

Woochong Um – Biography

Chief Executive Officer, The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)

Woochong Um is the new Chief Executive Officer of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). Following a distinguished career at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Woochong brings a wealth of experience and expertise in sustainable development, climate financing and strategic development to GEAPP.

As ADB's Managing Director General, he spearheaded global partnerships and funding mechanisms to transform economies and communities. Woochong drove the bank's sustainability agenda, placing environmental and renewable energy action plans at the heart of major development sectors, including health, education, agriculture, community resilience, and humanitarian settings. His tenure at ADB saw him launching transformative programs like the Energy Transition Mechanism to facilitate the early shut down of coal fired power stations in Asia and the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies. He led the organisation's work to transform climate finance, quadrupling financial resources for climate action, managed a transformative talent programme and the evacuation of Afghan national staff during the Taliban takeover. Before his illustrious career at ADB, he worked in corporate IT at Pitney Bowes and Pfizer in the USA.

At GEAPP, Woochong leads the Alliance's strategy, finance mobilization and solutions to accelerate the transition to renewable energy in emerging economies, addressing a defining challenge of our time: ending energy poverty and tackling the climate crisis through a just transition to renewable energy. His appointment marks an important milestone for GEAPP's commitment to realizing greater change and opportunities to unlock green energy in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean to power progress and secure an inclusive, resilient future for all. Woochong's deep experience in building diverse, trust-based coalitions for social and environmental change at scale, coupled with his extensive climate finance knowledge and ability to manage complex, multi-stakeholder transformative strategies, ensures he is well-equipped to lead GEAPP in its mission to end energy poverty and promote sustainable energy solutions globally.

Additional text for longer biographies:

Woochong shares GEAPP's vision of a just and sustainable future for people and the planet, emphasizing the importance of collective action and building a movement behind it.

"Securing a just energy transition is only possible if we urgently work together – there is no competition in this – just the race against ourselves and against time," said incoming GEAPP CEO Woochong Um. "We need everyone to pull their weight and pull together, and GEAPP can make an important contribution to this mission. I look forward to bringing my experience uniting broad groups of stakeholders from the public and private sectors to work with our alliance to urgently address the climate crisis."

By embracing the urgency to act now, Woochong aims to galvanize a powerful alliance of partners to drive transformative change at scale, test and prove innovative solutions, and catalyze investments that can change energy, change lives, and secure the future of our planet. He invites more people to join GEAPP in turning this vision into reality, emphasizing the opportunity to redefine our future through collective action.