

FINANCING A FOSSIL FUTURE: ADB'S GAS INVESTMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Despite pledging to support the decarbonization of energy systems in Asia and the Pacific and to follow a Paris-aligned approach, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is one of the notable multilateral development banks involved in developing fossil gas infrastructure in the Philippines.



Technical Advice for Batangas Liquefied Natural Gas Hub

In 2018, ADB signed an agreement with the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) to act as transaction advisor for the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub project in the Philippines, located in Mabini, Batangas. Under the agreement, ADB's Office of Public-Private Partnerships "will advise and assist PNOC in all aspects of the project, including the award and execution of the final project agreements." The project consists of a proposed regasification terminal, storage, power plant, and other associated infrastructure and is estimated to cost up to USD 2 billion. (See: <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-advise-philippines-first-lng-hub-project>).

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Batangas Province is part of the five provinces in the Philippines comprising the Verde Island Passage (VIP), a rich marine biodiversity hotspot that is home to 60% of all known marine shorefish species in the world.



With 1,736 fish species, 338 coral species, and thousands of other marine organisms, VIP has been likened to an Amazon of the Oceans.



ADB's support for hastening the development of an LNG hub here means putting at risk this entire sensitive ecological zone along with jeopardizing the livelihoods and health of local coastal communities.



Opposition to LNG developments in the area has brought frontline communities, fisherfolk groups, and environmental, conservation, and faith-based groups together and resulted in the Protect VIP Campaign.



The filing of legal complaints, writing of protest letters and petitions against the development of LNG facilities in Batangas continues.