

CLEAN EDGE ASIA CONFERENCE
2023 • DHAKA

ASSESSING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SOUTH ASIA



BUREAU OF ENERGY RESOURCES OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Clean EDGE Asia Conference

Assessing Renewable Energy in South Asia

The Westin, Dhaka

May 22, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 5:20 p.m. BST

May 23, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. BST

Bangladesh is a low carbon emitting country susceptible to the non-traditional security threats brought about by climate change. As a growing economy, the country is looking for ways to meet rising energy demand, with estimates showing 60,000 megawatts of new power capacity will be needed by 2041. With a projected eight percent growth in electricity demand every year, Bangladesh has been spearheading regional cooperation and renewables development due to its high potential for wind and solar power generation and its climate change vulnerabilities. A leader in South – South cooperation, Bangladesh is looking to help drive action on climate mitigation and renewable development to face current challenges. This conference will explore avenues for cooperation between Bangladesh and its regional counterparts to advance a sustainable, equitable, and just energy transition in South Asia.

Day One, May 22

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Roy D. Kamphausen
The National Bureau of Asian Research

Ambassador Tariq Karim
Independent University, Bangladesh

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Framing Keynote Remarks

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen (Recorded Video Message)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury
Adviser (Minister) to the Prime Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Affairs, Bangladesh

Ambassador Peter Haas
U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Assessing the Potential: Land Use, Technology Innovation, and Infrastructure for Renewable Energy Deployment

Moderator: Thomas Lutken
The National Bureau of Asian Research

Panelists: Shafiqul Alam
Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis; 2021-22 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow
Topic: Overview of renewable energy in Bangladesh

Emadul Islam
Northeastern University; Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Topic: Water issues, maritime issues

Sidhanta Mehra
U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S.-Bangladesh Business Council
Topic: Capital needed for innovation

Muhammad Murshed Haider
Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy; TetraTech
Topic: Role for PPP

12:15 p.m. - 12:25 p.m.

Break

12:25 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.

Market and Policy Mechanisms: Action to Support the Energy Transition

Moderator:

Mikkal E. Herberg

University of California, San Diego; The National Bureau of Asian Research

Panelists:

Zahid Hasan

Bangladesh Power Development Board; 2022-23 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow

Topic: Reverse auction of renewables, general market mechanisms

Deepak Rauniar

Oorja World

Topic: International financing

Astha Gupta

Consultant to the International Energy Agency; 2020-21 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow

Topic: Energy transition geoeconomics

1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Lunch

2:40 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.

Capacity Building: Training for a Rehaul of Energy and Environmental Systems

Moderator:

Rohini Kamal

Brac University

Panelists:

Alam Hossain Mondal

Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy; TetraTech

Topic: Youth training and education

Nurul Aktar

Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association; Energypac

Topic: Power system, technical training

3:55 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

Break

4:05 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

**Maximizing International Partnerships:
Mitigating Risk and Identifying Need for Cooperation**

Moderator: Tom Cutler
Cutler International LLC

Panelists: Amb. Tariq Karim
Independent University, Bangladesh
Topic: The role for international cooperation

Kelly Hewitt
Asian Development Bank
Topic: Mitigating risk in growing economies

Zaki Mohammad Ziaul Islam
Japan International Cooperation Agency
Topic: Japanese investments in Bangladesh

Rajiv Ratna Panda
Research Triangle Institute Global India Private Limited; South Asia Regional Energy Partnership; 2021-22 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow
Topic: Cross-border energy trade

5:20 p.m. - 5:25 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Thomas Lutken
The National Bureau of Asian Research

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Reception

Day Two, May 23

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.

Welcome Remarks and Recap

Thomas Lutken
The National Bureau of Asian Research

10:05 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

Regional Voices: Assessing Renewable Energy in South Asia

Moderator:

Thomas Lutken
The National Bureau of Asian Research

Discussants:

Mandira Adhikari
Nepal Electricity Authority; 2020-21 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow

Payal Dey
University of Petroleum and Energy Studies; 2022-23 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow

Niharika Tagotra
World Resources Institute, India; 2021-22 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow

11:20 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Closing Keynote Remarks

Waseqa Ayesha Khan
Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee at the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Bangladesh

Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury
Secretary (West), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh

12:00 p.m. - 12:10 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Roy D. Kamphausen
The National Bureau of Asian Research

Ambassador Tariq Karim
Independent University, Bangladesh

12:10 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

Speaker Bios

Mandira Adhikari – *Nepal Electricity Authority*

Mandira Adhikari is an Assistant Manager at Nepal Electricity Authority since 2014. She carries out power trading related activities in domestic and cross border power market. She plays a key role in preparation and negotiation of power purchase agreement between NEA and private hydropower developers for long term power procurement. During her 8+ years in the field, she has developed a firm understanding of Nepalese and Indian power market structure. She earned her MBA from Pokhara University and an MSc. in Mechanical Systems Design and Engineering from Tribhuvan University.

