

# INAUGURAL SESSION

## A COLLECTIVE LEAP: UNITING SOUTH ASIA FOR A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

### Background

As South Asia continues to advance economically, there is an increasing recognition of the importance of transitioning to clean and renewable energy sources. Addressing environmental concerns and ensuring sustainable energy access requires collaborative efforts. There is a pressing need for platforms where governments, stakeholders, development partners, and experts can come together to discuss challenges, forge partnerships, facilitate deals, and initiate the development of impactful plans and roadmaps.

The South Asia Clean Energy Forum (SACEF) 2024 emerges as such a strategic platform. By bringing together key players from across the region and beyond, SACEF aims to facilitate initiatives that accelerate the clean energy transition. The forum's theme, "Engage, Solve, Act," encapsulates its mission to foster collaboration, develop practical solutions, and drive tangible actions that contribute to a sustainable energy future.

The opening session is designed to set the stage for this collaborative journey. It will introduce the forum's objectives and themes, highlighting SACEF's relevance in the current energy landscape. The opening session will host some exciting announcements and launches. This initial gathering serves as a catalyst, encouraging attendees to contribute their expertise and engage in meaningful dialogues that will shape South Asia's energy trajectory.

**DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024**  
**TIME: 10:00 - 11:15**

### Session Objectives

- Introducing the forum's theme "Engage, Solve, Act," emphasizing SACEF's role in facilitating impactful clean energy initiatives across South Asia.
- Highlight all intended outcomes—building a skilled workforce, mobilizing investments, fostering regional collaboration, developing supply chains, enabling net-zero transitions, and promoting an inclusive and sustainable energy sector—to align participants on common goals.
- Launch and announce initiatives and partnerships that will drive the region's clean energy transition, inspiring participants and setting the stage for collaborative efforts during the forum.

## Agenda

10:00 - 10:10	<b>Ceremonial Lamp Lighting by Senior Dignitaries</b>
10:10 - 10:15	<b>Welcome Addresses</b> by <b>Steve Olive</b> , Mission Director, USAID/ India and Bhutan
10:15 – 10:25	<b>Keynote Address</b> by <b>Eric Garcetti</b> , US Ambassador to India
10:25 – 10:30	<b>Multiple Launches</b> 1. Clean Energy Investment Facilitation Platform 2. Low Carbon Comfort Cooling Collective LC4 3. U.S. - South Asia Mayoral Platform on Clean Energy and Sustainable Cities
10:30 - 10:32	<b>Group Photograph with Ambassador</b>
10:32 - 10:50	<b>Special Remarks:</b> - <b>Dasho Karma Tshering</b> , Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR), Government of Bhutan - <b>Dasho Phuntsho Tobgay</b> , Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MOIT), Government of Bhutan - <b>Manu Shrivastav</b> , Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh - <b>Mariyam Shahana</b> , Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Government of Maldives - <b>Suresh Acharya</b> , Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoWERI) – Nepal A.K.N. Wickramasinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power and Energy
10:50 – 11:00	<b>Address - Guest of Honor</b> by <b>Shri Heeralal Nagar</b> , Hon'ble Minister of State for Energy, Government of Rajasthan, India
11:00 – 11:05	<b>Release of the compendium of Impact Stories on Clean Energy Transition – “Energizing South Asia” by the Hon'ble Minister</b>
11:05 – 11:10	<b>Vote of Thanks</b> by <b>Aaron Schubert</b> , Director – Indo-Pacific Office, USAID/India

