

Energy and Economic Growth Programme: South Asia Policy Workshop

28th September
Hotel Annapurna, Kathmandu, Nepal

Programme

Time	Activity
9:00	Welcome by Workshop Chairperson <i>Dr. Bindu Lohani, Distinguished Fellow and Board of Trustees, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan</i>
9:15	Keynote: Energy policy in Nepal: opportunities and challenges <i>Mr. Suman Sharma, Former Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Government of Nepal (As of September 2016 Mr. Sharma is Secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction)</i>
9.45	Keynote: Addressing energy policy challenges in South Asia through EEG <i>Prof. Dr. Catherine Wolfram, EEG Research Director & Faculty Director of the Energy Institute at Haas, University of California, Berkeley</i>
10.15	Workshop Overview <i>Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Energy, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok</i>
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	Session #1: <u>Energy access and supply</u> <i>This session will explore centralized and decentralized approaches to increasing energy access, including the value of power reliability, the cost of non-technical losses (including theft), and returns to investments in urban vs. rural electrification.</i> Moderator: Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, Council on Energy, Environment and Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Asad Gilani, Secretary Energy, Department of Energy, Government of Punjab • Mr. Ram Prasad Dhital, Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre, Nepal • Prof. Dr. Dev Nathan, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi • Dr. Robyn Meeks, Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan • Mr. Vishwa Bhushan Amatya, Head of Energy Portfolio, Practical Action Nepal • Mr. Yash Khaitan, Chief Executive Officer, Gram Power, India
13.00	Lunch





Energy and Economic Growth

Applied Research Programme

14.00	<p>Session #2: <u>Regional cooperation for energy security</u> <i>This session will focus on the role of regional cooperation in optimizing energy generation, transmission, and use. We will discuss potential policy frameworks for thinking about the issue, including energy trading, power pools, and cross-border investments.</i> Moderator: Mr. Rameshore Khanal, Former Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Keshab Dhoj Adhikari, Joint Secretary, Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal• Mr. Md Mahbubur Rahman, Director- IPP Cell-3, Bangladesh Power Development Board• Dr. Prasoon Agarwal, Senior Energy Specialist, Global Green Growth Institute, Seoul• Prof. Dr. Ram Shrestha, Professor Emeritus, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok• Dr. Aditi Mukherji, Theme Leader- Water and Air, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal
15.30	<p>Session #3: <u>Enabling Environment</u> <i>This session will consider the tools policymakers have to promote well-functioning energy sectors (i.e. policies, regulations, incentives, etc.). We will discuss obstacles to the effectiveness of these tools, as well as the value of research in informing more cost-effective policymaking.</i> Moderator: Dr. Anant Sudarshan, India Director, Energy Policy Institute at Chicago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Mohammad Arif, Energy Advisor, Ministry of Energy and Water, Government of Afghanistan• Mr. Rajib Rajbhandari, Director, Butwal Power Company & Chair, Nyadi Hydropower Company Ltd.• Mr. Khadga Bahadur Bisht, President, Independent Power Producers Association Nepal (IPPAN)• Mr. Nirjan Rai, Executive Director, Niti Foundation, Nepal• Mr. Min Zarni Lin, Deputy Team Leader, Centre of Economic and Social Development, Myanmar
17.00	<p>Closing Remarks <i>Dr. Bindu Lohani, Distinguished Fellow and Board of Trustees, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan</i> <i>Dr. Shobhakar Dhakal, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Energy, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok</i></p>



Background & Objective

The Energy for Economic Growth (EEG) programme is an exciting new research initiative led by Oxford Policy Management and the Center for Effective Global Action at the University of California, Berkeley. The programme is funded by the UK Government, through UK Aid.

EEG brings together world-class academics to produce new evidence on the links between energy and economic growth in low-income countries. This evidence will be specifically geared to meet the needs of policymakers, filling in the knowledge gaps that obstruct their ability to develop sustainable, reliable and inclusive energy systems. For more information on EEG see [here](#).

This policy workshop aims to bring together senior energy policy-makers, researchers and representatives from the private sector, NGOs and donors in South Asian countries discuss the energy challenges facing the region, and consider policy relevant research questions that could address these constraints. The lessons learned from this workshop will shape the EEG research agenda and help the programme to deliver its objective of policy impact. This is the second policy workshop under the EEG programme: you can read about the workshop in Dar es Salaam, for East African countries, [here](#).

Format

The workshop will focus around three sessions, in which panellists will deliver 6-minute speeches and then engage in facilitated Q&A and discussion with the audience.

Logistical information

- **Venue:** Hotel Annapurna, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Timings:** the workshop will start at 9am and finish at 5pm
- **Catering:** lunch and refreshments will be provided.

