



Regional Conference Highlighting the Voices of Indigenous Women and Youth for a Just and Sustainable Energy Transition

20-22 September 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand



Right Energy Partnership
with Indigenous Peoples (REP)



aiwn Asian Indigenous Women's Network

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



BACKGROUND

The climate crisis is causing serious challenges to the people and the planet, and while there is a need to accelerate actions to reduce carbon emissions, solutions that are being implemented are increasing the challenges that Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous women and youth, face in their communities. The transition to renewable energy is also increasing the extraction of critical minerals needed for the development of these clean technologies. These minerals are most often found in Indigenous Peoples' territories. Large nickel reserves, for example, are found in Indonesia – of which one of the areas threatened by nickel mining is inhabited by Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation.

The transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy implemented without respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights is resulting in displacements, loss of livelihoods, and adverse impacts on the cultural integrity of affected Indigenous communities. Disproportionate impacts fall on Indigenous women and youth and persons with disabilities, whose voices are often marginalized and are challenged with access to decision-making spaces. While they have to bear the multi-dimensional impacts of critical minerals extraction and deployment of large-scale renewable energy projects, the destruction of their lands and the environment exposes them to more economic, social and cultural risks.

Indigenous Peoples' territories have been host to a number of large dams, but they are the ones who still lack access to electricity and, worse, are displaced from their ancestral lands, being disrespected for their rights to ancestral lands and self-determination. To address the need for access to energy, Indigenous Peoples and their support groups have also been initiating community-based renewable energy projects that address the lack of access to energy in individual households but also for the enhancement of Indigenous women's

livelihoods and education of Indigenous learners. These community-based projects also strengthen the governance and management of the communities over their lands and resources.

ABOUT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The regional conference will be an in-person event to be conducted on 20-22 September 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand. Participants in this conference will come from among Indigenous women and youth who are affected by large-scale renewable energy projects and from areas where mining of critical minerals is conducted, as well as from communities who have been implementing their own Indigenous Peoples-led renewable energy systems. The outcomes of the conference will be presented at a side event during the UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum to encourage support for the calls of Indigenous women and youth for a rights-based transition to renewable energy and for Indigenous Peoples-led renewable energy initiatives.

This conference is a follow-through activity of the Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Just Transition held in New York, USA, last 12-14 April 2024, where 87 Indigenous Peoples representatives from all over the world convened to address the pressing issues surrounding the transition to renewable energy and its impacts on Indigenous Peoples' communities. Representing diverse nations and Indigenous Peoples from 35 countries from the seven socio-cultural regions of the world, the participants gathered with a common purpose: to advocate for an energy transition that upholds human rights, social equity, cultural integrity, inclusivity and full and effective participation and shared prosperity of Indigenous Peoples based on the sustainability of our finite resources. A Declaration from this conference can be accessed [here](#).

OBJECTIVES

- Highlight the specific concerns of Indigenous women and youth on renewable energy projects and mining of critical minerals implemented in their territories including recommendations for a truly Just Energy Transition;
- Provide a space for exchange among Indigenous women and youth, and support groups to strengthen their solidarity and plan of action for a rights-based transition to renewable energy that takes into consideration their specific needs and priorities; and
- Engage with UN agencies, the private sector, and states for a Just Energy Transition for Indigenous Peoples in the region.

OUTCOMES

- Declaration of Indigenous women and youth on the Just Energy Transition
- Action plan to advance an inclusive and just energy transition for Indigenous women and youth in Asia