

ENERGY FINANCE CONFERENCE- INDIA 2020

Theme: The Political Economy of Energy Transition

Format: On Zoom Platform (Registration Required) | **December 7-18, 2020**

Programme Schedule

Day 1, 7th December 2020

3:00-6:00 pm: **Inaugural Session**

Chair: **Sudhir Chella Rajan**, *Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras*

Speakers:

Makoma Lekalakala (*South African Activist and Winner of 2018 Goldman Environmental Prize*)

Lisa Badum (*Member of Parliament, Germany*)

Vandana Shiva, (*Environmental Activist & Food Sovereignty Advocate*)

Sagar Dhara (*Environmental / Climate Scientist*)

Ajay Shankar (*Distinguished Fellow, TERI India*)

E A S Sarma (*Former Secretary, Ministry of Power & Ministry of Finance*)

Thematic Sessions

Day 2, 9th December 2020

3:00-6:00 pm: **What Could Energy Transition Entail in the Indian Context? Lessons to be Learned from the Global Experiences**

Session Brief:

- The fiscal imbalances and inaccuracies in the demand-supply energy chain all around the globe, including India, still makes access to energy the right and privilege of a few.
- The significance of reaffirming access to energy as a fundamental human right to be able to take forward conversations on energy conservation or equitable distribution.
- An appraisal of the socio-economic and ecological concerns associated with the use and abuse of fossil fuels, along with the economics and politics of coal to non-coal, particularly RE, transition in India.

- What could be the potential possibilities for ushering in an era of energy democracy in countries like India while drawing from the successful and floundering energy transition experiences around the world?
- How effective would renewable energy technology be as an alternative energy model that can serve as the “quick fix” to all the energy conundrums in the country?

Chair: Aarti Khosla, *Director, Climate Trends*

Speakers:

Lidy Nacpil, *Coordinator, Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD) & Asian Energy Network*

- How can the global discourses on energy transition be mandated to encompass social, gender and climate justice goals?

Soumya Dutta, *Advisory Board member - UN Climate Technology Centre & Network*

- An Inquiry in to the current socio-ecological drifts in energy transition.

Rahul Tongia, *Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress*

- A review of the appropriate technological headway and policy measures required to facilitate a sustainable transition in India.

Thomas Spencer, *Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)*

- What can we learn from the history and current state of energy transition for India?

Sreekumar Nhalur, *Prayas Energy Group*

- The permutations and combinations within the Indian power sector, shaped and swayed by the energy transition in motion.

Day 3, 11th December 2020

3:00-6:00 pm: **Re-alignments and Progressions in National & International Policies and Governance Practices; Are Justice and Equity the Real Drivers of the Current Energy Shifts in India?**

Session Brief:

- An overview of the ramifications of the policy decision processes on the energy supply infrastructure in India and the linkages of the governance institutions to equitable and clean energy distribution across its states.
- If energy is the key binder of communities and nations, how has the energy efficiency gap in India and the corresponding economic and environmental measures policy measures augmented or pulled down the energy economy of the country?
- Have the policies and practices guiding institutionalization of energy projects in the country kept energy security for the marginalized, and mitigation of environmental repercussions emanating from over-projection of demands as their central objectives?

- An assessment of how the global policy movements have influenced and shaped the motivations behind India's current energy policies and governance mechanisms.
- What constitutes the best available framework for the policy focus to move away from a chiefly federal framework to a more regionally concentrated structure?

Chair: Srinivas Krishnaswamy, *CEO, Vasudha Foundation India*

Speakers:

Ashwini K Swain, *Fellow, Centre for Policy Research*

- Federal governance and energy transition in India.

Tejal Kanitkar, *Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies*

- How 'just' is the most sanctioned Indian just energy transition?

Gireesh Shrimali, *Sustainable Finance Initiative, Stanford University*

- The federal and state policies and institutional mechanisms influencing and informing the coal to renewable transition in India and beyond.

Sreedhar Ramamurthi, *Environics Trust*

- Energy justice for the neglected and alleviating environmental ramifications of transition with focus on coal-mine rehabilitation.

Day 4, 14th December 2020

3:00-6:00 pm: The Socio-Ecological and Cultural Costs of Energy Transitions; Are Sustainability and Sustenance at Crossroads in the Indian Energy Story?

Session Brief:

- Energy transition is indeed a big disruptive technical shift that goes beyond the narrow exigencies of source and delivery of energy.
- Along with the prospects of a reliable supply security, energy transition also entails demographic, ecological, employment and health concerns, as it essentially involves a reallocation of habitation, income and opportunities too.
- Looking from the prism of how transition alters the economic, environmental, cultural and societal situations of particular households and communities, how does one critically evaluate the continued reliance on coal in the Indian subcontinent as the cheapest solution to energy access and a dependable mode of financial guarantee for many?
- What are the political ramifications of transitions, beyond just the concerns of cost and supply, that needs to be compensating the abandoned, left behind to deprivation and vulnerability in the process?
- How do we establish the link between the economic, cultural and socio-ecological structures at work in India with the continuing energy transition campaigns within the country, informed and influenced by experiences from outside?

