

IRENA Policy Talks 2020

Stimulating Investment in Community Energy

Bios of Speakers



Ms. Gauri Singh
Deputy Director-General, IRENA

Ms. Gauri Singh is a career bureaucrat with an experience of over thirty years in policy formulation, implementation and policy advocacy in the field of renewable energy, sustainable development and livelihoods. She has worked at the federal level in the Government of India and in Madhya Pradesh. At the federal level, particularly in the field of new and renewable energy, she has vast experience of policy formulation, coordination, and international cooperation. Policy initiatives led by her include, the policy framework of National Solar Mission of India 2010, to build solar power capacities in India. More recently, she steered the rural development sector, in Madhya Pradesh. In this role she provided strategic guidance for planning and implementing large impact community led initiatives, for poverty reduction and sustainable development. She is an alumna of Delhi University, India with major in Economics.



Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi
Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA

At IRENA since 2011, Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi is currently the Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre. She is an international economic development and energy expert focused on the renewables-based energy transitions, its long-term socio-economic impacts and financing needs. She leads a multi-disciplinary team to provide valuable evidence-based policy and investment to advice countries and contribute to the global discourse on the energy transitions. Dr. Ferroukhi worked with the public and private sectors, including with governments globally, energy companies, international institutions, and academia and research centers. Dr. Ferroukhi holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the American University in Washington DC.



Ms. Anna Skowron
Programme Manager 100% Renewable Energy, World Future Council

Ms. Anna Skowron is a passionate advocate for a 100% renewable energy future. She works as Programme Manager for 100% Renewable Energy at the World Future Council (WFC) where she supports countries and civil society to develop country-tailored, long-term renewable energy strategies, maximising the manifold benefits of renewables and breaking up silo-thinking. Before joining the WFC, Ms. Skowron has worked with the Climate Action Network International and the UN in Indonesia.



Mr. Stefan Gsänger
Secretary General, World Wind Energy Association
Chair of Coalition for Action Working Group on Community Energy

Mr. Stefan Gsänger has managed the World Wind Energy Association (WWEA) since its foundation in 2001. Under his direction, WWEA has become the voice of the wind sector worldwide, with members in over 100 countries. In addition to co-chairing the IRENA Coalition for Action Community Energy Working Group, Mr. Gsänger is the co-chair of the Global100% Renewable Energy Platform as well as a member of the managing committee of the REN Alliance and of the REN21 steering committee.



Dr. Atiur Rahman
Bangabandhu Chair Professor at the University of Dhaka and former Governor of the Central Bank of Bangladesh

Dr. Atiur Rahman is an honorary Professor of Development Studies and Bangabandhu Chair Professor at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. From 2009 to 2016, Dr. Rahman was the tenth Governor of the Central Bank of Bangladesh where he supported a pro-poor, inclusive and sustainable development model through his flagship initiatives of financial inclusion and environmentally benign financial services including mobile and agent banking innovations. He is currently serving as a Special Adviser to Social Innovation Japan (SIJ) and has previously served as a member of the Advisory Board of UNEP's "Inquiry on Designing Global Sustainable Finance". Dr. Rahman holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.



Ms. Habiba Ali
Managing Director and CEO, Sosai Renewable Energies

Ms. Habiba Ali is the Founder, Managing Director and CEO of Sosai Renewable Energies, a company that empowers Nigeria's local business and communities with affordable renewable energy solutions including solar dryers, rooftop solar panels and micro-grids for communities. The company also provides economic empowerment opportunities for women and youth through the selling of its products. In addition, Ms. Ali was a co-founder of the Developmental Association for Renewable Energies and has worked on several other clean energy initiatives including Clean Development Mechanism's Efficient Cook Stoves for Nigeria project. Ms. Ali has been named a Vital Voices GROW fellow, a Vital Voices Global Ambassador's Program mentee and a World Bank Womenx fellow.



Dirk Vansintjan
President, REScoop.eu

Mr. Dirk Vansintjan is one of the founding members of Ecopower, a Belgian citizen energy cooperative with nearly 60 000 members. He has been working in the renewable energy sector since 1985 and continues to push for an energy transition that leads to energy democracy. Today Mr. Vansintjan is a board member of Ecopower and the President of REScoop.eu, the European federation of citizen energy cooperatives. An expert on community energy and well-experienced with European projects, Mr. Vansintjan was the coordinator of REScoop 20-20-20 and is presently closely involved in several projects including ECCO, COMPILE, FLEXCoop and the COME RES project.