

Asia Clean Energy Forum 2021

USAID Side Event - Decarbonization Pathways in South Asia

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

Speakers Profile



Monali Zeya Hazra is the Regional Energy Manager and Clean Energy Specialist with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) India. She is a post-graduate in Environmental Management from Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, Kolkata. With around 23 years of experience, she has managed several USAID's clean energy programs including renewable integration, regional power trade, cleaner fossil, distribution reforms, and smart grids. Prior to USAID, Ms. Zeya-Hazra led the Industry and Environment Team at the Centre for Science and Environment.



Julia Kennedy is the Director, Indo Pacific Office (A), USAID/India and was previously the Deputy Director of the Clean Energy and Environment Office. Ms. Kennedy has served in Haiti and Ecuador. Before joining USAID, she worked for the Department of State climate change negotiations team and reported on environment issues for the U.S. embassy in Chad. Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Kennedy worked for a non-profit supporting community economic development and sustainable urban design in Chicago. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Ms. Kennedy holds a Master's degree in Global Environmental Policy from American University and a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from Brown University. She is from Brooklyn, New York.



David Palchak is an engineer in the Grid Planning and Analysis Center at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. His work addresses the challenges associated with renewable energy integration on the power system and has involved multiple stakeholders driven projects on the Eastern and Western Interconnections of North America and India. He has led studies that analyze the impact of wind and solar on the power system and identifies the value of mitigation options such as storage, demand response, operating reserves, thermal fleet flexibility, and transmission expansion. He recently co-led a renewable energy integration study for India, which analyzes the operational impacts of India's 2022 installed capacity target of 160 GW wind and solar. He continues to work with various India power sector stakeholders to address issues related to clean energy integration, such as energy storage integration, resource adequacy, and planning for high levels of renewable energy. He holds an M.S. in mechanical engineering.



Dr. Sha Yu is a staff scientist at the Joint Global Change Research Institute at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and holds a joint appointment with the University of Maryland's Center for Global Sustainability. She is an expert in energy and environmental issues, with a focus on decarbonization pathways, energy system transition, climate finance, and smart cities. Dr. Yu leads research on long-term deep decarbonization strategies, net-zero carbon buildings, and industry transformation, including studies in South Asian countries. Dr. Yu also leads the development and application of a state-of-art integrated assessment model with subnational details and contributed to the development of GCAM-India, which is used to explore energy transition in India at both national and state levels. Prior to joining PNNL, Dr. Yu lived and worked on international development in Hyderabad, India.



Dr. Nikit Abhyankar is a Scientist in the International Energy Analysis Department at LBNL. He has conducted extensive research and policy analysis on a range of key energy issues such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and energy access in United States and key emerging economies such as India, China, Indonesia, and Vietnam. In particular, his research focuses on the following areas: (i) renewable energy resource assessment and grid integration, (ii) electricity markets and policies, (iii) technology and policy / program assessments for appliance efficiency improvement, (iv) impact of transport electrification on the grid, and (v) technology solutions for expanding energy access. Prior to joining LBNL, Nikit worked with Prayas Energy Group in India where he analyzed the prevalent regulatory and policy issues in the Indian power sector. Nikit has a PhD in Environment and Resources from Stanford University. He has a master's degree in Economics and an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering.