

ASIA CLEAN ENERGY FORUM 2019

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

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Deep Dive Workshop

Wednesday, 19 June 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Auditorium B

Community Energy Systems: Realizing the Potential of People's Partnership in Achieving Energy Access



Point of Contact:

Kee-Yung Nam, Principal Energy Economist,
Asian Development Bank, knam@adb.org

David Elzinga, Senior Energy Specialist,
Asian Development Bank, delzinga@adb.org

Background

Under Strategy 2030, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will sustain its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and expand its vision to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. This is aligned with UN's Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), which aims to achieve universal access to energy by 2030 with the underlying goal of eradicating poverty. However, most of ADB's developing member countries (DMCs) have limited resources and are constrained in improving energy access especially to majority of their people residing in remote, rural and isolated areas due to technical and/or economic reasons. For those in remote, rural areas and isolated islands, extensions of the national grid face significant technical challenges. Moreover, in many instances, modest demand due to low or disperse population density, high cost of services and affordability issues often make investments in modern energy financially and economically not viable.

Finding innovative solutions to overcome the above challenges becomes imperative. One alternative is to implement community energy systems (CESs) which emphasizes the engagement and involvement of the community in all stages of project development. Various examples within Asia and the Pacific, including that of ADB's pilot projects, show that community participation plays a significant role in the successful implementation of (distributed) energy projects especially in remote areas and isolated islands.

This Deep Dive Workshop (DDW) on "Community Energy Systems: Realizing the Potential of People's Partnership in Achieving Energy Access" will showcase the people's initiatives in establishing localized energy systems such as mini-grids based on renewable energy (RE) and in some cases hybrid solutions with energy

storage. In the light of the growing interest to expand mini-grid solutions across Asia and the Pacific, this workshop will share knowledge and good practices on mini-grid and related types of localized energy systems that are owned and/or operated by community-based entities. The presentations would highlight project experiences focusing on why and how technical and cooperative solutions have been successfully utilized to reduce risks to project sustainability. The DDW is expected to encourage governments, project developer and investors to view CES as key to sustainably reach the last mile in the effort to provide universal and meaningful energy access for all.

Objective

The DDW will benefit government agencies, specifically planning, energy and other stakeholders charged with energy access, as well as project developers including non-government organizations and private sector in off-grid markets. Financial institutions and companies/organizations that are interested in financing energy access solutions in the Asia and the Pacific region may also find this workshop useful.

The objectives of the DDW are:

- 1) To share the successful cases of CESs and their socio-economic impacts;
- 2) To identify challenges and lessons learned from the experiences of CES proponents and find ways to deploy these types of energy access solutions in a systematic and scalable manner;
- 3) To encourage stakeholders to consider use of CESs as a viable business model to increase energy access, eradicate energy poverty and promote inclusive growth in remote communities.

Agenda

09:00 – 09:10 **Opening Remarks - ADB**

09:10 – 10:30 **Introduction by the Session Chair: What are Community Energy Systems (CESs)? When do they make sense?** – Satish Gautam, Programme Manager, Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

SESSION 1: Maximizing the potential of CESs. This session will discuss technological and business models focusing on CESs. It will highlight how to maximize the benefits of energy access including productive-use activities. The presentations will highlight the lessons learned from project experiences and potential for increasing uptake and scalability as a practical and feasible energy access solution in region.

Dhostekhor Khola Micro Hydropower Pilot Project

Mahabir Pun, Chairperson, Annapurna Dhaulagiri Community Eco-trekking Development and Promotion Organization (ADCEPO)

Malalison Island Solar Hybrid Project

Ludovico Lim, General Manager, Antique Electric Cooperative, Inc. & Director, AO Power, Inc.

Community Enterprise-based Hydro and Biomass Projects in Myanmar

Dipti Vaghela, Co-founder, Hydro Empowerment Network

Q&A: Guided Discussion with the Session Chair

Session Chair: Satish Gautam

10:30 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 12:25

SESSION 2: Meeting the Challenges of Developing CESs. This session will discuss the challenges, issues and solutions to the deployment of CESs. Three projects will be presented dealing with major issues like grid integration, sustainability and financing, among others.

What happens when the grid comes? – The Case of ADB-assisted project on Community-based Energy System in Mindanao, Godofredo Guya, Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Facing the Challenge of Energy Access in Remote Communities: Lessons Learned – Anshuman Lath, Director, Gram Oorja Solutions Private Limited

Ensuring the Sustainability of Community Energy Systems, Tri Mumpuni, Executive Director & Founder, People Centered Business and Economic Institute (IBEKA)

Q&A: Guided Discussion with the Session chair

Session Chair: - Divyam Nagpal, Renewable Energy Consultant, University College London

12:25 – 12:30

Closing Remarks, ADB

About the Organization

As part of the roadmap to enhance lending activities, ADB launched the Energy for All Initiative. The initiative is a regional technical assistance program charged to work with various regional departments within ADB to help increase their lending in the energy access space. From 2008 to 2018, this effort resulted in investments that totaled US\$ 9 billion and benefited 124 million people.

In 2014, ADB was designated as the Asia Pacific Hub for Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL). SEforALL is an international organization working with leaders in government, the private sector and civil society to drive further, faster action toward achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7, which calls for universal access to sustainable energy by 2030, and the Paris Climate Agreement. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts to mitigate climate change through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs).