Going Beyond the Meter:
INCLUSIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS
IN SOUTH ASIA
Going Beyond the Meter: INCLUSIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS IN SOUTH ASIA

11-12 April 2016
Hotel Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
Asia has made remarkable progress in providing electricity access to hundreds of millions of people in the last 2 decades, with South Asia, mainly India, adding millions of new electricity users from 1990–2010. However, there is still a long way to go. Improving coverage through the expansion and strengthening of transmission and distribution systems is essential. Poor women and men can benefit significantly with access to quality energy services for domestic consumption that includes increased leisure through use of time- and labor-saving appliances at home that improve efficiency. Beyond household needs, benefits also abound in industry and agricultural production (e.g., pumped water), as well as related employment generation and livelihoods, information and communication, health, and other basic services.

The Subregional Conference is a trailblazing activity and a reflection of collaborative efforts between the gender and social inclusion thematic group and the energy sector. It will provide an opportunity to share emerging practices in advancing effective delivery mechanisms that improve access to energy, electrification and related services and respond to the growing energy demands in the region, while addressing gender and social inclusion considerations.

Hun Kim
Director General
South Asia Department
CONCEPT NOTE, SCHEDULE, AND PROGRAM
**A. Background**

*Access to modern energy services* is an important indicator of poverty and the state of social development. The demand for electricity in South Asia is rising with continued economic development in the subregion and an expected growth in energy demand with the household and industry sectors as main contributors. A key challenge is the sustainable development of the energy sector to provide quality energy services for all. Asia and the Pacific has made remarkable progress in providing electricity access to hundreds of millions of people in the last 2 decades, with South Asia, mainly India, adding 669 million new electricity users from 1990–2010, higher than the population increases over the same period. However, there is still a long way to go to reach comparability with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Electricity consumption per capita in Bangladesh is 280 kilowatt per hour (kWh), India is 760 kWh, Nepal is 119 kWh, and Sri Lanka is 527 kWh, compared to the OECD average of 8,089 kWh. The data for the percentage of the population with electricity access also indicates significant differences in electricity access between urban and rural areas (Table 1).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>47</td>
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<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>87.3</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>Maldives</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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**B. Gender and Social Inclusion: Key Issues in the Energy Sector**

Since 2010, the South Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been maximizing opportunities and taking initiatives to mainstream “inclusive energy access” solutions in the design of its projects. This experience, combined with broad consultations with Government agencies, utilities and beneficiaries, has led to the assessment that: maximizing energy access of the poor requires addressing nonphysical or nontechnical impediments and barriers, related to poverty, social, and gender inequities. Some of the key Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) issues and entry points identified related to energy access cover areas associated with affordability, health and security, economic empowerment, skills development and user education, among others.

a) **Affordability**: Lack of affordability can prevent access of the poor to available modern energy services for household, agriculture, and micro- and small entrepreneurial consumption and use. Public consultation processes, including assessing communities’ willingness to pay, are not always gender or socially inclusive. Various policy instruments exist, such as baseline tariffs, targeted subsidies and schemes, conditional (earmarked) cash transfers, and revolving funds providing cheap credit to connect, which need to be utilized and adapted to target the poor, women, and disadvantaged consumers in the lower consumption band.
b) **Health and security:** An important characteristic of South Asia is its heavy dependence on use of traditional biomass fuels (wood, agricultural residues, and animal dung) in the energy mix based on women’s involvement as collectors, producers, and users. Research finds that there are 3.6 million premature deaths each year, higher than previous estimates, as a result of household air pollution using solid fuels.⁴ Although there is an increasing understanding among governments and energy sector agencies in South Asia on the importance of prioritizing investments in the provision of clean and safe cooking energy, more needs to be done. Similarly, while street lighting can improve women’s safety and mobility, these services too are often not prioritized for investment.

c) **Economic empowerment:** Promoting women’s employment, energy-based enterprises, and overall participation in the energy sector can contribute to increasing women’s economic and social empowerment. A growing number of energy enterprises have begun to employ women as sales representatives in order to reach consumers at the base of the pyramid with electricity and cooking solutions. Women help ensure that energy products reflect the priorities of women users, thereby increasing the likelihood of adoption and use.

d) **Skills development:** Energy development based on new and emerging technologies requires the creation of a local pool of skilled labor. Emerging new energy intensive industries provide important opportunities for women’s entry in the energy sector, if these opportunities are identified early, and women’s participation in skills development programs are promoted. Skills training in basic system troubleshooting and system repair can help with the sustained use of energy services. Energy systems fall into disuse because of minor maintenance and repair issues that could easily be undertaken by empowered and informed women in the household.

e) **User education:** Household energy efficiency is of special relevance to women. However, user education programs in safe and efficient use of electricity at the household level—which should complement energy efficiency projects—are overlooked or not effectively targeted at women household consumers.⁵

C. ADB Portfolio and Experience

Substantial efforts have been made since 2010 to mainstream GESI considerations in the energy portfolio of ADB’s South Asia Department. The preparation in 2010 of the regional Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) grant 9158 on *Improving Gender-inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka* marked the beginning of these efforts.⁶ An important breakthrough was achieved in 2011, when 50% of the projects in the South Asia Department energy portfolio were gender mainstreamed and classified as Effective Gender Mainstreaming.⁷ The conference program has been designed to reflect and capture the experience and lessons from ADB’s hallmark projects that have integrated or mainstreamed inclusive energy access solutions in project design.

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⁵ ADB. 2012. *Gender Tool Kit In Energy: Going Beyond the Meter*. Manila


D. Subregional Conference

The objectives of the Subregional Conference will be to:

a) Share good practices and workable solutions with key decision-makers (representatives from Ministry of Power/Energy utilities involved in ADB projects) on how changes in delivery mechanisms to improve access can result in greater GESI-related impacts in South Asia and how GESI-related inputs can enhance the overall effectiveness of energy sector projects;

b) Exchange and learn from diverse experiences, showcasing emerging and innovative practices in pro-poor, gender and socially inclusive energy sector policy development, as well as program and project design, development, and implementation; and

c) Enhance the capacity of Project Directors and staff of executing and implementing agencies associated with ADB projects on practical approaches to integrate pro-poor, gender and social equity considerations in energy sector policy and programs, in a systematic and sustainable manner.

Specifically, the Subregional Conference sessions will focus on strategies adopted—within the context of ADB projects or—broadly—in South Asia for maximizing access, quality of supply and affordability of energy infrastructure and services for poor consumers, women and disadvantaged groups; and will showcase promising initiatives and inventive case studies.

The Conference program is structured as follows:

Photo credit: Frontier Markets
### SESSION 1: SETTING THE CONTEXT—DELIVERY STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE INCLUSIVE ACCESS

New and current strategies and delivery mechanisms to maximize energy access, service delivery, and address South Asia’s growing energy demand, while addressing poverty reduction, social inclusion, and gender equality.

- Session 1 will discuss the trends in energy demand, production, investments, and trade in South Asia in the past 2 decades and their implications for inclusive development.
- The feature presentation will discuss new and current strategies to address energy access and service delivery in India’s energy program. Discussants will explore innovative strategies from within the Subregion and globally.

### SESSION 2: GESI ENABLING POLICY, REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

Pro-poor, socially and gender inclusive government energy policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, tariff regulations, and institutional capacity development

- Session 2 will discuss promising or emerging practices in energy policies and regulations, as well as in strengthening institutional capacities, that aim to maximize inclusive energy solutions.
- An overview of the gender assessment of South Asia energy policies and programs, as well as the findings of a tariff appraisal study of South Asian countries will be presented.

### SESSION 3: ENTRY POINTS FOR GESI MAINSTREAMING

Strategies and approaches that promote women’s productive energy use through energy-based micro-enterprise development, improved service delivery, skills training, and end-user demand side management

- Session 3 will present entry points for GESI mainstreaming in specific projects. Presentations will include the findings and lessons learned from the design and implementation of large energy infrastructure projects in India; findings of an ADB-World Bank study on Gender Considerations in Large Scale Energy Infrastructure Projects in Nepal; and case studies of ADB flagship projects addressing productive energy use, service delivery, and demand-side-management.

### SESSION 4: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TO CREATE A LOCAL POOL OF LABOR

Initiatives that promote greater participation of women in emerging new energy industries, from skilled to semi-skilled employment, as well as the growth of associated local industries through skills development

- Session 4 will discuss the challenges faced and the initiatives undertaken to create a local pool of skilled labor, inclusive of women’s participation, to meet South Asia’s growing energy needs.
- The feature presentation will identify some of the opportunities and impediments to women’s entry into the workforce in newly emerging energy industries.

### SESSION 5: INNOVATIVE AND “DISRUPTIVE” TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES

Clean energy technologies and processes, emerging and disruptive technologies, “frugal” low-cost innovations, end-user innovations that maximize access, sustainability, and social equity

- Session 5 will discuss the technological and social challenges in transforming the energy sector in South Asia to meet its energy needs and attain inclusive development goals.
- The feature presentation will explore this challenge by addressing a hypothetical scenario of “going 100% solar” in South Asia. Discussants will also assess the impediments that operate in the uptake of new energy technologies by both women and men, and how to overcome them.

