to set strong targets, on GHG emission reduction and low-carbon and clean energy transition.

GGGI’s work confirmed that implementing NDCs can generate a large number of green jobs and green growth in the overall, and that the global community can build back better after the pandemic.

Annex 1. Program details

Green Deal & Green COVID Recovery

Overview

This session on Green Deal & Green COVID Recovery will discuss GGGI's Green New Deal recommendations for developing and emerging economies, as an approach to build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic. It will build on GGGI's experience working with its Members to develop more ambitious NDCs for the Paris Agreement and show case examples from GGGI Members.

Participants are recommended to check out GGGI's Technical Report No. 13 ["Achieving Green Growth and Climate Action Post-COVID-19"](#) to explore opportunities to green the COVID-19 recovery.

Agenda

* Times in Korea Standard Time

- 15:00-15:05** **Welcome & Introduction**
Welcome by Dr. Frank Rijsberman, Director-General GGGI
- 15:05-15:20** **GGGI's Green New Deal to Accelerate Climate Action Post COVID-19**
Dr. Frank Rijsberman, Director-General GGGI
- 15:20-16:20** **Green employment and climate actions as means of COVID-19 economic recovery**
Dr. Stelios Grafakos, Principal Researcher, GGGI
- EU's New Green Deal: implications for EU and its partners**
Ms. Yvon Slingenberg, Director International, Mainstreaming & Policy Coordination, DG-CLIMA, European Commission
- Green bonds to accelerate COVID recovery and climate action in Peru**
Mr. Aaron Drayer, Country Representative, GGGI Peru
- Closing the climate finance gap in Indonesia**
H.E. Dr. Alue Dohong, Vice Minister, Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- Green jobs through green innovation and entrepreneurship in the Caribbean and Pacific**
- *Dr. Didacus Jules, Director-General OECS*
 - *Ms. Makereta Konrote, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Economy, Fiji*
 - *Senior Representative, Qatar Fund for Development*
- COVID Recovery, food security and climate resilience through solar powered irrigation in Burkina Faso**
- *Ms. Rokiatou Traore, Director of Irrigation and development, Ministry of Agriculture and Hydro-agricultural Development, Burkina Faso*
 - *Senior Representative, Qatar Fund for Development*
- 16:20-16:55** **Questions / discussion**
All Speakers
- 16:55-17:00** **Closure**
Dr. Frank Rijsberman, Director-General GGGI

Annex 2. Acknowledgements: Organizing and Facilitation Team



Frank
Rijsberman



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