Chair: Ashish Kothari, *Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group*

Speakers:

Shripad Dharmadhikary, *Manthan Adhyayan Kendra*

- Environmental sustainability of the ongoing energy transition in India.

Gautam Mody, *General Secretary, New Trade Union Initiative*

- Labour rights and reforms through the prism of redistribution of employment avenues in transition times.

Samantha Smith, *Lawyer, Activist & Director of the Just Transition Centre*

- Global overview of the employment and labour exigencies in the transition to a zero carbon economy.

Bhargavi Rao, *Deputy Director, Centre for Financial Accountability*

- Gender in transition: Is the apparent transition to clean energy gender inclusive?

Manshi Asher, *Himdhara, Environment Research and Action Collective*

- Dialogues on the inter-linkages between environmental justice and a 'just' energy transition.

Day 5, 16th December 2020

3:00-6:00 pm: **Financing the Great Indian Energy Transition: Market Regulations, State Policies and International Financial Institutions Determining Access to Capital**

Session Brief:

- An analysis of the centrality of the sustainable finance model framework.
- What relevance does the demand for localized, distributed and affordable energy solutions hold for a country like India?
- An inquiry into the regulatory policy framework and financial governance strategy of India to help build a sustainable finance ecosystem within the country.
- What has been the role of international financial institutions like the Multilateral Development Banks in the funding of energy infrastructure in India
- Has the institution of pension funds or the endorsement of insurance companies finding common grounds with the larger transitory goal of equitable resource deployment across the country?
- How can the Indian government set an agenda for financing energy transitions by bringing together the public and the private on the shared target of a viable financial model, rooted in policy certainty and innovative financial solutions?

Chair: Arjun Dutt, *Senior Analyst, CEEW Centre for Energy Finance*

Speakers:

Amit Jain, *Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank*

- The role of Multilateral Development Banks in the global framework of energy transition.

Ashok Sreenivas, *Prayas Energy Group*

- Where and how should the requisite finances be invested to facilitate a sustainable transition model?

Vibhuti Garg, *Energy Finance Analyst, Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis*

- The role of financial incentives like subsidies and tax regulations in engineering equitable energy transitions in India and beyond.

Joe Athialy, *Executive Director, Centre for Financial Accountability*

- How the great Indian “fossil to renewable” transition is aided and guided by the banking system within the country.

Justin Guay, *Director, Global Climate Strategy Sunrise Project*

- The role and nature of international funding in energy transitions and latest trends in the international investment outflows within the global transition patterns.

Day 6, 18th December 2020

3:00-6:00 pm: Transforming Transportation, Agriculture and Industry in the Transition Age: A Contextual Reading of the Inter-linked Trappings within Distinct Sectors of Indian Economy.

Session Brief:

- The transition phase that India in particular and the world at large is currently experiencing involves significant convergence, consolidation and contestations among different economic categories.
- Sectors like agriculture, industry and transportation play an important role in the energy transition processes due to the historical involvement of these categories in managing the key resources and essentials, like land, mobility, GDP or domestic supply networks that defines and makes transition possible.
- An evaluation of the operational energy efficiency within the Indian industrial sector that had to both deploy new technology and adjust to additional policy mandates with the country navigating through an apparent transition from disruption to growth .

- What are the capital and energy costs of the new transportation infrastructure that occupies the centre of the operational mobility of a post-carbon economy?
- How has the new systems-driven transportation paradigm, with battery electricity storage systems and electric vehicles, fared in conferring the desired flexibility to balance demand and supply during the transition from coal to renewable in India?
- How has the sustainable agro-models been able to strike a balance between maximizing crop productivity while minimizing detrimental environmental impacts and maintaining economic stability within the country?

Chair: Sarah Alexander, *Senior Adviser, SELCO Foundation*

Speakers:

Karthik Ganesan, *Research Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment and Water*

- Energy efficiency in the industrial sector and its impact on the ongoing transition to renewable energy in India.

Mahesh Patankar, *Senior Advisor and Consultant, Interim India Program, RAP*

- Urban solutions to the economic riddles of energy transition in India.

Randheer Singh, *Senior Specialist, NITI Aayog*

- A review of the issues and challenges within the electric vehicle technology to facilitate an optimal power utilization of alternative energy resources.

Aditi Mukherji, *Principal Researcher, International Water Management Institute*

- The pros and cons in the advent of renewable energy as the new alternative to farm the sun and the wind, in a bid to dislodge the dependability on fossils as the immortal “cash crops”.

Dinesh Mohan, *Honorary Professor, Transportation Research & Injury Prevention Programme, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi*

- Examining the possibilities of alternative public and private transportation strategies to guide the ongoing transition better, while also analysing the current policies and implementation in practice