Nurul Aktar – *Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association; Energypac*

Nurul Aktar is currently holding the position of the President of Bangladesh Solar & Renewable Energy Association (BSREA), the President of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North, and Vice President of the Bangladesh Efficient Light Manufacturers Association. Mr. Aktar is also one of the board members of Energypac, a leading power engineering company in Bangladesh. He graduated from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in Chemical Engineering and completed his postgraduate Diploma in Industrial Management from the Bangladesh Institute of Management.

Shafiqul Alam – *Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis; 2021-22 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow*

Shafiqul Alam is IEEFA's Energy Finance Analyst for Bangladesh. Prior to joining IEEFA, Mr. Alam worked with international development agencies and private sector organizations across the broad spectrum of energy transition and climate change mitigation in various capacities. In 2018, he received the International Climate Protection Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany. Mr. Alam holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Khulna University of Engineering & Technology along with a Masters in environmental economics from Dhaka School of Economics and an MBA in finance from University of Dhaka.

Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury – *Secretary (West), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh*

A career diplomat, Ambassador Shabbir Ahmed Choudhury served as the former Foreign Affairs secretary (West) for Bangladesh and was the former Bangladesh High Commissioner in Mauritius. A graduate of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, he joined the Foreign Service in the 9th batch of BCS. Ambassador Chowdhury also served in Bangladesh's missions in Beijing, Brussels, London, and New York in different capacities.

Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury – *Adviser (Minister) to the Prime Minister for Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources Affairs, Bangladesh*

Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury was appointed adviser to the Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh in January 2009. Dr. Chowdhury holds the rank and status of Minister and advises on matters related to energy, power, and mineral resources. Prior to his appointment as Energy Adviser, he served nearly a decade as Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh in the Ministries of Food, Statistics, Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources, and Planning. Dr. Chowdhury was previously CEO and managing director of the Industrial Bank of Bangladesh. In

addition to his time in the government and private sector, he also lectured in economics at the University of Dhaka and served as a visiting fellow at Yale University's Economic Growth Center. Dr. Chowdhury earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Dhaka University, master's from Punjab University, and PhD from Harvard University. He joined the Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) in 1968 after a two-year stint as lecturer in economics in the University of Dhaka.

Tom Cutler – *Cutler International LLC*

Tom Cutler is President of Cutler International, an energy consulting firm specializing in Asia and Europe. Previously, Mr. Cutler was the director of the Office of European and Asia Pacific Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Over his 36-year career at the DOE, he served two terms as Chairman of NATO's Petroleum Planning Committee; managed DOE energy policy dialogues and programs with a number of countries including Indonesia, India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, APEC, ASEAN, Norway, the UK, and the EU; managed DOE's participation in all-source oil tanker tracking programs with the U.S. Navy; and worked in DOE's Office of Intelligence. Mr. Cutler has a B.A. in Government from Lawrence University and an M.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University.

Payal Dey – *University of Petroleum and Energy Studies; 2022-23 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow*

Payal Dey is Assistant Professor in Public Policy at the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES), located on the foothills of the Himalayas, India. Ms. Dey is concluding her PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi during which she received the Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship at the MIT Energy Initiative, Cambridge, USA. She has close to 12 years of experience that includes working with the erstwhile Planning Commission of India and the Ministry of Finance, Government of India – authoring several high-level policy documents. Ms. Dey obtained her MSc in Public Policy and Administration from the London School of Economics where she was a recipient of the LSE-India Scholarship.

Astha Gupta – *Consultant to the International Energy Agency; 2020-21 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow*

Astha Gupta has extensively worked in India's renewable energy sector for eight years. Ms. Gupta is currently an India consultant for the International Energy Agency (IEA) where she focuses on clean energy transitions in India and other South Asian countries. Prior to this, Ms. Gupta worked at The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), where she focused on renewable energy policy research, decentralized clean energy solutions, roadmap and strategies for clean energy deployment and bioenergy assessment.

Ambassador Peter Haas – *U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh*

The United States Senate confirmed Peter Haas as Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on December 18, 2021. Mr. Haas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, previously served as Acting Assistant Secretary and concurrently as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. He also previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Trade Policy and Negotiations. Mr. Haas has also served as Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative at the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), U.S. Consul General in Mumbai, India, and Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Other diplomatic postings include London, Rabat, Washington, Port-au-Prince, and Berlin. Mr. Haas

holds a BA in International Studies and German from Illinois Wesleyan University. He attended the London School of Economics as a Marshall Scholar, where he earned MSc (Econ) degrees in both the Politics of the World Economy and Comparative Government. He is the recipient of the State Department's James Clement Dunn Award for Excellence and the Cordell Hull Award for Economic Achievement by Senior Officers.

Muhammad Murshed Haider – *Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy; TetraTech*

Muhammad Murshed Haider has more than 20 years of experience in public-private partnerships, procurement of infrastructure projects, project management, project financing, and training. Currently, Mr. Murshed is working for TetraTech, one of the leading international consulting and engineering firms, as the Director of Private Sector Engagement and providing technical support in a project funded by USAID. Prior to joining Tetra Tech, he worked at the Prime Minister's Office with Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority as a PPP Expert. Throughout his career, Mr. Murshed had been involved with formulating policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks on PPP modality, investigating the private sector interest and capacity through stakeholder consultations for infrastructure and service sector PPP projects. Being the only Accredited PPP Trainer from Bangladesh, he conducted a series of trainings for professionals from Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa.

Zahid Hasan – *Bangladesh Power Development Board; 2022-23 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow*

Zahid Hasan is a Deputy Director at the Bangladesh Power Development Board with a wide range of experiences as an expert in planning, designing, procurement, and implementation of energy and power facilities, with projects majorly in green energy fields. Prior to this, Mr. Hasan managed the Energy Efficiency Component of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program as Component Manager and served as a Senior Advisor for the Sustainable Energy Development Program at GIZ. By training, he is a Mechanical Engineer from Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh and did his Master's in Sustainable Energy Systems and Management from the Europa Universität, Flensburg, Germany with support from DAAD.

Mikkal E. Herberg – *University of California, San Diego; The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Mikkal Herberg is a Senior Advisor to NBR and Research Director of NBR's Energy Security Program. Mr. Herberg is also a senior lecturer on international and Asian energy at the School for Global Policy and Strategy, University of California, San Diego. Previously, he spent 20 years in the oil industry in Strategic Planning roles for ARCO, where he was director of global energy and economics. Dr. Herberg writes and speaks extensively on Asian energy issues to the energy industry, governments, and major research institutions in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the U.S.

Kelly Hewitt – *Asian Development Bank*

Kelly Hewitt is a Principal Energy Specialist for the Central and West Asia Department at ADB. Ms. Hewitt leads energy sector programs, projects, restructuring and development strategies in Central West Asia. She has more than 25 years of experience in power, and gas market regulation and reform, energy efficiency, climate mitigation, and renewable energy. Prior to joining ADB, Ms. Hewitt worked at Washington Gas, BGE, U.S. Department of Energy (FERC), the Integrated Energy Resources Planning Division of the Maryland Public Service Commission, the merger and acquisition group of Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts (currently – Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw

Pittman LLP), and the energy law boutique firm Bruder, Gentle & Marcoux (absorbed by Shciff Harden LLP). She served in Bangladesh for almost 6 years as Chief of Party over USAID's program - Improved Capacity for Energy Access. Ms. Hewitt is a master degreed economist, juris doctorate lawyer, and Harvard University Kennedy School MPA Graduate.

Emadul Islam – *Northeastern University; Sasakawa Peace Foundation*

Emadul Islam is a research fellow at the Ocean Policy Research Institute at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan. Prior to this, Dr. Islam served as a development expert and researcher in three different organizations, including Transparency International Bangladesh; BRAC; and the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies at Independent University, Bangladesh for research and evaluation. He was conferred a PhD in Community Development under the Yayasan Khazanah scholarship from the University of Malaya, Malaysia in 2021. He was awarded the Fulbright Visiting Scholarship in 2022-23 for pursuing post-Doctoral research at Northeastern University.

