ACS Report
July 2026

INSIGHTS FROM ACS 2026

WHERE CARBON MARKETS MEET TO DRIVE CLIMATE ACTION

HIGHLIGHTS

Days	Participants	Speakers	Plenaries & Addresses	Workshops & Breakouts
3	650+	100+	9	11

Hosted by

Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB)

Securities & Futures Commission of Hong Kong (SFC)

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX)

7-9 July 2026

Hong Kong, China

Markets meet momentum

Against the backdrop of Victoria Harbour, more than 650 delegates gathered in Hong Kong, China for IETA's Asia Climate Summit (ACS) 2026. As the region's leading forum on carbon markets, ACS brought together regional and global voices to call for urgent, coordinated action. This year's theme 'Scaling Market Solutions: Powering Progress and Growth' set the tone for three days of dialogue built on a principle IETA has championed for over 25 years: markets work, and carbon markets matter.

Co-hosted by Hong Kong's Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB), the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong (SFC), and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), the Summit welcomed government speakers from the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), People's Republic of China; the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB), Hong Kong SAR Government; Forest Department, Government of Sindh; Thailand's Department of Climate Change and Environment; the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources; the European Commission's DG Clima; the British High Commission; Laos' Department of Environment; as well as stakeholders including the UNFCCC, The Global Green Growth Institute and Asian Development Bank.

Delegates spanned the full market value chain – buyers, project developers, bankers, traders, exchanges, and technology innovators. Among the corporate attendees were representatives from Apple, CATL, Cathay Pacific Airways, Equinix, Hindalco, HSBC, Japan Airlines, JP Morgan, JSW Steel, Osaka Gas, Sembcorp, Sinochem, Tencent, Tenaga Nasional, Tokyo Gas, PetroChina and TVS Motor Company.

Key takeaways

Connected markets are proven infrastructure for scale
Article 6 is no longer aspirational – it is operational. More than 100 bilateral agreements have now been signed under Article 6.2, and over 37 million credits are CORSIA-eligible. Sessions including Plenary 5, "Unlocking Article 6: Time to Turn Rules to Real Transactions," alongside dedicated briefings on CORSIA updates and PACM implementation, underscored that connected carbon markets are the proven infrastructure needed to scale climate impact and deliver efficiency across borders.

Markets are a transformational channel for climate finance
Asia accounts for more than half of global emissions and faces a significant gap in the finance needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement. Plenary 1, "Financing Asia's Climate Transition," and Breakout 1 on carbon pricing in emerging APAC markets, made the case that market-based mechanisms – including emissions trading schemes and voluntary carbon markets – can mobilise finance, innovation and political will at the scale and pace ambition demands. Turning that ambition into measurable outcomes will require the private sector to bring forward innovative financing instruments.

Resilient rules build the confidence markets need to compete
As carbon markets mature, businesses need greater legal clarity to participate effectively and responsibly. Workshop 1, "Promoting Integrity of Carbon Credit Market Transactions: The Legal Nature of Carbon," and Plenary 4 on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) readiness in Asia, both pointed to the same conclusion: reliable policy frameworks support market infrastructure, and stronger infrastructure encourages the investment and financing that let markets compete on cost and outcome. A parallel session on digital MRV and carbon-integrity infrastructure showed how technology is becoming part of that trust-building toolkit.

Nature-based solutions must be scaled up
Successful nature-based carbon projects are built over the long term. Breakout 5, "Natural Climate Solutions at a Turning Point: Mobilising Capital for Forests and Nature," echoed the Summit's broader message: strong political commitment, continuity in implementation, and active community participation are critical to delivering restoration outcomes at scale — and to unlocking the capital nature-based projects need.

Also on the agenda

The programme spotlighted two fast-emerging areas – CBAM readiness and data quality across Asia Pacific supply chains, and the digital infrastructure, from MRV to interoperability, needed to build trust in market integrity. Sessions on corporate net-zero pathways and technology-based carbon removals rounded out a programme that pushed beyond policy into implementation.

Looking ahead

ACS 2026 closed on a clear note: it is by coming together that this vast climate challenge can be addressed through market solutions. Delegates are working on this challenge from different angles, and forums like ACS exist to advance progress across the market. IETA will continue to advocate for carbon markets and ensure corporates have a voice throughout the development and implementation of carbon markets around the globe.

We would like to thank our partners, sponsors, speakers and participants for their support at ACS 2026.

View our ACS photo gallery here.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

ICAP International Carbon Action Partnership

ICC

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Carbon Market Institute

CETA China Emissions Trading Association

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