

IRENA Policy Talks 2020

Renewable Energy Policies in a Time of Transition: Heating and Cooling

Bios of speakers



Francesco La Camera
Director-General, IRENA

Mr. Francesco La Camera is the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). He has more than thirty years of experience in the fields of climate, sustainability, and international cooperation. He formerly served as Director-General of Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, EU and International Affairs at the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea. In this capacity, he developed cooperation and partnerships agreements with a wide range of countries, particularly developing countries. Mr. La Camera is widely credited with having spearheaded international cooperation on issues related to climate change and the environment. He played a key role in bringing together multilateral organisations to develop joint initiatives designed to implement the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. He has also coordinated a number of national strategies including on sustainable development, green finance and fossil fuel subsidies among other things.



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.



Rana Adib
Executive Director, REN21

Ms. Rana Adib is the Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21). REN21 is a global public-private multi-stakeholder network on renewable energy headquartered at the United Nations Environment Programme in Paris, France. Previously, Rana was REN21's Research Coordinator developing the international expert community and leading the REN21 Renewables Global Status Report series to become an international reference. Prior to REN21 Rana worked in private industry and applied research in the areas of renewable energy, energy access, and waste management. She was also responsible for coordinating the biogas-to-energy research programme of Veolia Environment. Rana holds a Master Degree in industrial engineering from the University of Wedel in Germany. She has over 20 years' experience in the energy sector.



Paolo Frankl
Head, Renewable Energy Division, IEA

Dr. Paolo Frankl is Head of the Renewable Energy Division at the International Energy Agency (IEA), which he joined in 2007. He leads the IEA's work on renewables, providing analysis and advice on policies, markets and technologies to 30 Member and eight Association countries. A physicist by training, Dr. Frankl holds a Ph.D. in energy and environmental technologies from the University of Rome and has been post-doc Marie Curie research fellow at INSEAD business school in Fontainebleau, France. He has 30 years of experience working on renewable energy systems and markets, life cycle assessment and eco-labeling.



Peter Lundberg
Head of Operations at Asia Pacific Urban Energy Association (APUEA)

Mr. Peter Lundberg is an energy engineer with fifteen years of experience as Team Leader, Project Manager, Technical Manager, System Designer, and Project Planner. He has wide international experience working on projects in Scandinavia, Europe, and Asia. He has extensive experience in district heating, district cooling, energy efficiency, renewable energy, demand side management (DSM), and sustainable urban development. Currently, Mr. Lundberg is the Head of Operations at the Asia Pacific Urban Energy Association (APUEA) in Bangkok, Thailand. He is leading the APUEA secretariat to explore, develop and promote sustainable energy in the Asia Pacific region.



Weiquan Wang
Deputy Secretary General of Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA)

Mr. Weiquan Wang is the Deputy Secretary General of Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA). He is a Registered Consulting Engineer and has been working on renewable energy over 15 years in Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association (CREIA). Mr. Wang is focusing on the industry and policy analysis of renewable energy, including biomass energy, solar energy, wind energy, geothermal, etc. He has participated in many research and study about renewable energy such as renewable energy planning, roadmap for distributed energy, market and policy of power sector, renewable energy heating in the north of China, financing mechanism for renewable energy, cooperation and technology transfer on renewable energy between China and Africa etc. Mr. Wang has a good network in renewable energy field and particularly in clean heating area.



Simeon Agada
Head of Clean Energy and Advanced Economies at the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Mr. Simeon Agada is the Head of Clean Energy and Advanced Economies at the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Simeon is responsible for the UK's bilateral energy relationship with the US, Canada, Japan and South Korea. He is the lead UK representative to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM). Prior to his current role, Simeon was an Energy Strategy Advisor at BEIS; contributing to the development and delivery of UK energy policy. He has served in multiple operational and leadership roles in the energy industry. Simeon started his career as a Petroleum Engineer at Baker Hughes GE where he designed and coordinated international energy projects. He holds a Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering from Heriot-Watt University and a Postdoctoral Fellowship from Imperial College London.



Thomas Nowak
Secretary-General of the European Heat Pump Association

Mr. Thomas Nowak is a long term (renewable) energy aficionado. Apart from closely following the energy transition both in the electricity and heating sectors, he is the owner of a heat pump, a PV power plant and a building in which both peacefully cooperate. In his professional live, Thomas represents the European Heat Pump Association (EHPA) as Secretary General in Brussels. Thomas has published several articles on heat pump technology and the integration of heat pumps in the energy system and has spoken on this topic in European and international conferences. He has also been contributing to scientific publications including the IEA energy technology perspectives and the REN21 Renewables Global Status Report. Thomas holds a university degree in business administration and economics.



Roni Chandra Harahap
Head of Geothermal Engineering and Environment Sub-Directorate, Directorate of Geothermal, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Indonesia

Mr. Roni Chandra Harahap is the Head of Geothermal Engineering and Environment Sub-Directorate, Directorate of Geothermal, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Indonesia. He is responsible for managing and supervising the safety and environmental aspects of every geothermal project throughout Indonesia. He graduated from Padjadjaran University, with a Bachelor's degree in Geology in 2004. After graduating, he continued his studies at the University of Indonesia and completed his Masters in Government Accounting in 2010. He has extensive experience in geothermal development in Indonesia and was assigned to several divisions such as investment, cooperation, planning, and exploration / exploitation prior to his current position.



Monkogigi Otlhogile
PEAK Platform Manager, Power for All

Ms. Monkogigi Otlhogile (aka MK) is Power for All's Platform for Energy Access Knowledge's Manager. Through data curation and research, MK is working on improving data dissemination and visibility for Power for All partners and organizations in the wider energy access sector. Outside of Power for All, in addition to being a climate change advocate, MK is a consultant working with energy start-ups, corporate clients and development agencies on monitoring and evaluation systems. Monkogigi graduated with her Masters from the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley in 2016 with a specialization in energy economics.