Zaki Mohammad Ziaul Islam – *Japan International Cooperation Agency*

Zaki Mohammad Ziaul Islam is a Senior Program Manager at JICA's Bangladesh office. Mr. Islam has overseen JICA's power and energy sector for the last 16 years, and his scope of work ranges from renewable energy to energy efficiency and conservation. In his role, he implemented major studies financed by JICA in Bangladesh, such as the Power System Master Plan for 2010 and 2016, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan, and the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan for the Government of Bangladesh. Mr. Islam received his Masters in International Relations and an MBA in Finance from the University of Dhaka.

Waseqa Ayesha Khan – *Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee at the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Bangladesh*

Waseqa Ayesha Khan is representing Chattogram for the second term in the Bangladesh Parliament and is a fourth-generation public representative. Ms. Khan presently serves as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee within the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and is also serving a second term as a member of the Public Accounts Committee, the Committee on Estimates of the Bangladesh Parliament, and as a Senate Member of Chittagong University. Additionally, she is the Finance and Planning Affairs Secretary of Bangladesh's Awami League Central Committee and a Co-Convener for the Climate Parliament in Bangladesh. Ms. Khan also represented the Asia-Pacific Group for three years in the Bureau of Women MPs of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. She was a banker by profession, having held senior management positions in two well-known international banks spanning a career of 17 years. An accountant by training, Ms. Khan has a post graduate degree in accountancy. She is an active Rotarian, a Paul Harris Fellow, and a Capstone Course alum of the National Defense College.

Rohini Kamal – *Brac University*

Rohini Kamal is a Research Fellow at BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), Brac University and is leading BIGD's Environment and Climate Change research. Dr. Kamal is also an Assistant Professor for the Master of Development Studies Programme at BIGD. She completed her PhD in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and her last appointment was as a research fellow at the Global Development Policy Center at Boston University where she investigated the environmental and distributional impacts of energy financing made by Chinese and other key regional/global banks, and development institutions. Prior to her doctoral studies, Dr. Kamal worked at Urban Climate Change Research Network, a

project under NASA/GISS and the Earth Institute, on using climate information for urban policy as part of her Master's degree at Columbia University.

Roy Kamphausen – *The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Roy D. Kamphausen is President of the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR). As a specialist on a range of U.S.-Asia issues, Mr. Kamphausen has led and contributed substantively to NBR's research initiatives. He is the author, contributing author, or co-editor of numerous publications, including chapters in NBR's Strategic Asia series; the Carlisle People's Liberation Army Conference series, and an NBR Special Report on innovation in India (2015). Prior to joining NBR, he served as a career U.S. Army officer.

Ambassador Tariq Karim – *Independent University, Bangladesh*

Ambassador Tariq Karim is a member of the Board of Advisors at the National Bureau of Asian Research and is the Director of the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies at the Independent University, Bangladesh. Ambassador Karim was formerly an advisor to the World Bank for Regional Integration, South Asian Region, during which he shepherded the initiation of power trade between Bangladesh and India, and facilitated talks between Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India for working towards regional energy security. Prior to this, he was Bangladesh's immediate past High Commissioner to India with the rank and status of a Minister of State, from August 2009 until October 2014. Ambassador Karim has also served ambassadorial assignments in Washington D.C., Pretoria, and Tehran. He was at the University of Maryland from 1999 to 2000 as a distinguished international executive in residence, and subsequently from 2002 to 2004 as consultant/senior adviser in the IRIS Centre of the University of Maryland. Ambassador Karim was also an adjunct faculty member teaching courses in Government & Politics, International Relations, and Business & Politics at the University of Maryland, George Washington University and Virginia International University, respectively, from 2004-2008.

Thomas Lutken – *The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Thomas Lutken is a project manager with the Energy and Environmental Affairs group at NBR. In this role, Mr. Lutken helps manage NBR's ongoing projects on environmental policy, sustainability, and energy security. Prior to joining NBR, he worked as a researcher in U.S.-India Policy Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and as a Hydrologic Technician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Brown University in 2014 and a master's degree in environmental economics and policy from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment in 2019, where he researched the economic impacts of electricity quality in rural India.

