



**Panel Discussion Celebrating International Women's Day
March 8, 2024**

'Together We Rise: South Asia Women Leading the Energy Future'

Concept Note:

South Asia Regional Energy Hub (SAREH) in collaboration with the South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE), a joint initiative of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), celebrates International Women's Day 2024 and its theme, #InspireInclusion. Through **engaging storytelling, insightful discussions, and practical solutions**, we aim to raise awareness, advocate for change, and ignite action towards achieving gender equity in South Asia's energy sector.

Rationale

The energy sector remains one of the most gender-imbalanced industries, presenting unique challenges for women seeking careers and growth. In line with this year's International Women's Day theme #InspireInclusion, this panel discussion aims to address the gender challenges in the energy sector by:

- **Elevating understanding:** Exploring the current policy landscape and highlighting the need for change.
- **Inspiring action:** Sparking dialogue on key barriers, best practices, and strategies for fostering inclusion.
- **Building networks:** Facilitating and building connections between women and allies within the energy sector through networks like SAWIE.
- **Engaging stakeholders:** Including diverse voices including men to promote broader change and collective action.

Agenda

International Women's Day 2024: #InspireInclusion Together We Rise: South Asia Women Leading the Energy Future	
Time (IST)	Details
11:00-11:02 AM (02 mins)	Welcome Address Ripu Bhanjan Singh , Advisor, SAWIE
11.02 -11.10 AM (08 mins)	Keynote Address Aaron Schubert , USAID/India, IPO Director
11:10-11:15 AM (05 mins)	Context Setting Nidhi Prabha , GESI Advisor, USAID/SAREP

**International Women's Day 2024: #InspireInclusion
Together We Rise: South Asia Women Leading the Energy Future**

Time (IST)	Details
11:15-11:55 AM (40 mins)	<p>Session: Breaking Barriers, Building Inclusion</p> <p>Moderator Nidhi Prabha, GESI Advisor, USAID's SAREP</p> <p>Panelist 1. Ms. Dawa Chhoedron, Chief Engineer, Ministry of Energy & Natural Resources, Bhutan</p> <p>Panelist: 2. Ms. Jorifa Khatun, Director, System Planning, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB)</p> <p>Panelist: 3. Dr. Shailly Kedia, Senior Fellow & Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)</p> <p>Panelist: 4. Ms. Ranju Pandey, Director, System Planning Department, Nepal Electricity Authority</p> <p>Discussion Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key barriers to women's inclusion in the energy sector. • Best practices for overcoming these challenges and creating inclusive workplaces. • Strategies for building and navigating professional networks (like SAWIE) in the energy sector. • Policy changes and organizational practices needed to create a more inclusive environment.
11:55AM - 12:05 PM (10 mins)	Audience Q&A
12:05 – 12:10 PM (5 mins)	Vote of thanks Ripu Bhanjan Singh, SAWIE