### SESSION 6: ALTERNATIVE FINANCING SCHEMES AND BUSINESS MODELS

Leveraging funds to maximize access of poor consumers, productive energy use by women and disadvantaged consumers, and the more efficient use of existing resources through output based aid and results based financing

- Session 6 will feature a presentation on successful business models in Bangladesh that have enabled the penetration of small renewable energy systems for electrification of rural communities. Speakers will also present successful business models or financing schemes from across South Asia that have contributed to inclusive energy solutions, and will assess the potential to replicate these models across the subregion.
# DAY 1

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 a.m.–9 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Morning Refreshments</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 a.m.–10 a.m.</td>
<td>Inaugural Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 a.m.–10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Video Maximizing Women's Visibility in the Energy Sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Session 1: Setting the Context—Delivery Strategies to Maximize Inclusive Access</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.</td>
<td>Session 2: GESI Enabling Policy, Regulatory, and Institutional Environments</td>
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<td>1 p.m.–2 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 p.m.–2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Session 3: Entry Points for GESI Mainstreaming—Large Energy Infrastructure: Community Development Strategies in Risk Mitigation</td>
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<td>2:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Session 3: Entry Points for GESI Mainstreaming—Enhancing Women’s Productive Energy—Case Study of the India: Madhya Pradesh Energy Efficiency Improvement Investment Program</td>
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<td>3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Session 3: Entry Points for GESI Mainstreaming—Improving Service Delivery and Women’s Livelihoods—Case Study of: Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>4:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Session 3: Entry Points for GESI Mainstreaming—End-User Demand-Side Management—India, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.–5:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Special Dinner Event</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Introductory Remarks</td>
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<td>9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Session 4: Skills Development to Create a Local Pool of Labor</td>
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<td>10:15 a.m.–11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>BREAK - Technology Exhibit Presentation</td>
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<td>3:30 p.m.–4 p.m.</td>
<td>Session 6: Alternative Financing Schemes and Business Models</td>
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<td>4 p.m.–4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>Final Remarks</td>
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<td>8 a.m.–9 a.m.</td>
<td>REGISTRATION AND MORNING REFRESHMENTS</td>
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<td>9 a.m.–10 a.m.</td>
<td>INAUGURAL SESSION</td>
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<td>Welcome Address by</td>
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<td>- M. Teresa Kho, country director, India Resident Mission (INRM), ADB</td>
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<td>Remarks by</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Sanjay Malhotra, Indian Administrative Service (IAS), principal secretary, Energy Department, Government of Rajasthan, India</td>
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<td>Keynote Address by</td>
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<td>- Vasundhara Raje, chief minister, Government of Rajasthan, India</td>
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<td>Remarks by</td>
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<td>- Anthony Jude, director, South Asia Energy Division (SAEN), ADB</td>
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<td>10 a.m.–10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Video: Maximizing Women’s Visibility in the Energy Sector</td>
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<td>(Introduced by Francesco Tornieri, principal social development specialist, Office of the Director General, South Asia Department [SAOD], ADB)</td>
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<td>(Moderator: Sonomi Tanaka, technical advisor [Gender Equity], Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department [SDCC], ADB)</td>
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<td>Feature Speaker</td>
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<td>- Anju Bhalla, joint secretary, Ministry of Power, India</td>
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<td>Introduced by Andrew Jeffries, energy head, INRM, ADB</td>
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<td>Topic: Access and Beyond —Addressing Challenges in Inclusive Energy Development in India</td>
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<td>Moderated Dialogue</td>
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<td>- Thiyagarajan Velumail, Global Energy Policy advisor, UNDP</td>
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<td>- Sheila Oparaocha, international coordinator and program manager, ENERGIA</td>
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<td>- Sohel Ahmed, chief operating officer, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>- Arunavo Mukerjee, vice president, Advisory Services, Tata Cleantech Capital, India</td>
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<td>- Francesco Tornieri, principal social development specialist, SAOD, ADB</td>
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<td>11:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Video: The ACCESS Film – Realities and Challenges of Energy Access in Rural India</td>
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<td>Introduced by Abhishek Jain, lead author ACCESS Report, Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW)</td>
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<td>11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.</td>
<td>SESSION 2: GESI ENABLING POLICY, REGULATORY, AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENTS</td>
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<td>(Moderator: Nelun C. Gunasekera, senior social development officer [Gender], Sri Lanka Resident Mission [SLRM], ADB)</td>
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<td>Gender Responsive Policies and Practices: Emerging Trends</td>
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<td>- Soma Dutta, program coordinator, ENERGIA</td>
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<td>South Asia Tariff Regulations – Lessons for Inclusive Access</td>
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<td>- Priyanthi Wijayatunga, principal energy specialist, SDCC, ADB</td>
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<td>Moderated Dialogue</td>
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<td>- Siddique Zoba, member, Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>- Ajwad Musthafa, permanent secretary, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives</td>
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<td>- Chhaya Jha, director, Human Resources Development Center, Nepal</td>
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<td>- Jyoti Parikh, executive director, Integrated Research and Action for Development (TRADE), India</td>
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<td>- Tilak Siyambalapitiya, managing director, Resource Management Associates, Sri Lanka</td>
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## DAY 1

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 p.m.–2 p.m.</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 p.m.–5 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 3: ENTRY POINTS FOR GESI MAINSTREAMING</strong></td>
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</table>
| 2 p.m.–2:30 p.m.   | Large Energy Infrastructure: Community Development Strategies in Risk Mitigation in India and Nepal  
(Moderator: Jyotirmoy Banerjee, senior project officer [Energy], INRM, ADB)  
**Speakers**  
- Andrew Jeffries, energy head, INRM, ADB  
- Suman Subba, senior social development officer (Gender), Nepal Resident Mission (NRM), ADB |
| 2:30 p.m.–3:15 p.m. | Enhancing Women’s Productive Energy— Case Study of the India: Madhya Pradesh Energy Efficiency Improvement Investment Program  
(Moderator: Prabhjot R. Khan, associate social development officer [Gender], INRM, ADB)  
**Speakers**  
- I.C.P. Keshari, IAS, principal secretary, Energy Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, India  
- Natalie Chun, economist, Economics Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERD), ADB  
- Sumeet Patil, research director, Network for Engineering, Economics, Research, and Management (NEERMAN), India  
- Ranen Banerjee, partner, Price Waterhouse Coopers, India |
| 3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m. | BREAK                                                                            |
| 3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m. | Improving Service Delivery and Women’s Livelihoods— Case Study of: Improving Gender Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka  
(Moderator: Soma Dutta, ENERGIA)  
Moderated Dialogue  
**Speakers**  
- Surendra Rajbhandari, deputy managing director, Project Management Directorate, Nepal Electricity Authority, Nepal  
- Purushottam Shrestha, director, Climate Change and Program Support Division, Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal  
- Thavaneswaran Thuraisamy, deputy general manager, Eastern Province, Ceylon Electricity Board, Sri Lanka  
- Namiz Musafer, director, Janathakshan, Sri Lanka  
- Mewang Gyeltshen, director, Department of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan  
- Tshering Phuntsho, coordinator, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Program, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Bhutan |
| 4:30 p.m.–5 p.m.   | End-User Demand-Side-Management – Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and India  
(Moderator: Govind Kelkar, Senior Advisor, Landesa India and International Research Coordinator, Gender and Energy Research Program, ENERGIA)  
**Speakers**  
- Harsha Wickramasinghe, deputy director general, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, Sri Lanka  
- Adnan Tareen, senior energy specialist, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB  
- Sanjukta Roy, consultant economist, World Bank, India |
# DAY 1

| 5 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. | Summary of Day 1:  
|                   | • Francesco Tornieri, principal social development specialist, SAOD, ADB and Reihana Mohideen, ADB Energy Infrastructure and Gender consultant, assistant dean, Diversity and Inclusion, School of Engineering, University of Melbourne, Australia |

| 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | SPECIAL DINNER EVENT  
|                      | Partner Greetings: Rebecca Tavares, regional representative, UN Women Office for India, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, Iven Mareels, dean, School of Engineering, University of Melbourne, Australia |