Sidhanta Mehra – *U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Bangladesh Business Council*

Sidhanta Mehra is the Director for the U.S. Chamber's U.S.-Bangladesh Business Council and Director for Energy, Environment and Infrastructure the U.S.-India Business Council. Mr. Mehra is leading U.S. Chamber's efforts to add more transparency and depth to U.S. business engagement with South Asia. He previously worked at the Wadhvani Chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies at the Washington, D.C.-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies. At CSIS, Mr. Mehra was responsible for the administration of the U.S.-India State and Urban Initiative, the chair's first-of-its-kind effort to build subnational partnerships to drive energy development in India and the United States.

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen – *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh*

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen is the Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) of Bangladesh since December 2019. As a career diplomat, Ambassador Momen has long been serving in different capacities at the Headquarters and Bangladesh's Missions abroad. Prior to his appointment as the Foreign Secretary, he had been Bangladesh's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations since 2015. Before that, Ambassador Momen served as Bangladesh's Ambassador to Japan from 2012 to 2015. He also served as Ambassador to Italy and Permanent Representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development from 2008 to 2012. From 2006 to 2008, he was the Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka and was responsible for matters related to South Asia, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Human Rights and the United Nations. Ambassador Momen was Deputy High Commissioner at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, India, from 2004 to 2006, prior to serving as Director of Poverty Alleviation at SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 2001 to 2004. From 1998 to 2001, he was Director in charge of the Foreign Ministry's United Nations Wing and Foreign Secretary's Office in Dhaka. Ambassador Momen also served as a First Secretary and Counsellor at Bangladesh High Commission, Islamabad from 1996 to 1998. Prior to that, he served at Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations from 1992 to 1996. Ambassador Momen holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He holds another Master's degree in Economics and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Dhaka.

Alam Hossain Mondal – *Bangladesh Advancing Development and Growth through Energy; TetraTech*

Alam Hossain Mondal has more than 20 years of broad energy sector experience, including in energy security, policy, reliable modern access, roadmaps development, regional energy trading, low-carbon development strategies, energy demand projections, energy systems modeling, power systems, sector reforms, renewable energy readiness (RE-readiness) assessment, energy economics, sustainable energy future, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Dr. Mondal has contributed to the development of integrated energy modeling frameworks to design sector strategies in Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Philippines and United Arab Emirates. He is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and member of various professional organizations such as the IEEE Power & Energy Society, International Association of Energy Economics (IAEE), Energy and Social Science Network (EASSN), and Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS).

Rajiv Ratna Panda – *Research Triangle Institute Global India Private Limited; South Asia Regional Energy Partnership; 2021-22 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow*

Rajiv Ratna Panda is an international energy expert, electrical engineer, management, research, energy policy, development, strategy, and multiregional energy system professional with expertise in cross-border energy trade, energy/power grid integration strategy, energy commerce and trade, and regional power/energy markets, among other areas. Mr. Panda is a power market specialist for USAID's South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) program, implemented by RTI

International in partnership with its India affiliate, Research Triangle Institute Global India Private Limited (RTI India).

Deepak Rauniar – *Oorja World*

Deepak Rauniar is Founder and CEO of Oorja World, a digital marketplace of energy finance. Mr. Rauniar brings over a decade of leadership experience in the technology, finance, and energy domains. He has led the national Employees Provident Fund of Nepal, which is also the biggest investor in hydropower projects in the country. Further, Mr. Rauniar has led a public-sector hydropower investment company, where he led and concluded the financing of fifteen hydropower projects between 15 and 100 MW, financing arrangement of a 439 MW PRoR hydropower project, and financing agreements with the World Bank, IFC, and Asian Development Bank for a number of hydropower projects. He holds two Master's Degrees: one each in Computing and Business Administration.

Niharika Tagotra – *World Resources Institute, India; 2021-22 Clean EDGE Asia Fellow*

Niharika Tagotra is a Senior Research Specialist in the WRI India Energy Program. Before joining WRI, Dr. Tagotra was working as Consultant for Energy Security at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. She has a Masters in Nuclear Physics and a PhD in International Politics, and completed her Master in Philosophy (M.Phil) from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, in International Politics. Dr. Tagotra also has an M.Tech degree in Nuclear Science and Technology from the University of Delhi, and an MS degree in Nuclear Plant Design from the University of Paris. During her Masters, she interned at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalapakkam working on the indigenously developed Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) technology. Dr. Tagotra has also worked with the Atomic Energy Commission of France (CEA), Cadarache, as a Project Assistant on Sodium-cooled Fast Reactor Core (SFR) technology.