

# ROOFTOP SOLAR DEPLOYMENT: CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS FOR SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

## Background

South Asia is experiencing rapid population growth, leading to a significant rise in energy demand. Since 2000, energy consumption has increased by over 50%, with the region relying heavily on fossil fuel imports, contributing to 68% of emissions from the power sector. The deployment of Rooftop Solar (RTS) systems presents a significant opportunity for South Asia to transition towards sustainable energy. While countries in the region have initiated policies and programs to promote RTS, progress has been slow.

Factors such as regulatory frameworks, socio-economic conditions, and infrastructure vary widely across countries, affecting the pace and scale of RTS adoption. Each South Asian nation faces unique challenges in RTS deployment. For instance, while India has implemented robust initiatives like subsidy schemes and streamlined processes, other countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka focus on mandatory installations and net metering programs; however, challenges like financing, grid integration, and public awareness have slow progress region-wide.

This session will explore these varying perspectives and challenges, facilitating knowledge exchange to foster holistic RTS adoption across South Asia.

**DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2024**  
**TIME: 14:00 - 15:30**

## Session Objectives

- Share insights and learnings into policies, regulations, schemes, implementation experiences on rooftop solar across South Asia.
- Help stakeholders make informed choices by understanding impact of varying demographics and landscape on the policy and regulatory ecosystem for RTS to enable accelerated deployment.

## Agenda

14:00 – 14:05	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b> by <b>Monali Zeya Hazra</b>, Senior Regional Energy Specialist and Mission Environment Officer, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India</p>
14:05 – 14:10	<p><b>Context Setting</b> by <b>Balawant Joshi</b>, MD, Idam Infra</p>
14:10 – 14:22	<p><b>Presentation: Challenges for Rooftop Solar Deployment in a Small Island Country</b> by <b>Dr. Ali Azwar</b>, Deputy Managing Director, State Electricity Company Limited, Maldives</p>
14:22 – 14:34	<p><b>Presentation: Regulatory Perspective for Deployment of Rooftop Solar in Hilly Terrain</b> by <b>Deki Choden</b>, CEO, Electricity Regulatory Authority, Bhutan</p>
14:34 – 14:46	<p><b>Presentation: Holistic Approach for Large Scale Deployment of RTS in India</b> by <b>Divyanshu Jha</b>, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India (Virtual)</p>
14:46 – 14:58	<p><b>Presentation: Power Utility’s Perspective in Deployment Approach for RTS in Large Island Country</b> by <b>J M Athula</b>, DG, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA), Sri Lanka</p>
14:58 – 15:10	<p><b>Regulatory Perspective for Deployment of RTS in Nepal</b> by <b>Dr. Ram Prasad Dhital</b>, Chairman, Electricity Regulatory Commission, Nepal</p>
15:10 – 15:25	<p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b> <b>Moderator: Balawant Joshi</b>, MD, Idam Infra</p>
15:25 – 15:30	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b> by <b>Shanker Khagi</b>, Energy Specialist, USAID/Nepal</p>