# DAY 2

| 9 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. | Introductory Remarks  
|                   | • Pushpendra Singh, minister of state (Energy), Government of Rajasthan, India Introduced by Anthony Jude, director, SAEN, ADB |

| 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. | SESSION 4: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TO CREATE A LOCAL POOL OF LABOR  
|                       | Moderator: Shanti Jagannathan, senior education specialist, Human and Social Development Division (SAHS) SARD, ADB  
|                       | Feature Speaker  
|                       | • Brajesh Panth, technical advisor (Education), Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department – SDCC, ADB  
|                       | Moderated Dialogue  
|                       | • Anurag Bhatnagar, CEO Grassroots Trading Network for Women (GTNfW) - SEWA (Hariyali) India  
|                       | • Selima Ahmad, president, Bangladesh Women’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
|                       | • Aishwarya Mahajan, regional head, Livelihood Education Unit, Aide et Action International - South Asia, India  
|                       | • Sumita Ghose, managing director, Rangsutra Crafts, India  
|                       | • Heruka Zangpo, senior manager, Central Maintenance and Training Division Bhutan Power Corporation Limited, Bhutan  
|                       | Video: Rangsutra — A Social Enterprise, India  
|                       | Introduced with remarks, by Sumita Ghose |

| 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. | BREAK — Technology Exhibit Presentation: Introduced by Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGIA |

| 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | SESSION 5: INNOVATIVE AND “DISRUPTIVE” TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES  
|                       | Videos: Mama Rovina  
|                       | (Introduced with remarks by Melissa Preston, program management advisor, Kopernik Solutions, Indonesia) |

| 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | (Moderator: Reihana Mohideen)  
|                       | Feature Speaker  
|                       | • Iven Mareels, dean, Melbourne School of Engineering, University of Melbourne, Australia  
|                       | Topic: 100% Solar in South Asia — Implications for Technological and Social Transformation  
|                       | Moderated Dialogue  
|                       | • Parthasarathi Sensarma, professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur  
|                       | • Greg Adamson, president, IEEE, Society on Social Implications of Technology, Australia  
|                       | • Sanjay K. Karndhar, Scientist ‘C’, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India  
|                       | • Vivek K. Porwal, IAS, managing director, Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company, India  
|                       | • Melissa Preston, program management advisor, Kopernik Solutions |
### DAY 2

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| 12:15 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | **Minigrid Systems for Remote Disadvantaged Communities in Bangladesh, the Maldives, and Nepal**  
**Speakers**  
- Rudra Khanal, assistant director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre, Nepal  
- Pushkar Manandhar, project officer (Energy), NRM, ADB  
- Paul Hattle, senior climate change specialist (Clean Energy), SAEN, ADB  
- Ahmed Shukry Hussain, social expert (Gender and Community Development), Maldives |
| 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. | **LUNCH**                                                            |
| 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. | **SESSION 6: ALTERNATIVE FINANCING SCHEMES AND BUSINESS MODELS**  
**Video:** The IDCOL Solar Home Program – Getting the Business Model Right  
Introduced, with remarks, by Peter Marro, principal financial specialist, Public Management, South Asia Financial Sector and Trade Division (SAPF), ADB  
(Moderator: Ranishka Wimalasena, senior project officer [Energy], SLRM, ADB)  
**Feature Speaker**  
- Farzana Rahman, vice president and unit head, Renewable Energy, Bangladesh Infrastructure Development Company (Introduced by Nasheeba Selim, Social Development Officer (Gender), Bangladesh Resident Mission, ADB)  
**Topic:** How Business Models Can Address Inclusive Energy Challenges: Some Lessons from Bangladesh  
**Moderated Dialogue:**  
- Upali Daranagama, additional secretary, Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy, Sri Lanka  
- Debajit Palit, associate director, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India  
- Aniruddha Patil, principal investment specialist, Infrastructure Finance Division 1 (PSF1), Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD), ADB  
- Aruna Kumuduni Wanniachchi, senior energy specialist, Southeast Asia Department (SERD), ADB  
- Ajaita Shah, CEO, Frontier Markets, India  
- Peter Marro, principal financial sector specialist, SAPF, ADB |
| 3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. | **Private Sector Partnership for Inclusive Solar Park Development in Rajasthan: Case study of the Rajasthan Renewable Energy Transmission Investment Program**  
**Speakers**  
- R.K. Bhandari, director (Technical), Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RREC), India  
- Leni George, energy specialist, SAEN, ADB |
| 3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. | **BREAK**                                                             |
| 4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. | **FINAL REMARKS**  
(Moderator: Reihana Mohideen)  
- Anthony Jude, director, SAEN, ADB |
SARD
GENDER EQUALITY AND
SOCIAL INCLUSION TEAM
I have been working passionately for over 20 years in social development, currently as South Asia Gender Equality and Social Inclusion focal point at ADB and previously at the World Bank, Africa region. The importance of energy access for poverty reduction and the nexus between gender, social inclusion and energy have led me to engage deeply in the energy sector by building strategic partnerships with sector colleagues and practitioners. Driven by evidence-based research, SARD’s operational approach in the energy sector has adopted the inspirational motto of Going Beyond the Meter: and the following principles: (i) gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) norms determine women’s and disadvantaged groups’ ability to access energy sources and participate in South Asia’s energy sector development; (ii) a GESI approach is necessary to expand women’s and disadvantaged groups’ access to energy and electrification, services and uptake of technologies; and (iii) renewable energy presents new and distinct opportunities to promote women’s involvement in the energy sector, by enhancing their employment options, livelihood opportunities and income generation.
I have worked with the ADB in South Asia for the past 6 years as an energy, infrastructure and gender consultant in the design of a range of projects including conventional hydropower, solar parks, solar–wind and micro-hydro powered minigrid and transmission and distribution systems, while pursuing my postdoctoral studies in renewable energy systems in Asia, at the University of Melbourne, Australia. As Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne School of Engineering and Assistant Dean, Diversity and Inclusion, I have supported the SARD GESI Team in bringing the gender and energy linked program to a new level—taking it beyond the established energy access practices to address: the gender gap in ‘smart’ energy technology development; the gender implications of energy technology innovation and development in South Asia; and the gender determinants of the market uptake of new energy technologies and their potential to transform women’s lives and gender relations, all of which are new areas of focus in the Subregional Conference.

Reihana Mohideen
ADB Energy Infrastructure and Gender Consultant, Assistant Dean, Diversity and Inclusion, School of Engineering, University of Melbourne, Australia
I am currently working as the Gender and Social Inclusion focal point at the India Resident Mission with 15 years of development experience across India. My work with ADB has led me to embrace the energy sector and explore its untapped potential to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment. My engagement to address gender and social inclusion issues in a range of ADB transmission, distribution, and renewable energy projects has been rewarding. In consultation with the SARD Energy Division and ADB sector specialists, we have selected Jaipur, Rajasthan as the venue for the Subregional Conference—a renewable energy rich state with a strong track record in promoting gender and socially inclusive energy access solutions. Rajasthan also hosts reputable technical training programs and facilities which are very important aspects of inclusive energy sector development and are reflected in ADB-financed energy projects.

Access to modern energy resources and services is an important indicator of poverty and the state of social development. Recognizing its challenges and opportunities, we have strategically engaged in the energy sector and addressed the ‘gender and energy nexus’ in ADB operations in our country portfolios. We have learned that when ADB-financed projects offer an interface with the end users, there are ample opportunities to mainstream gender and social inclusion aspects into this traditionally nongendered sector. The responsiveness of Government and energy sector utilities in delivering on their commitment to GESI has been encouraging and has motivated us to widen and deepen our engagement. The benefits that are derived from increased access to energy services by local communities have motivated us to do more. We look forward to contributing to the discussions at the Subregional Conference and learning from the experiences of government, civil society organizations and the private sector in promoting sustainable and inclusive solutions to meeting the subregion’s growing energy needs, including energy access and applying lessons learned from good practices in our work.
PROFILES

Speakers, Panelists, and Moderators
H.E. Vasundhara Raje is the first woman chief minister of Rajasthan. She served in the same post from 2003 to 2008. She is an elected member of the 14th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Jhalrapatan (Jhalawar). As the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, she holds a range of departments including Finance and Energy. Raje began her political career in 1984 as the vice president of the BJP Yuva Morcha (Youth Front) in Rajasthan. In 1985 she became member of the National Executive of the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and elected member of the 8th Rajasthan Assembly from Dholpur. From 1989 onwards, she won five successive Lok Sabha elections from Jhalawar, Rajasthan. In 2007, she received the UN Women Together Award for services rendered towards self-empowerment of women. Before becoming Chief Minister of the state in 2003, Vasundhara Raje had served as Union Minister (independent charge), Small Scale Industries in the Government of India.

H.E. Pushpendra Singh Ranawat is the minister of state for Energy in Rajasthan. He was elected as the President of the Gram Seva Sehki Samiti at the young age of 23. He is a four-time MLA since 2002 representing Bali in District Pali in Western Rajasthan. He has been a member of the Business Advisory Committee from 2014 to 2015 and has been awarded by the Prime Minister of India for outstanding performance in promotion of renewable energy. He is a graduate of MS University Baroda.

Sanjay Malhotra is the principal secretary, Energy, Rajasthan and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam (RVPN), Jaipur. He holds a B.Tech. Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and a Master in Public Policy (USA). He joined the Indian Administrative Services in 1990 and was allotted to the Rajasthan cadre. He has held administrative positions in various State and central government departments and public sector undertakings. As Principal Secretary, Energy Department, Rajasthan he has played a key role in framing and implementing polices for development of energy sector in the State. As CMD of the RVPN he is responsible for the planning, execution, and monitoring of transmission projects.
M. Teresa Kho is currently the ADB country director in India responsible for country programming, as well as portfolio and knowledge management. From 2012 to 2013, she was ADB Country Director in Bangladesh. Earlier in her career at ADB, she worked in various departments including the Private Sector Department and served as Director of South Asia Urban Development and Water Division and Director of the Office of Co-financing Operations. Prior to ADB, Kho spent 12 years in the U.S. private sector, performing finance, treasury, and audit functions for Fortune 500 companies (i.e., General Electric Company; Raychem Corporation; and Sun Microsystems). Kho holds an MBA from Stanford University, and a BA in Economics from the University of Notre Dame, U.S.A.

