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Headline: World Bank and Infra Asia partner on sustainable infrastructure development

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The World Bank, Infra Asia, and the Singapore Management University have launched a programme to boost the capabilities of regional government officials in infrastructure development.

The programme will help address the knowledge gap amongst senior and mid-level regional government officials in the infrastructure sector.

The Growing Infrastructure – Enabling & Structuring for Private Sector Participation in Finance and Innovation programme will improve the awareness amongst government officials of solutions available to support sustainable and resilient infrastructure development.

Participants will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to create a regulatory environment that is friendly toward private sector involvement in infrastructure.

The first phase of the project will focus on clean energy owing to the sector's resiliency to COVID-19.

The clean energy sector's ability to withstand the impact of the pandemic has increased interest amongst regional policymakers and financial organisations to focus on the industry in a bid to further improve its resiliency.

Infra Asia brings its experience in the regional infrastructure ecosystems, whilst the World Bank will bring global development expertise.

Singapore Management University will serve as the academic partner delivering the programme.

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Interactive and collaborative sessions will be held as part of the programme. The sessions will comprise real-life case studies, site visits and fireside chats with international thought leaders.

Mr Seth Tan, the executive director of Infra Asia, said: “Given that the regional infrastructure funding gap can be closed by mobilizing private capital, it is important that governments create a regulatory environment friendly to private sector involvement. Through our continued efforts with valued partners, we hope to support Asia’s infrastructure development and at the same time spread the word about Singapore-based solutions.”

Ms Jvoti Shukla, the director of the World Bank in Singapore, adds: “The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic reinforce the imperative of investing in well-designed infrastructure for sustained economic growth, with a unique opportunity to do so with greater sustainability and resilience. The World Bank Group is delighted to be a strategic partner in this critically important program to harness Asia’s collective expertise with collaboration between private players, governments and multilateral banks.”

Lily Long, the president of SMU, reiterates: “By developing deeper expertise and skillsets of leaders within the sector, we aim to make a meaningful impact in Singapore and beyond. These senior executives will also be equipped with new knowledge to tackle unforeseen challenges and imagine a better world in which to live, work and thrive.”