

Asia Clean Energy Forum 2021

USAID Side Event - Decarbonization Pathways in South Asia

Thursday, June 17, 2021, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm (IST)

Panelists Profile



Chair/Moderator

Dr. Kirit Shantilal Parikh is the Chairman of Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe). He was Member of the Planning Commission in charge of energy and a member of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) of five Prime Ministers of India, National Committee for Environmental Planning & Coordination, the National Committee on Science and Technology and the Fuel Policy Committee. In 2009, Dr. Parikh was honoured with Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award in the Republic of India. He has authored, co-authored and edited several books in the areas of water resource management, appropriate technology for housing, energy systems and policy, trade policies, and environmental governance. He has a Doctor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master's Degree in Economics from MIT, USA.



Dr. Rakesh Sarwal is a Senior Indian Administrative Services officer with a medical degree and a Doctorate Degree in Public Health from John Hopkins University, U.S.A. He has served as Planning Secretary in Tripura and as Joint Secretary in the Department of Public Enterprises in the Government of India. As Additional Secretary in NITI Aayog, he handles the energy portfolio covering policy- related matters of five energy Ministries



Mr. Sulakshana Jayawardena is Director General of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA). He has extensive experience of working in the energy industry and has led multiple renewable and energy efficiency programs and activities of SLSEA in Sri Lanka. Mr. Jayawardena holds a Bachelor's degree focused in Science from University of Peradeniya.



Dr. Vaibhav Chaturvedi is an economist who leads CEEW's work on Low-Carbon Pathways. His research focuses on energy and climate change mitigation policy issues, especially those impacting India, within the integrated assessment modelling framework of the Global Change Assessment Model (GCAM). He has been a part of Government of India committees on energy and climate policy. He actively publishes in, and reviews articles for, leading international energy and climate policy journals. He holds a Doctorate in Economics from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and a Master's degree in Forest Management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.



Mr. Joe Phelan, is India Director of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, a global, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. Joe is responsible for raising the profile and engagement of Indian businesses internationally, and for scaling up joint action by business in support of India's development. He currently oversees programs engaging more than 60 companies in action in India in areas such as energy, water, electric mobility and more resilient agriculture. Prior to joining WBCSD, Joe held senior roles with the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum.



Mr. Md. Akhter Hossain Apurbo is the Director of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), the custodian of the knitwear sector of Bangladesh that stands as the second-largest apparel exporter in the world. He has more than 11 years of experience in the readymade garments industry in Bangladesh having vast working experience as a Socio-Economic Researcher. He holds a Joint European Master's Degree in Comparative Local Development from the University of Trento, Italy, and an MSS and BSS in Economics from the University of Dhaka.