CYBER AWARE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Background

The digital evolution of South Asia's power utilities has brought unprecedented efficiency and improved grid management. However, this rapid transformation has also exposed critical vulnerabilities. As utilities integrate IT systems with operational technology (OT) like smart meters and IoT devices, the once-secure separation between these systems fades, making utilities prime targets for cyberattacks.

In today's interconnected grid, a single cyber breach can have far-reaching consequences, potentially disrupting power supply across entire regions. To safeguard against these escalating threats, utilities must not only implement advanced technological solutions but also foster a workforce equipped to recognize and mitigate cyber risks. The stakes are high, as the fallout from an attack can undermine the entire energy infrastructure, impacting millions.

This session will dive into the cybersecurity challenges facing power utilities and explore effective strategies to enhance grid security. By sharing insights on best practices, policies, and technological solutions, we aim to strengthen the region's resilience against cyber threats and ensure a secure transition toward a sustainable energy future.

DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2024
TIME: 11:30 - 13:00

Session Objectives

- Share insights on cybersecurity risks and challenges facing the power sector.

- Facilitate open discussions on emerging cyber threats and effective strategies for securing power grids.

- Exchange best practices and practical measures to enhance cybersecurity preparedness of South Asian utilities.

Agenda

11:30 - 11:35	**Opening Remarks and Session Overview** by **Monali Zeya Hazra,** Senior Regional Energy Specialist and Mission Environment Officer, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India
11:35 - 11:45	**Keynote Address** by **Rees Machtemes,** Director- Industrial Security, Waterfall Security Solutions
11:45 - 12:55	**Panel Discussion: Cybersecurity Challenges and Solutions for Power Utilities in the Digital Era** • Challenges of digital transformation and cybersecurity in South Asia's utilities. • Barriers to developing and investing in cybersecurity programs. • Technological solutions and best practices to enhance cybersecurity preparedness. **Moderator: Dr. Faruk Kazi**, Advisor SAREP **Panelists:** • **Dr. Narendra De Silva**, General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board • **Dr. Shilohu Rao**, Senior Vice President (Support), Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) • **Dr. Prashant Saxena**, Lead Cybersecurity, RVPNL • **Dr. Tanushree Bhattacharjee,** Senior R&D Manager, GRIDsentry • **Rohit Sharma**, Head of Cyber Security at Adani Power limited • **Shiv Kataria**, Senior Key Expert R&D, Siemens
12:55 - 13:00	**Closing Remarks** by **Rozanne Croos Moraes**, Project Development Specialist (Energy) USAID/Sri Lanka