Greg Adamson is the president of the Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) within the 400,000-member Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE). SSIT focuses on humanitarian technology, ethics and sustainability with outreach to nontechnical communities. He is a Principal Fellow at the University of Melbourne Electrical and Electronic Engineering and works as a risk manager in the financial services industry. His keynote at the 2015 World Engineering Conference addressed the future of work, autonomous warfare and the mechanisation of humans as key ethical challenges for technologists. He is also engaged in the inclusion of ethics in design of autonomous systems.

Selima Ahmad, founder of BWCCI and Vice Chairperson of Nitol-Niloy Group, has been working for private sector development for 28 years focusing on developing women’s entrepreneurial talents and organizing financial and marketing resources to enable the growth of successful women-owned businesses in Bangladesh. Her advocacy for women’s access to credit led to collateral-free loans at low interest by central bank and created a budget allocation of US$12.88 million. She is a board member of the SME Foundation. She has been nationally, regionally, and globally recognized through many distinguished awards. Ahmad has a master’s degree in business management from Dhaka University and is a fellow of Stanford University, USA. She is a faculty of a renowned private university and teaches Entrepreneurship.
Sohel Ahmed is the chief operating officer at Grameen Shakti, looking after the overall activities from policy and operational level. Grameen Shakti is the most successful organization that participated in the Solar Home System (SHS) program in Bangladesh, installing more than 1.7 M SHS, emphasizing on Financial Inclusion and Women Empowerment. He has been working in the field on renewable energy for over a decade, having experience of modeling and managing solar portfolios that includes Solar Irrigation System, Solar Drinking Water, Solar Mini-Grid, ensuring value addition to the socioeconomic bottom line of the country. He has been involved in different knowledge sharing and dissemination forums like ILO Energy Efficiency (Bangkok, 2014), Energy Security (Dhaka, 2015), Green Banking (Dhaka 2014), Green Job Resources (Dhaka, 2013) and others.

Jyotirmoy Banerjee leads development projects in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Assam as senior project officer (Energy) in ADB/India. He manages contracts and a portfolio of both international and national projects close to $1.5 billion. Risk management and resolution of complex issues are part and parcel of his portfolio. He has facilitated the establishment of the first Joint Venture Project under PPP route. With a strong client orientation, he has also managed a Women’s Micro Entrepreneurship Project in Madhya Pradesh. Banerjee holds a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering and a post graduate diploma in finance from the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. He is accredited by the ADB and the World Bank for Procurement Skills.

Ranen Banerjee heads the Public Sector and Governance Practice, Government Reforms and Infrastructure Development Department at PWC/India. For 19 years, he worked in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Mongolia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka focusing on public financial management; policy design/implementation; capacity building; institutional strengthening; and expenditure management. He led design teams for ADB Public Resource Management Reform Programs; worked with several state governments in India, other donors and agencies in Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Abu Dhabi, Viet Nam; and public enterprises (i.e. Coal India Ltd, and West Bengal State Electricity Board). He is an engineer and holds an MBA.
R.K. Bhandari holds a graduate degree in engineering from Jodhpur, Rajasthan. He joined the Rajasthan State Electricity Board in 1978 as junior engineer and subsequently as assistant engineer in the Electricity Board in 1984 and executive engineer in 2006. From 2012 onwards, he has been associated with the Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (RVPN), a Government of Rajasthan undertaking, later on declared as State Transmission Utility. In 2015, he became Chief Engineer at RVPN and since August 2015 he has been serving as Director, RREC. Throughout his 30-year career, he has carved a niche in power generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure development.

Anju Bhalla became joint secretary in the Ministry of Power, Government of India in 2015 and participated in COP-21 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a member of the Indian delegation and negotiator on “Technology Development and Transfer.” She has worked in the Ministry since 2013 as Director (Hydel-I), coordinating power sector issues for the North Eastern region, and administrative issues related to THDC India and NEEPCO. She also served as Director for Transmission and Policy and Planning. Earlier, she worked in the Ministries of Commerce; Industry; Culture; Women and Child Development. She holds a Post Graduate degree from St. Stephens College, Delhi University.

Anurag Bhatnagar has 25 years experience in finance, development and energy. He has worked in Treasury, Liabilities, Asset Management, Product Development, Distribution and Strategy and been instrumental in four start-ups successfully becoming large organizations and in one turnaround. He has contributed to AF Ferguson, New York Life (India), HSBC Invest-Direct, Citigroup, Al Rajhi Takaful and SEWA among others. He understands financial services, technology, organization and leadership can have positive impacts on the lives of individuals and communities. At SEWA-Hariyali, he is now building women’s empowerment through livelihood creation and reducing poverty for 1.93 million members. Anurag is a Chartered Accountant with certifications from SITC (Swiss Re); Munich Re; GSE Yale School of Management; and IIM Ahmedabad-Duke University.
ADB’s Work in the Energy Sector

ADB has been providing assistance to its developing member countries in the energy sector for more than 40 years. Its support has focused on
• Electricity sector expansion programs;
• Support for the oil and gas sectors;
• Training and supporting government energy agencies;
• Power sector reforms, governance, and efficiency improvements;

ADB Energy Policy

ADB’s 2009 Energy Policy aims to help developing member countries provide reliable, adequate, and affordable energy for economic growth in a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable way. The policy enables ADB energy operations to be aligned with the organization’s overall strategy emphasizing energy security, facilitating a transition to a low-carbon economy, universal access to energy, and for achieving ADB’s vision of a region free of poverty.

The Three Pillars of ADB’s Energy Policy

Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy
ADB is working to introduce advanced technologies to increase energy efficiency in the region while also increasing the amount of renewable energy in the region’s energy mix. In addition, ADB is seeking to improve access to energy for poor and remote regions.

Maximizing access to energy for all
ADB is looking to broaden support for greater energy access, not only financially, but also by identifying innovative solutions, sharing information with partner development institutions, national governments and with the private sector.

The next phase of the fight against poverty will tap into the power of the private sector. ADB aims to help entrepreneurs craft business models that are affordable and appropriate for a market of billions looking for reliable, affordable energy.

Promoting energy sector reform, capacity building, and governance
In accordance with its energy policy, ADB will focus on reforms, education and training, and good governance. This involves helping developing Asian countries restructure and reform their energy generation and supply systems.

The Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is concerned with how technology impacts the world, and with how the application of technology can improve the world. The Society focuses on five areas: (i) Technology for development, including Humanitarian technology; (ii) Sustainable technology including Green ICT; (iii) Ethics, both professional ethics and ethics in technology design; (iv) Social inclusion, including diversity in the technical community, and addressing the digital divide; and (v) Human use of technology, from ergonomics to smart cities. In these fields we work in public policy at all levels of government, professional education and community engagement, through publications, conferences, social media, and other multidisciplinary activities.
Soma Dutta works with ENERGIA, the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy, where she leads the Scaling up Energy Access through Women’s Economic Empowerment (WE) Programme. The WE programme is a multi-country, multi-partner portfolio that provides technical and financial support to energy programmes, gender and energy research and advocacy. Through partner organizations in Asia and Africa, it supports micro/small energy enterprises run by women, building their capacities through business development trainings, hand-held support and technical assistance. In addition, Dutta provides technical expertise to various organizations in project planning; socioeconomic, institutional, and policy analysis; and capacity building.

Natalie Chun is an economist in the Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department of ADB. She specializes in microeconomic research topics related to labor, health and education. She was the lead author for the Key Indicators 2015 theme chapter entitled “A Smarter Future: Skills, Education, and Growth in Asia” and has published in a number of peer reviewed journals including Journal of Health Economics, Energy Economics, and Applied Economics. She holds a Doctorate and Master’s in Economics from Stanford University; and a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics/Economics from the University of California-Los Angeles.

Upali Daranagama is the former additional secretary (Planning and Development) of the Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy, Sri Lanka. He served the power sector of Sri Lanka over 35 years in planning, implementation and management of energy programs and projects. His experience includes planning and implementation of the accelerated rural electrification program in Sri Lanka. During his career, he has also served for USAID as a project management specialist promoting regional energy cooperation in South Asia and as a UNDP Consultant. He is a Chartered Engineer and a Corporate Member of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka.

Natalie Chun
Economist
Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department
ADB

Upali Daranagama
Former Additional Secretary
Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy
Sri Lanka

Soma Dutta
Programme Coordinator
ENERGIA
Len George is an energy specialist of the ADB/South Asia Department. He is currently based in ADB/India Resident Mission and works on energy projects in the region including India, Bangladesh and the Maldives. He has been involved in processing the first ADB administered Clean Technology Fund (CTF) project in India in the state of Rajasthan and the first ADB administered Scaling Up Renewable Energy Project (SREP) in the Maldives. Prior to ADB, he worked with an energy sector consulting firm. George holds a degree in electrical engineering from Delhi University and a post graduate diploma in management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Sumita Ghose is the founder and managing director of Rangsutra Crafts, a social enterprise which brings about socio economic development in rural India by providing design, marketing, technical, and organizational support to make crafts and allied rural industries into viable enterprises so that they provide regular home/village-based employment to artisans. Rangsutra is owned by over a thousand rural artisans mostly women. Earlier, she worked in rural communities in Western Rajasthan with the Uttar Rajasthan Milk Union Limited Trust, to bring about social change and economic development. She holds a Masters degree in Economics from Mumbai University and has received many fellowships from Fulbright, McArthur, Ashoka, Aspen, and Synergos.

Mewang Gyeltshen is the director for the Department of Renewable Energy, Ministry Economic Affairs of the Royal Government of Bhutan with over 20 years of experience in rural electrification and renewable energy programs including solar, wind, biogas, biomass, and hydropower energy projects. He manages the implementation of the ADB-funded “Improving Gender-inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka Project” which trained village electrical entrepreneur and electrical technicians to provide operation and maintenance services on off-grid and grid systems at the community level. He holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and Masters in Systems Engineering and Policy Analysis from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands.
Paul S. Hattle  
Senior Climate Change Specialist (Clean Energy)  
Bangladesh Resident Mission  
ADB

Ahmen Shukry Hussain  
Social Development Consultant  
POISED Project  
Ministry of Energy and Environment  
Maldives

Shanti Jagannathan  
Sr. Education Specialist  
South Asia Department  
ADB

Paul Hattle has over 22 years of experience in the energy sector acquired in Central Europe, Latin America, and Asia-Pacific, in addition to a strong academic background in electrical power engineering; energy and environmental sciences; solar engineering and energy economics. Prior to joining ADB, Hattle accumulated key expertise in the international technical cooperation for development, as well as in multinational enterprises for power generation, transmission, and distribution in different high managerial positions in Europe and South America.

Ahmen Shukry Hussain is a social expert (Gender and Development) in the ADB-funded, Preparing Outer Islands Sustainable Energy Development (POISED) Project under the Ministry of Energy and Environment in the Maldives. He is a development practitioner, trainer and lecturer with over 20 years of experience in gender and the development of rural and island communities; local governance and project management. Earlier, Hussain was the first CEO of the Local Government Authority in the Maldives. He holds a doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Development Studies from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and a Masters degree and a Post graduate Diploma in Development Studies from Australia National University.

Shanti Jagannathan works on education programs and policy development for improving the quality, cost-efficiency and labor market relevance of education and skills development in South Asia. She led regional studies on “Asia’s Knowledge Economies: the Next Policy Agenda” and “Education and Skills for Inclusive Growth and Green Jobs.” She represented ADB in UNESCO-UNEVOC led Inter-Agency Working Group on Greening TVET and Skills Development. She is co-editor of “Skills Development for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Asia-Pacific” (2012). Prior to ADB, she was a Development Advisor at the European Union on education reform programs, gender issues, democracy, human rights and poverty alleviation.
Abhishek Jain is a policy researcher at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). His research focuses on energy access, fossil fuel subsidies, integrated energy planning, circular economy and sustainable development. He holds an MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development from the University of Cambridge and a B. Tech in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. Jain has published and advised policymakers on the issues of energy access, clean cooking energy, rural electrification, rationalization of LPG subsidies, alternatives to kerosene subsidies, and electricity sector reforms for India. Prior to CEEW, he has worked with various organizations in India, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Andrew Jeffries is the energy head (India), overseeing ADB’s energy sector operations in India. Prior to ADB, he was a Sr. Vice President of Fortis Bank’s Global Energy and Utilities Group in New York. He previously worked for GE Energy Financial Services, a financing subsidiary of the General Electric Corporation, on power sector and oil & gas equity investments and structured financing in the U.S. and globally. Earlier, he was with Caithness Energy, an independent power producer of gas-fired, geothermal, wind and solar power generation facilities in North America and Asia. Jeffries has a Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University, and a BA in economics from Bucknell University, the United States (US).

Chhaya Jha has worked on GESI mainstreaming with national governments, ADB, DFID, UN agencies, the World Bank, and others in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka. She helped mainstream GESI in the Ministry of Health and Population’s institutional structure and programs for more responsive service delivery to women, the poor and the excluded. She is the lead author of “Sectoral Perspectives on Gender Equality and Social inclusion: Making It Happen,” funded by ADB, DFID, and the World Bank. She is the coauthor of “Gender and Social Exclusion Assessment: Gender, Caste and Ethnic Exclusion in Nepal”. She holds a Masters in Development Management from the Asian Institute of Management, the Philippines.
Going Beyond the Meter: Inclusive Energy Solutions in South Asia

Govind Kelkar is the senior advisor at Landesa (Rural Development Institute), India, and a Regional Council Member of Asia and Pacific Forum on Women, Law, and Development, Thailand. She is the International Coordinator of the ADB-ENERGIA research programme on gender and energy. Earlier, she headed the Economic Empowerment of Women Unit at UN Women, New Delhi. Kelkar taught at Delhi University; the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai; and the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, where she founded the Gender and Development Studies program and the journal on Gender, Technology and Development. She has worked and published extensively on gender and energy and women’s right to land in rural Asia.

Sanjay Karndhar is among the youngest scientists in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. He completed his M. Tech. (Electrical) with specialization in industrial electronics in 2009 from Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), Surat, Gujarat. His association with the Ministry as scientist dates back to 2010. He has been supporting policy, planning, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation of various Government schemes and programs on grid-connected solar power.

Anthony Jude currently leads ADB’s South Asia Energy Division. He has held various positions in ADB and has been instrumental in identifying new investments in rural and national roads; power generation, transmission and distribution; water supply and sanitation; energy efficiency; cross-border power interconnections and trade facilitation along economic corridors; renewable energy and clean technology transfer; developing climate change mitigation and adaptation plans; and supporting energy policy and institutional strengthening including power sector reforms and regulatory reforms in energy and water sectors. Prior to ADB, Jude worked with the Asian Institute of Technology on regional energy issues.
Rudra Prasad Khanal has been with the AEPC since 2003 and has held various administrative and technical positions that have helped build his expertise in finance, administration and local governance. He played a key role in building the organizational capacity of AEPC for mainstreaming gender and social inclusion (GESI). Through his involvement in the Local Body Coordination and Outreach Management component, he helped ensure the dissemination of renewable energy technologies (RET) to the rural communities while promoting the interests of women and disadvantaged groups.

Rudra Khanal
Assistant Director/ Component Manager
National Rural and Renewable Energy Programme (NRREP)
Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC)
Nepal

Aishwarya Mahajan
Regional Head
Livelihood Education Unit
Aide et Action International,
South Asia
India

Mahajan holds a PhD in Sociology from India and has 18 years of experience on strategy development and conceptualization of sustainable livelihood programs in Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Haiti, Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka.
ENERGIA is an international network on gender and sustainable energy. It was founded in 1996 by a group of women involved in gender and energy work in developing countries. To date, the ENERGIA network has a presence in 22 African and Asian countries.

ENERGIA’s vision is that “women and men have equal and equitable access to and control over sustainable energy services as an essential human right to development.” And it works towards this with the following principles in mind:

- Empowerment and equality
- Inclusiveness and equality in partnership
- Respect for diversity, flexibility and unity
- Contextualization of interventions
- Innovation in thinking

ENERGIA believes that projects, programs, and policies that explicitly address gender and energy issues have better outcomes and improve the livelihood of entire communities. By involving women in the development, delivery, and use of modern energy, sustainability and adoption rates of these services are enhanced.

ENERGIA contributes to scaling up the delivery of energy services through the strengthening of women-led energy enterprises, advocating for gender mainstreaming in energy policy and practice, and creating the evidence base for incorporating a gender lens through research. In order to provide continued support and have gender be part of the developmental process, ENERGIA also creates unique training modules and tools for the energy sector. This way, we connect local initiatives in a global context, creating an environment where groups can learn from each other and inspire across communities.
ENERGIA’s ongoing initiatives

The **Scaling up Energy access through Women’s Economic Empower (WE)** project, which focuses on scaling up proven business models that strengthen the capacity of 3,000 women micro- and small enterprises (MSEs) to deliver energy products and services to more than 2,000,000 consumers by 2017. ENERGIA provides funding and technical support to partner organizations in Africa and Asia, who work with MSEs run by women, building their capacities through business development trainings, hand held support, and technical assistance. Our partners include Kopernik in Indonesia; Practical Action East Africa, and Sustainable Community Development Services (SCODE) in Kenya; the Centre for Rural Technology in Nepal, partnering with the National Association of Community Electricity Users Nepal; GVEP and SEM Fund in Senegal and Solar Sister in Tanzania, Uganda, and Nigeria.

The **Gender & Energy Advocacy Programme**, a 4-year programme in line with ENERGIA’s commitment to Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) that aims to integrate gender objectives and actions in SE4All country action plans and investment prospectuses in the five focus countries; operationalize five national campaigns on women’s economic empowerment through energy access, reaching out to 14 million people; and showcase the strategy, business models, and impact of the ENERGIA’s Women’s Economic Empowerment programme in terms of SE4All’s regional and global outreach.

