

PATHWAYS TO RESILIENT ENERGY FUTURES: INNOVATIONS AND STRATEGIES

Co-organized with South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)

Background

The South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE) is a collaborative initiative involving USAID, the U.S. Department of Energy, and two key National Laboratories, NREL and PNNL. This partnership is at the forefront of promoting resilient energy systems throughout South Asia by leveraging technical expertise, research, and capacity-building initiatives. SAGE's mission is to equip USAID partner governments with the knowledge and tools necessary to develop strategic energy investments that enhance self-reliance and sustainability across the region.

In this roundtable discussion titled Pathways to Resilient Energy Futures: Innovations and Strategies, SAGE will bring together leading experts from across sectors to explore the most pressing challenges in building resilient energy systems in the face of climate change. This session will showcase cutting-edge innovations and emerging technologies that can drive the clean energy transition, while also facilitating critical cross-sector collaboration to address the specific needs of each country in South Asia.

The roundtable will provide a platform for participants to engage in a strategic dialogue, gather insights, and share feedback on actionable approaches for resilient energy futures. By focusing on innovations, collaborative strategies, and policy frameworks, the session aims to identify effective pathways that can lead South Asia towards a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2024
TIME: 11:30 - 13:00

Session Objectives

- **Explore Sustainable Resilience Strategies:** Discuss the challenges posed to energy systems (including climate change) and identify innovative strategies to enhance resilience in the face of these challenges.
- **Showcase Cutting-Edge Innovations:** Highlight recent advancements and emerging technologies in the energy sector that can contribute to building resilient and sustainable energy futures.
- **Facilitate Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Promote dialogue and collaboration between key stakeholders, including policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers, to foster integrated approaches to energy resilience.
- **Gather Insights and Feedback:** Engage with participants to gather their insights and feedback on the most pressing needs and effective strategies for achieving resilient energy futures.

Agenda

11:30 - 11:50

Welcome Remarks

by **Naren Chanmugam**, Environment and Resilience Office Director, USAID/Nepal

11:50 - 12:10

Setting the Stage: Innovations and Strategies for Resilient Energy Futures

Overview of Key Challenges and Opportunities:

- **Adarsh Nagarajan**, Manager, National Renewable Energy Lab
- **Meredydd Evans**, Principal Researcher, Pacific Northwest National Lab

12:10 - 12:50

Panel Discussion: Pathways to Resilient Energy Futures

Panelists:

- **Vaibhav Chaturvedi**, Senior Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW)
- **Karma P. Dorji**, DG, Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Government of Bhutan
- **Eng. S H Midigaspe**, Deputy General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board
- **Ranju Pandey**, Director - Power System Management Department at the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA)
- **Amit Tripathi**, Adviser - Energy, CDRI
- **Meredydd Evans**, Principal Researcher, Pacific Northwest National Lab
- **Jal Desai**, Researcher, National Renewable Energy Lab

Discussion Focus:

- Climate Resilience in Energy Systems: Exploring the impact of climate change and the importance of resilient infrastructure.
- Innovations in Energy Technologies: Discussing cutting-edge technologies and their role in future energy systems.
- Strategic Policy Frameworks: Reviewing necessary policies and frameworks to support resilient energy futures.
- Audience Q&A: The moderator introduces key discussion questions and engages the audience for Q&A.

12:50 - 13:00

Key Takeaways and Vote of Thanks

by **Monali Zeya-Hazra**, Senior Regional Energy Specialist and Mission Environment Officer, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India

