

# MODERNIZING DISTRIBUTION FOR NEXT-GENERATION UTILITIES

## Background

Power distribution acts as one of the most critical links in the electricity value chain, mandated to provide 24 x 7 reliable and affordable power supply to citizens. Although distribution utilities interface with the end customers and provide revenue for the entire value chain, they remain the weakest link. Distribution utilities have to address various legacy issues (i.e., improve financial and operational performance, optimize costs, rationalize tariffs, and improve management and governance) along with the emerging environment (focusing on decarbonization, decentralization, and digitalization). This poses unprecedented challenges for these utilities and makes it imperative for them to reinvent themselves and become more customer-centric, agile, and cleaner to meet the requirements of a smart energy future while also addressing legacy issues and ensuring financial viability.

This is where smart distribution systems step in. Smart distribution builds upon foundational technologies such as SCADA, DMS, OMS, and GIS to provide integrated monitoring, control, and improvement of the distribution network. South Asian countries are in different phases of deployment of smart distribution systems. Further, there is a potential for accelerating the adoption of innovative solutions on top of the foundational layer to make the overall distribution system smarter, more efficient and more agile to provide reliable power supply to its customers. This session will focus on the current level of smart distribution deployment across South Asia, and deliberate on how utilities can adopt modern technologies and processes and innovative approaches for gearing up to be next-gen utilities.

**DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2024**  
**TIME: 14:00 - 15:30**

## Session Objectives

- Highlight smart distribution adoption readiness of South Asian utilities
- Discuss and share case studies, best practices, and success stories
- Foster strategic dialogue and collaboration to promote key emerging technologies that shall drive smart distribution in South Asia

## Agenda

14:00 - 14:05	<b>Opening Remarks and Session Overview</b> by <b>Naren Chanmugam, Director, Environment and Resilience Office, USAID/Nepal</b>
14:05 - 14:15	<b>Special Address</b> by <b>Dr. Saket Kumar</b> , Managing Director, Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.
14:15 - 14:25	<b>Special Address</b> by <b>Narendra De Silva</b> , General Manager, Lanka Electricity Company (LECO)
14:25 - 15:15	<b>Panel discussion on ‘Modernizing Distribution for Next Generation Utilities’</b>  <b>Moderator: Vikas Gaba</b> , USAID’s SAREP <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sonam Tobjey</b>, CEO, Bhutan Power Company Ltd.</li><li>• <b>Kumud Wadhwa</b>, Chief General Manager, National Smart Grid Mission</li><li>• <b>Gajanan S. Kale</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd.</li><li>• <b>RP Singh</b>, Senior Vice President, Smart Energy Water</li><li>• <b>Sunil Singhvi</b>, Group Head (Public Policy), Secure Meters Ltd.</li><li>• <b>Sandeep Goel</b>, Energy Specialist, The World Bank Group</li></ul>
15:15 - 15:25	<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>
15:25 - 15:30	<b>Vote of Thanks</b> by <b>Rozanne Croos Moraes</b> , Project Development Specialist (Energy), USAID/Sri Lanka