The **Gender and Energy Research Programme** in collaboration with DFID which is working towards advancing knowledge and awareness regarding the impact of energy access—or the lack thereof—on women and girls. The consortia include partners from research institutions, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and private companies, offering both the capability to perform high quality research and to create links to policy and practice.

The **Gender Mainstreaming Programme**, which works on the understanding that women and men are affected differently by energy access or the lack thereof. For this reason, applying a gender lens to energy policies, programmes, and projects helps to identify the different impacts, to bridge existing gaps and contributes to more gender equity in the energy sector. ENERGIA works with a wide variety of (governmental) organizations and institutions to assess the likely implications of a specific project or programme on women and men (diagnose); agree on what that specific programme or project wants to achieve from a gender perspective (gender goal and strategy); design activities on how these gender goals can be met; build consensus among stakeholders on the approach; and develop a gender sensitive monitoring strategy. Amongst our clients are the governments of Botswana, India, Kenya, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania, ADB, the World Bank and international donors such as Norad.
Peter Marro started working with ADB in 1999 in the Private Sector Operations Department focusing on financial sector development including infrastructure and housing finance, small and medium enterprise (SME) support, leasing, insurance, capital markets infrastructure and private equity funds. In 2006, he joined the South Asia Department as Senior Financial Sector Specialist designing and implementing projects with majority government owned financial intermediaries in infrastructure finance and SME support in Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka. Prior to ADB, he worked in commercial banks and private companies in the Philippines, Singapore, and Switzerland. He has a Masters of Science from the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Pushkar Manandhar started working with ADB in 1999 in the Private Sector Operations Department focusing on financial sector development including infrastructure and housing finance, small and medium enterprise (SME) support, leasing, insurance, capital markets infrastructure and private equity funds. In 2006, he joined the South Asia Department as Senior Financial Sector Specialist designing and implementing projects with majority government owned financial intermediaries in infrastructure finance and SME support in Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka. Prior to ADB, he worked in commercial banks and private companies in the Philippines, Singapore, and Switzerland. He has a Masters of Science from the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Iven Mareels is a Redmond Berry Distinguished Professor and dean of Engineering at the University of Melbourne, Australia. His research focuses on the modelling, control, and organization of large scale systems. He publishes extensively and is the co-inventor of 31 international patents. He is a Fellow of The Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, Australia; The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, USA; and Engineers Australia, and the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts.

Pushkar Manandhar is currently a project officer (Energy) in ADB’s Nepal Resident Mission. His main task is to implement energy projects of various natures, support the processing of new energy projects, and promote policy and other measures for better energy sector response. He is also energy sector focal person for the Nepal Resident Mission. Prior to joining ADB, Manandhar served as consultant to the ADB, worked with Practical Action and Government of Nepal, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre for various projects funded by the European Union, UNDP, and the World Bank. He has over 10 years of work experience in the energy sector.
Arunavo Mukerjee has extensive experience in the energy industry spanning coal, natural gas and renewable sources. He has worked with the Tata Group since 1991 in India, the US, Europe and Africa and since 2008, has led the Tata Group’s efforts to combat climate change. In 2013, he became Vice President of Tata Cleantech Capital Advisory Services. Mukerjee holds a BS in Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and an MBA from the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, the US. He is a member of IEEE, USA; Society of Petroleum Engineers, USA; and the UN’s Caring for Climate Initiative and the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition.

Namiz Musafer is the director of Janathakshan and board member of many organizations working in the energy sector in Sri Lanka. Janathakshan, meaning “technology for people,” is an NGO established in 2011 to promote sustainable and green solutions in development of Sri Lanka and beyond. Musafer is a mechanical engineer with an MBA who has nearly 17 years of experience in the decentralized renewable energy sector from the grass roots level to the top level. He pioneered and led the efforts on the establishment of national standards on biogas and improved clay cook stoves and the release of 1 million postage stamps on the theme “sustainable energy for all” following a national design competition.

Ajwad Musthafa is the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Republic of the Maldives. The Ministry is responsible for the provision of electricity, water, and sanitation, waste management services and the protection and preservation of the natural environment of the Maldives. The ministry is also responsible for addressing the issues of climate change both locally and internationally. Prior to his current position, Musthafa was the Director General and member of the Governing Board of Maldives Energy Authority which serves as the energy regulatory agency of the Maldives. Musthafa holds an MSc in Energy Economics and Policy from University of Surrey, UK.
Sheila Oparaocha has 17 years of experience in the gender and energy sector. She is program manager/International Coordinator of the ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy. Leading a team of gender and energy experts under a multi-country and multi-partner program in 22 countries in Asia and Africa, Ms. Oparaocha provides technical assistance on energy projects; international policy advocacy; gender audits of energy policies; training of trainers/practitioners; research/case studies; network building; and knowledge management. She holds a BA in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Zambia and MSc in Gender and Rural Development Studies from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand.

Debajit Palit has over 18 years of experience on clean energy access; rural electrification policy and regulation; distributed generation; solar photovoltaic and biomass gasification. He is currently responsible for TERI’s Lighting a Billion Lives Programme and Electricity Access activities. He has worked for UN and bilateral agencies, ADB, the World Bank and national governments in Asia and Africa. He is a prolific author and a sought-out speaker on rural electricity distribution franchises; minigrid and scaling up of electricity access in South Asia. He is a member of ADB’s Energy for All Partnership Steering Committee. Palit has a Masters in Physics and a post graduate diploma in Nonconventional Energy Technology.

Brajesh Panth serves as the technical advisor for ADB Education Sector Group. He has over 25 years of experience in the education sector undertaking sector assessments, project processing, implementation, evaluation, and policy dialogue, covering all levels—primary, secondary, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and higher education. He holds a PhD in education administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University. Panth worked with the World Bank as a senior education specialist before joining the ADB in 2001. His work experience focuses on Central and South Asia and some in Africa. He has recently published articles on skills development which comprises almost 50% of ADB’s current education portfolio.
Jyoti Parikh is the project coordinator for UNDP India’s capacity building initiative to incorporate environmental concerns (air and water quality; community land regeneration and biodiversity) into the decision-making process for sustainable development. Earlier, she served as member of the Prime Minister’s Climate Council; energy and development consultant to the World Bank; U.S. Department of Energy; EEC, Brussels; UNIDO, FAO UNDP, UNESCO, and UNU; and advisor for the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Parikh holds a MSc. from University of California, Berkeley and a PhD. in Theoretical Physics from University of Maryland, USA. She is a renowned author on energy, climate change and environment and associated socioeconomic issues.

Aniruddha Patil is a principal investment Specialist developing and structuring ADB’s clean energy investments. In addition, he focuses on early stage venture capital investments in companies expanding access to goods and services to those at the base of the economic pyramid. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Simpa Networks, a company which sells access to clean energy on a pay-as-you-go-basis to consumers in rural India. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Hippocampus Learning Centres which operates a chain of affordable, high quality preschools in rural India. Prior to ADB, he worked with Macquarie Capital and the Boston Consulting Group.

Sumeet Patil is the founder of NEERMAN which provides technical assistance and training in impact evaluation, monitoring and evaluation systems, and policy research and evaluation in energy, water-sanitation, public health, and environment sectors. Over 15 years, he has led evaluations for ADB, the Government of Gujarat, the India Planning Commission, UNICEF, India Planning Commission, and the World Bank. Patil also co-teaches evaluation research at SP Jain Institute of Management Research in Mumbai, and at the University of California, Berkeley. He holds double Masters in Water Resource and Environmental Engineering and Environmental Economics from North Carolina State University, USA.
The University of Melbourne is an internationally renowned institution with a reputation for standards of excellence with world rankings consistently placing it as Australia’s leading comprehensive research-intensive university, and one of the world’s top 50. The Melbourne School of Engineering (MSE) provides world class education and an environment of cross-disciplinary research excellence.

Since 2011 MSE has undertaken PhD and post-doctoral research on energy technologies and systems and their social implications, with a focus on gender equity and women’s empowerment. The University is currently partnering with ADB on a research study on ‘gender friendly’ energy technologies.

As an institution, the University is committed to gender mainstreaming within the institution and has a staff and students equity and diversity framework. The University aspires to attaining the highest staff satisfaction rating in relation to equity and diversity amongst all the major universities in Australia and a gender, age and cultural balance in its workforce approaching that of the best international universities in the world. A strategy and action plan for gender mainstreaming for the MSE is being prepared.

A. Cross-Disciplinary Centers of Excellence

Several cross-disciplinary centres of excellence are also linked to the MSE. These include the Melbourne Energy Institute, the Asia Institute, the Australia India Institute and the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute. These institutes are structured vehicles to enable and foster cross-disciplinary research programs.
a) The Melbourne Energy Institute brings together research in bioenergy, solar, wind, geothermal, fuel cells and carbon capture and storage. It also engages in energy efficiency for urban planning, architecture, transport and distributed systems, and reliable energy transmission. Economic and policy questions constitute a significant plank of the Energy Institute’s research program and include: market regulation and demand, carbon trading, system modelling, climate change feedbacks and social justice implications of energy policy. The Institute brings together the work of over 150 researchers, providing international leadership in energy research and delivering solutions to meet future energy needs.

b) The Asia Institute is the university’s key centre for intellectual, legal, political, cultural and religious studies and traditions of the Asian region. The Asia Studies Program is one of the largest in Australia. One of its research areas is gender, which is studied through literature, popular culture, social institutions, medical systems, workplace practices, and language.

c) The Australia India Institute is a hub for dialogue, research and partnership between Australia and India. The Australia India Leadership Dialogue program under the institute brings together leaders from India and Australia in an annual dialogue with a focus on industry, public life, civil society, and the media.

d) The Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute facilitates and enables research linkages, projects and conversations leading to increased understanding of sustainability and resilience trends, challenges and solutions. Its ‘Future Cities’ research program addresses sustainability, resilience, smart cities, and physical and social connectedness in planning, design, and governance for sustainability, health and well-being, equity, and inclusion.

As an academic institution with strong connections in developing Asia, we are keenly aware of the issues related to the phenomenon of “brain-drain” and our responsibility to transfer knowledge to developing Asia. Therefore, the University is committed to finding ways to support and sustain the transfer of knowledge to developing Asia.
Going Beyond the Meter: Inclusive Energy Solutions in South Asia

Melissa Preston leads Kopernik Solutions’ Wonder Women Eastern Indonesia Initiative which provides innovative, life-changing, clean energy technologies to people in remote Indonesian villages where access to electricity and affordable cooking fuel are extremely limited. Kopernik Solutions has been training Indonesian women since 2011 to sell simple technologies in their communities. The program empowers women to boost their income through selling solar lamps, water filters and clean cookstoves. The women receive a margin on every sale to support their families and livelihoods. As a Program Management Advisor, Miss Preston aims to expand women’s leadership, training and participation.

Tshering Phuntsho
Coordinator, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Program
Royal Society for Protection of Nature Bhutan

Tshering Phuntsho is the coordinator for RSPN’s Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Program. He managed the ADB funded “Improving Gender Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka Project”. Under the Green Public Procurement Project of Bhutan, he undertook a quantitative mapping of public procurement. He was also a member of National Task Force to develop the Fourth National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan for Bhutan. His work focuses on wetland conservation and management; community-based sustainable tourism; ecosystem services; and sustainable livelihood development. Phuntsho holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Science from Wageningen University, the Netherlands.

Vivek K. Porwal, IAS
Managing Director
Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Co. India

Vivek Porwal is the managing director of Madhya Pradesh Central Zone Power Distribution Co. Ltd since 2014. He was selected by the Indian Administrative Service in 2000 and served as collector in many provinces. He was assigned by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration for the rehabilitation of Tsunami affected areas. He was also Director of Rajiv Gandhi Watershed Mission among other senior government positions. He has vast experience in land revenue management, district administration, project risk analysis, and financing infrastructure projects through capital markets. He holds a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

Melissa Preston
Program Management Advisor
Kopernik Solutions

Melissa Preston leads Kopernik Solutions’ Wonder Women Eastern Indonesia Initiative which provides innovative, life-changing, clean energy technologies to people in remote Indonesian villages where access to electricity and affordable cooking fuel are extremely limited. Kopernik Solutions has been training Indonesian women since 2011 to sell simple technologies in their communities. The program empowers women to boost their income through selling solar lamps, water filters and clean cookstoves. The women receive a margin on every sale to support their families and livelihoods. As a Program Management Advisor, Miss Preston aims to expand women’s leadership, training and participation.
Farzana Rahman has been working with IDCOL, the largest renewable energy and infrastructure financing company, in Bangladesh since 2006. She is involved in structuring and financing of renewable energy and large infrastructure projects in power, telecom, and ICT sectors. Rahman is also involved with IDCOL solar home system program, one of the largest off-grid renewable energy programs in the world. She currently works on the development and financing of renewable energy projects like solar irrigation, solar mini-grid, biogas and biomass-based electricity projects. Rahman holds a BA in Finance and International Business from North South University, Bangladesh.

Surendra Rajbhandari has over 32 years experience working with the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) constructing transmission lines; and developing transmission systems expansion and reinforcement plans and human resource development plans. Currently, he heads the Project Management Directorate in NEA which is responsible for coordinating, monitoring and implementing ADB, EIB, and Government of Norway funded projects. Nepal Electricity Transmission Expansion and Supply Improvements Project is one of the two on-going ADB-funded projects which have been designed to benefit the poor through economic opportunity, knowledge, and rights. The projects have integrated gender and social inclusion (GESI) plans and GESI indicators and targets in the project design and monitoring framework.

Sanjukta Roy is a development economist and is affiliated with the World Bank as a Consultant Economist. She has over 8 years of experience as a development practitioner and her sectoral expertise spans across energy efficiency, energy access, social development, and gender issues. Roy completed her PhD in Economics with a specialization in Political Economy and Governance from West Virginia University in 2010. She is an ardent researcher and has several publications in peer reviewed academic journals.
Purushottam Shrestha

Director, Climate Change and Program Support Division
Centre for Rural Technology
Nepal

Parthasarathi Sensarma

Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Ajaita Shah

CEO
Frontier Markets
India

Ajaita Shah is the CEO of Frontier Markets (FM) and President of Frontier Innovations Foundation (FIF). FM is a rural marketing, sales, and service distribution company in Rajasthan providing access to affordable and quality solar solutions to low-income households in India. FIF is a nonprofit focused on last-mile distribution support for clean energy companies. FM runs a women’s economic empowerment program, Solar Saheli, where women are trained in marketing, sales, and service of solar energy solutions to earn income. Shah holds a BA in International Relations from Tufts University, USA. She has been recognized nationally and globally through prestigious fellowships and awards as a top woman entrepreneur in India.

Parthasarathi Sensarma has been working as a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur since 2002 where he teaches courses on power electronics and electrical engineering. His research interests include power quality, FACTS devices, power converters, and renewable energy integration. He has developed the first Indian design for a solar inverter which has been deployed in grid-connected and off-grid applications. He has previously worked with Bharat Bijlee in Mumbai; CESC in Kolkata; and ABB Corporate Research Center in Baden-Daettwil, Switzerland. He holds a Masters in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and a PhD from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Purushottam Shrestha has worked over 30 years with the government, private sector, banks, NGOs, and donors in rural finance, microfinance, renewable energy, training, research, project planning, and implementation. In addition to ENERGIA supported projects, he supervises two ADB grant projects: Gender Focused Capacity Building in Clean Energy and Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Shrestha holds a PhD in Economics from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and M.A in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), the Hague, the Netherlands. He is the current Chairman of the New Nepal Microfinance Development Bank which supports women’s livelihoods in hilly remote districts.
Sonomi Tanaka oversees and coordinates ADB-wide operations and knowledge management activities supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment. She has worked on social analysis, gender and development, poverty reduction, community participation, and social protection issues in Asia and the Pacific for 20 years focusing on education, finance, health, infrastructure, natural resources management, public sector management, and urban development. Prior to ADB, she worked at the World Bank and Japanese development institutions. She holds a Masters on Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University and a postgraduate diploma from the Institute of Developing Economies Advanced School in Japan.

Tilak Siyambalapitiya carries 30 years of experience in the energy sector of Sri Lanka, in other countries of South Asia, and in East Africa. He has been conducting tariff studies for embedded generation in Sri Lanka and Tanzania since 1996, and continues to be engaged in research on a wide range of issues related to pricing, grid interconnection and regulation of small to medium scale grid connected power plants. He has been engaged in consulting studies using planning tools since 1988. He was President of Sri Lanka Energy Managers Association and has served in various committees of the Ministry of Power and Energy on honorary basis. He worked as Chief Engineer of the Ceylon Electricity Board and Principal Engineer at Saudi Consolidated Electric Company.

Adnan Tareen is an electrical engineer currently working in the ADB Central and West Asia Department as senior energy specialist. He has processed and implemented energy projects focusing on distribution, transmission, generation, energy efficiency, demand management and energy sector reforms. Currently, he is Country Focal for ADB’s Pakistan and Armenia energy portfolio. He is also the alternate for Azerbaijan energy portfolio and a member of the Uzbekistan energy sector team. He recently developed a $1.2 billion Smart Metering Project in Pakistan and was also a member of the team that developed the Smart Metering Project for Uzbekistan ($0.5 billion).
Rebecca Tavares is the representative of UN Women’s Multicountry Office for India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka based in New Delhi. Previously, she was the UN Women Representative for Brazil and Regional Programme Director of UN Women’s Brazil & Southern Cone Office (2009–2013). A native of Southern California, Reichmann Tavares graduated from Yale University and holds a doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has published several books, monographs, and articles on race relations in Brazil, women’s rights, and microfinance in Latin America.

Thavaneswaran is a chartered engineer and member of Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. He joined the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) in 1984 as Construction and Design Engineer and was promoted to Trincomalee Area Engineer and Chief Engineer, East. Since 2005, as Deputy General Manager of Eastern Province, he is responsible for maintaining uninterrupted power supply, and planning and development of the electrical system serving 447,657 consumers in Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. Prior to CEB, he worked for the Puttalam Cement Factory. He holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Thiyagarajan Velumail is UNDP’s Global Energy Policy advisor based in Istanbul focusing on access to sustainable energy services, linking energy access to poverty reduction and climate change. He has over 20 years of experience on project planning and management on energy and climate change. Previously, he worked at UNDP/Bangkok Regional Hub covering Asia and the Pacific region. He provides energy policy advice, assists in design and implementation of national programmes on energy access, climate change, and capacity development; documents good practices; and shares knowledge products on energy, climate change, poverty reduction and gender mainstreaming. Prior to joining UNDP, he served as Head of Energy Policy in the Ministry of Energy in Malaysia.
Aruna Wanniachchi supports ADB’s energy sector operations in Southeast Asia. Prior to joining the ADB, she worked with the Ceylon Electricity Board in Sri Lanka, and UNDP in Iraq and Jordan. She has 25 years of experience in the energy sector. She holds Doctorate and Masters degrees in Electrical Engineering from Kyushu University, Japan, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Harsha Wickramasinghe is a founder of the Sustainable Energy Authority which is leading the energy efficiency improvement and renewable energy development thrusts in Sri Lanka. He was involved in developing renewable energy technologies at reduced costs which expanded off-grid services to large numbers of villages. As the Convenor of the National Energy Policy Committee, he contributed to Sri Lanka’s first comprehensive energy policy. Earlier, he worked in plantation and industrial sectors. He is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer holding a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa and an MBA from the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka.
Priyantha Wijayatunga is a principal energy specialist at the ADB. Prior to the ADB, he was Director General of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka. He extensively contributed to the Sri Lanka Energy Sector Policy Making and Regulation and South Asia Regional Energy Cooperation. He is a Chartered Engineer and a member of the Institution of Engineering Technology in the UK; Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, in Sri Lanka; and Senior Member of the Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers in USA. He is a coauthor of “Power Trade in South Asia: Opportunities and Challenges” of ADB. He has a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and a PhD in Power Economics from the Imperial College, UK.

Ranishka Wimalasena is a senior project officer (Energy) in the ADB Sri Lanka Resident Mission. He has more than 11 years of professional experience in Energy, Project Management and Industrial Engineering. Prior to joining ADB, he had mainly worked with the private sector including Hayleys Industrial Solutions and CBS Power Solutions, Australia managing energy services and renewable energy designs. He holds a masters degree in Energy Planning and Policy from the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia; and BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Heruka Zangpo has been working with the Bhutan Power Corporation since 2005 first as deputy manager of the Central Maintenance and Training Division and as Senior Manager since 2007. Among his responsibilities are the design, development and conduct of training and refresher courses for engineers and technicians, coordination of condition-based maintenance of mini and micro hydro power plants across Bhutan, and analysis of new technology and products in the field of energy. He holds a BA in Electrical Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, India and a Master’s in Business Administration from the Shidler College of Business, University of Hawaii.

Siddique Zobair is a senior member of the Bangladesh Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) with 20 years of experience in the energy sector. He was joint secretary of the Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. He was key in the preparation of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Act; the National Energy Policy; Coal Policy; Gas Act; Energy Regulatory Commission Act; Renewable Energy Policy; 500 MW Solar Program; Energy Efficiency Master Plan; and Action Plan for Clean Cookstoves. He was a key contributor to the UN’s Sustainable Energy for All Program. He holds a masters degree in Petroleum Management from the University of Alberta, Canada.
The JFPR Grant 9158 supported the mainstreaming of gender related concerns and approaches in the energy sector, which has largely untapped opportunities for promoting gender equity and improving the lives of women. The Grant supported participating governments and partner NGOs in their commitment to widen women’s energy access, and enhanced energy based livelihood opportunities in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. More specifically, it created an enabling environment to:

1. Engage with energy service providers in the three DMCs—and facilitate dialogue among them—on critical issues related to the accessibility and affordability of energy resources and services;

2. Carry out pilot initiatives in collaboration with participating public sector energy providers to demonstrate the important connections between poverty, gender, and energy;

3. Facilitate a forum among SARD DMCs for possibly incorporating evidence based project results in policy dialogue and reform;

4. Encourage dialogue and strategic partnerships between government agencies responsible for energy provision and civil society NGOs involved in pro-poor, gender-inclusive, a socially responsible access to energy resources and services.
UN Women’s Office based in New Delhi covers four countries: Bhutan, India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka. In these countries, we strengthen women’s rights by working with women, men, feminists, women’s networks, governments, local authorities and civil society. With all of them, UN Women helps to create national strategies to advance gender equality in line with national and international priorities.

UN Women stands behind women’s equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four priority areas:

1. Ending violence against women
2. Promoting Leadership and Participation
3. National Planning and Budgeting
4. Economic Empowerment

In India, UN Women builds on a strong foundation, working closely with the Government of India and civil society to set national standards for achieving gender equality. In Bhutan, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka, UN Women works through the United Nations to ensure that women become equal partners in development.

UN Women’s Office for India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/india
Going Beyond the Meter:
Inclusive Energy Solutions in South Asia
CLOSING THE GENDER GAP

Promoting gender equity

ADB’s Strategy 2020 highlights gender equity as one of five drivers of change for promoting and achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, reducing poverty, improving living standards and achieving the MDGs.

ADB’s Policy on Gender and Development identifies gender mainstreaming as the key strategy and approach for promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment across all sectors. A dual approach is adopted that includes both gender mainstreaming and targeted approaches to reduce glaring gender disparities.

ADB has set corporate gender targets to be met by 2016: 45% of all operations and 55% of those financed by ADF resources will address gender equality objectives. In 2013, ADB’s annual performance exceeded the 2016 gender target: with 55% overall and 59% of ADF financed operations categorized as “gender mainstreaming.”

A new Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Operational Plan, 2013-2020 (Gender Plan) was approved in 2013. The new plan provides the roadmap for guiding ADB operations and recognizes that more needs to be done to reduce gender gaps and disparities across the region.

The Plan calls for increased emphasis on improving implementation and monitoring for the delivery of better gender equality results. While gender mainstreaming across all operations will remain the priority approach, direct investments in women and girls will be pursued in areas such as: (i) girls secondary education and completion; (ii) vocational and technical skills training for female youth; (iii) access to productive assets, labor saving technology, employment, and income earning opportunities; (iv) business development services for women entrepreneurs; (v) financial services and access to credit; (vi) policy and legal reforms to tackle issues of gender-based violence and anti-trafficking, and (vii) giving women voice in decision-making in formal and informal institutions.

Investing in gender equality

ADB projects that improve the lives of women and girls in the region have included support for education, health, basic infrastructure, and financial services. ADB projects that directly support gender issues span across both the social and economic sectors.

• In some of our poorest borrowing countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and Nepal, ADB has built schools in remote and rural areas to improve and expand access, provided scholarship to poor girls, and trained female teachers to support girls’ school retention rates.

• In Nepal and Uzbekistan, we are providing financial and business services to help women start and expand their business enterprises.

• In Bangladesh, ADB has supported women’s economic empowerment through constructing and reserving spaces for women vendors in rural markets; providing employment opportunities for destitute women in road construction and maintenance; helping women farmers to diversify into cash crops that yield higher incomes, and; building the capacity of locally-elected women leaders to give them “voice” in decision-making in local governance institutions.

GENDER AND ENERGY KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS
GENDER TOOL KIT: ENERGY Going Beyond the Meter:

This tool kit assists ADB staff and consultants in conceptualizing and designing gender-responsive projects in the energy sector. It guides users in key questions to be asked and data to be collected during project preparation. It also offers a menu of entry points in designing project outputs, activities, inputs, indicators, and targets that integrate key gender issues identified during the gender analysis. The tool kit is broken down into key subsectors of ADB’s energy sector investments—transmission and distribution, rural electrification, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. Case studies from ADB energy projects have been included to illustrate good practices in mainstreaming gender in the energy sector.
GENDER EQUALITY RESULTS IN SOUTH ASIA

The South Asia Department of ADB presents three sets of videos that showcase good practices in addressing gender equality and social inclusion concerns in selected development projects, as well as positive results of gender-related initiatives in the lives of women, men, and the communities at large.

The first set consists of five country videos that include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, while the second has four sector videos that cover education, energy, transport, and urban development. The third set is a compilation eight short features on specific projects.

ENERGY SECTOR VIDEO Maximizing Women's Visibility in the Energy Sector

The video demonstrates how access to regular power supply not only eased the burden of house work, but also provided economic opportunities and advancement for women in the rural, remote villages in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka through the JFPR project on Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy and technical assistance on Enhancing Energy based Livelihoods for Women Micro-entrepreneurs. Economic activities featured in the video include development/enhancement of women’s energy based enterprises, and employment in a non-traditional field as village technicians providing support in the maintenance of power lines.
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The conference proceedings which will include (i) videos; (ii) photos; and (iii) presentations will be uploaded 2 weeks after the conference in the following event page under the adb.org: http://www.adb.org/news/events/inclusive-energy-solutions-south-asia.

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UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
About the Asian Development Bank

ADB’s vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region’s many successes, it remains home to the majority of the world’s poor. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.