



**Launch Workshop:  
Think Tank Forum for South Asia Regional Co-operation  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
Hotel Shangri-La, Kathmandu, Nepal**





# SARI/EI Think Tank Forum (TTF)

## Background Note

As a part of the SARI/EI outreach agenda, it is envisaged to establish a network of leading think tanks in each participating South Asian country for initiating a discourse on the role of Cross Border Electricity Trade (CBET) in addressing energy demands for economic development. The local think tanks will be an important channel for positioning CBET in the national priorities of respective countries. They will play a key role in engaging politicians, government institutions, media and civil society, for engraving the roles of CBET in the realm of energy security and climate change agendas of these nations.

The Think Tank Forum (TTF) will be a network of leading think tanks in South Asia for engaging the civil society and media on the importance of CBET in the socio-economic development agendas of their countries. By establishing narratives and examples of the relevance of CBET in the energy security and climate change discourses, the TTF shall take these messages to the stakeholders in respective nations.

## Areas of Engagement

Following are the three broad areas of engagement with the think tanks, loosely encompassing areas of energy security and climate change agendas in the realm of socio-economic development. SARI/EI welcomes comments and suggestions in putting these objectives into perspectives in context to each participating country.

1. **CBET for energising South Asia under the Climate Change and Sustainable Development agenda:** A direct impact of CBET will be the reduction in GHG emissions due to improved access to clean energy. In case of South Asia, the emphasis is on developing the region's abundant hydropower potential. How will this clean energy access translate to the country's sustainable development objectives? It would be very useful to develop relevant indicators for identifying/measuring the positive changes as a result of CBET (that can be used by various agencies).
2. **CBET linkages to electricity access for livelihoods and gender mainstreaming:** The larger CBET discussions on power trade may not necessarily trickle down to the rural areas. Most of the rural areas in the region have no access and are not connected to the grid. For example, in the case of Nepal, only 63% of the population has access to grid electricity and even those with access face severe shortages due to heavy load shedding (around 12 hours per day). Taking these into consideration, how can CBET improve the linkages of energy access for rural technologies and gender mainstreaming? Has there been any changes in the lives of rural communities due to improved access to electricity as the regional grids get inter-connected.

- 3. Study on “transit villages” to see if they have benefited due to electricity access than the other villages in the neighbouring regions:** To study the energy access impacts on villages that act as “Transit Villages” for CBET. For example: there are 2 electricity transmission links between India and Bangladesh: the Baharampur-Bheramara cross-border power transmission that supplies 500 MW of electricity to Bangladesh and the 100 MW power supply from Tripura’s Palatana to Bangladesh. As electricity lines transit through these villages, a critical aspect would be to examine if these villages have benefited by achieving grid connections (improved electricity access). The survey could aim for comparative conclusions if these transit villages benefited due to better electricity access than the other villages in the neighbouring regions.

### Examples of activities identified are:

- **Policy Advocacy:**
  - o Preparing Policy Briefs, Organizing Seminars
  - o Engaging parliamentarians (example: engaging Parliamentary Committees or similar forums to reach out to politicians)
- **Media engagement**
  - o For policy interpretations (country specific media engagements)
  - o Public campaigns
  - o Facilitate public understanding of domestic and regional policy dynamics of CBET and prepare communication materials
- **Quantifying Impacts of:** Surveys that results in human stories.

### Project Duration

The maximum duration of the projects will be 6 months. The commencing dates will depend on how quickly the partner agencies are identified and activity areas are framed. IRADe will sign an MOU and a sub-contract with each participating agency.

### Expected Outcomes

- Evidences to quantify that CBET has created (or can create) positive impacts for socio-economic development
- Informed civil society and media: Advocating policy changes, organizing media events, news articles, enabling discussions
- Evidences of country government plans to widen/improve energy access especially with CBET interventions

- Surveys and human stories that indicate the benefits of CBET for socio-economic development
- Knowledge products necessary for bringing change on the ground in the favour of CBET

### **Small Grants Program**

- There is no fixed grant size.
- An average grant size foreseen is within the range of INR 300,000 to INR 500,000
- Project objectives and activities identified should justify the size of the grants
- A single entity can apply for two consecutive grants that will aid the results of the work
- Each grant should justify the specific set of activities and deliverables.
- If two consecutive grants are applied for, they should be complimentary in their objectives

### **Criteria for Grant Recipients**

- Should be legally established non-governmental organizations
- Have the requisite approval under each country's regulations that define accessing foreign funds (for example, like the FCRA in India)
- Have 'Energy' as one of the primary focus and have prior experience of similar work, preferably with crossover linkages in the areas of Climate change, Environment, Gender etc
- Should be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action and not acting as an intermediary;
- Are planning to take up activities that would be significantly enhanced by a small grant
- Willing to collaborate with local and regional networks of like-minded organizations.
- Actively seek to include the perspectives of those served by or benefiting from its activities (especially in the case of specific benefits of CBE)
- Recipients that are able to leverage other resources will be given a preference.

# Launch of SARI/EI Think Tank Forum for South Asia Regional Co-operation

15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 | Hotel Shangri-La's, Kathmandu, Nepal

## Workshop Agenda

15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2016	
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Pre-Dinner Meeting
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Dinner
16 <sup>th</sup> September, 2016	
12:30 pm – 1:15 pm	Registration & Lunch
1:15 pm- 1:20 pm	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> Ms. Monali Zeya Hazra, Regional Energy Manager and Clean Energy Specialist, USAID/India
1:20 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>Participant Introduction and overview of the agenda</b> Mr. Rohit Magotra, Asst. Director, IRADe
1:30 pm - 1:40 pm	<b>Overview of SARI/EI programme</b> Mr. V K Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI – IRADe
1:40 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Keynote address and presentation on the Need for Think Tank Forum &amp; Engagement Strategy</b> Prof. Jyoti K Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe
<b>2:00 pm – 5:35 pm</b>	<b>Think Tank Country Presentations on concept ideas for engagement and discussions</b> <b>Moderator</b> – Prof. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe
2:00 pm-2:15 pm	<b>Bangladesh</b> Dr. Atiq Rahman-Executive Director (BCAS)
2:15 pm-2:30 pm	<b>Bhutan</b>

	Mr. Jamyang Tashi- Managing Director (QED Group, Bhutan) Mr. Kinga Wangdi, Programme Officer (RSPN)
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>Pakistan</b> Mr Ibad Ur Rehman – Team Leader (LEAD)
2:45 pm- 3:30 pm	<b>Sri Lanka</b> Ms. Vositha Wijenayake - Director SLYCAN Trust Regional Facilitator for Asia: Southern Voices on Adaptation Ms. Priyangi Jayasinghe - Director Climate & Development Research (MIND) Ms. Anoja Wickramasinghe - Emeritus Professor (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Tea Break</b>
4:00 pm- 5:00 pm	<b>Nepal</b> Dr. Bishnu Pant- Executive Director (IIDS) Mr. Ajaya Dixit- Executive Director (ISET) Mr. Nirjan Rai – Executive Director (NITI Foundation) Dr Ramesh Vaidya- Senior Advisor (ICIMOD) Mr. Deependra Chaulagain- Director -Operations & Outreach (Samriddhi)
5:00 pm -5:15 pm	<b>Summing up the session by the Moderator</b>
5:15 pm – 6:00 pm	Deliberations on TTF Structure, Charter, timetables etc <b>Moderator</b> – Prof. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Conclusions and Way forward <b>Moderator</b> -Prof. Jyoti K Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe
6:30 pm- 6:35 pm	Vote of Thanks by Mr. Shankar Khagi, USAID/Nepal

# Think Tank Forum Profile

## SYLCAN TRUST

### Institutional Profile

SLYCAN Trust is a non-governmental organisation based in Sri Lanka, which focuses on climate change and social justice related issues at the national, regional and international level. Having existed in the form of a network since 2009, it was registered in 2015 as a Trust, and has since worked on policy advocacy, and research work engaging with multiple stakeholders. The organisation recently contributed to the development and preparing of the Readiness Action Plan for INDCs in Sri Lanka, and also in the implementation of several other research and advocacy initiatives on climate change adaptation, loss and damage, and low carbon development initiatives. A partner of the Nairobi Work Programme of the UNFCCC, SLYCAN Trust also engages at the international level on the UNFCCC negotiations, as well as other related initiatives at the regional, and national level.

### Participants Profile

#### Vositha Wijenayake, Executive Director, SYLCAN Trust

Vositha Wijenayake is Executive Director of SLYCAN Trust, and an Attorney-at-Law, specialising in public international law, and environmental law. She has an LL.M from University College London in Public International Law, and an LL. B from Queen Mary, University of London. Prior to joining SLYCAN Trust, she worked as Policy & Advocacy Coordinator of Climate Action Network South Asia, and co-chaired



the Legal Working Group of Climate Action Network International on the road to the Paris Agreement. Published on diverse issues related to climate change, she focuses mainly for her research interests on legal issues related to climate change, climate change adaptation, gender, loss and damage, and climate justice. She recently drafted the Readiness Action Plan for INDCs in Sri Lanka for the government of Sri Lanka, and also works as the Regional Facilitator for Asia, for Southern Voices on Adaptation.



**Munasinghe Institute for Development (MIND)**

**Institutional Profile**

MIND is a private, non-profit organization, that play a key role in nurturing communities of stakeholders and scholars to address major issues of Sustainable Development (SD) world-wide. MIND aims to explore viable means of achieving this goal in Sri Lanka and elsewhere without compromising social, economic, and environmental integrity.

MIND believes in the application of scientific knowledge to make development more sustainable (MDMS). We are committed to strengthening the linkages amongst civil society, the private sector and government. To this end, MIND has developed collaborative programmes with other organizations in Sri Lanka and abroad, that share similar goals. Energy is one of the main areas of work under the context of SD. MIND objectives are:

- To make development more sustainable by initiating research programmes, promoting intellectual activities, and implementing practical projects in relevant fields, including the life, physical, and social sciences.
- To increase awareness of the need to balance and integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- To improve the analytical and policy skills of public and private sector decision makers.
- To serve as a neutral forum where sustainable development issues can be discussed and debated.
- To provide scholarships and other awards for research in fields relating to sustainable development.


**Participants Profile**

**Ms. Priyangi Jayasinghe, Director, MIND**

Priyangi Jayasinghe, who works as the Director Climate change and Development Research at MIND, focuses on research for public and private sector, worldwide and provides insights, designs and manages social aspects of MIND research. Has conducted research on Energy in terms of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resource management for national and regional policy.



As a senior researcher, Priyangi Jayasinghe, specializes in delivering

	<p>both quantitative and qualitative research outputs with strong policy impacts. She has published in peer-reviewed journals globally.</p>
<p align="center"><b>National Network on Gender, Energy and Environment (NANEGE)</b></p>	
<p><b>Institutional Profile</b></p>	<p>The National Network on Gender and Energy was formed in 2002 with the institutional support extended by the University of Peradeniya. It was to contribute to develop gender responsive energy strategies contributing towards national development and engage in advocacy. The network facilitates and strengthens mutual and collaborative efforts through training, research, information and experience sharing to build capacity and capabilities of various agencies including NGOs and CBOs in engendering energy for sustainable development. It has 83 members representing academia, CBOs, and the private sector.</p> <p>NANEGE is heavily engaged in research in energy access, impact assessment of electricity access on women and enterprise development, and also in empowering women and rural agencies for renewable energy development. Its activities are supported by ENERGIA, UNDP, Practical Action, UNESCAP and many others. It is also involved in developing environmental and social safeguards for renewable energy and biomass energy development in Sri Lanka.</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Anoja Wickramasinghe, Emeritus Professor, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka</b></p> <p>Dr. Anoja Wickramasinghe is an Emeritus Professor of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. She has secured MSc. in Natural Resource Management and PhD in Forest Ecology from the University of Sheffield, UK. She has research experience in many countries in South Asia and worked with international agencies including F/FRED, FAO, World Bank, IFAD, UN-REDD, UNESCAP and ENERGIA.</p>  <p>She is a consultant to the world Bank on environmental and social safeguards and the FAO on biomass energy development. She is the coordinator of the National Network on Gender, Energy and Environment, and the focal point for ENERGIA. Over 100 research articles and several books have been published by Dr. Anoja Wickramasinghe.</p>

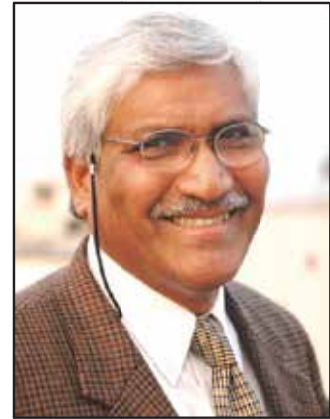
<b>QED Group</b>	
<b>Institutional Profile</b>	<p>Q.E.D. stands for the Latin word Quod Erat Demonstrandum, roughly translating to “It is proven.” The QED Consulting Group was founded on the belief that an argument is valid only when it is proven, and this is the goal that we strive to achieve in all our work.</p> <p>Based in Thimphu, Bhutan, QED’s major areas of work include research and consulting in the areas of economy, society, public policy, business and management. Our clients include the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Association of Bhutanese Industries (ABI), Representative Office of Denmark (ROD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Ministry of Labour &amp; Human Resources (MoLHR) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. With the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, QED organizes talks by international experts at the Royal Institute of Management in Semtokha.</p> <p>In addition to its commercial work, we are also involved in conducting independent research in areas of economic and social policy. Through opinion pieces, presentations and briefings to policy and business leaders, QED contributes to the national conversation on issues such as monetary and fiscal policy, energy policy and economic development.</p>
<b>Participants Profile</b>	<p><b>Jamyang Tashi, Managing Partner, QED Group</b></p> <p>Tel: +975- 17598140 Email: <a href="mailto:jamyangtashi@qedbhutan.com">jamyangtashi@qedbhutan.com</a></p>
<b>Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN)</b>	
<b>Institutional Profile</b>	<p>RSPN was founded as a citizen based non-profit, non-governmental environment organization in 1987 to support environment conservation in Bhutan. The Society was registered under the Companies Act of Bhutan until last quarter of 2009 without proper authority which regulated the non-profit organization, with a special clause on non-profit entity. With the establishment of Civil Society Organization Authority (CSOA) of Bhutan, the Society is now registered under Civil Society Organization Authority as one of the Public Benefit Organizations (PBO)</p>

	<p>RSPN's mission is to Inspire personal responsibility and active involvement of people of Bhutan conservation of Kingdom's environment though education, research and sustainable livelihoods opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Kinga Wangdi, Program Officer, RSPN</b></p> <p>Tel: +975-2-322056/326130 (O) +97517614889 (M) +975 2 322056 Fax: +975-2-323189 (O) Email: <a href="mailto:kingawangdi@gmail.com">kingawangdi@gmail.com</a></p> 
<p><b>Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)</b></p>	
<p><b>Institutional Profile</b></p>	<p>The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) is an independent, non-profit, non-government, policy, research and implementation institute working on Sustainable Development (SD) at local, national, regional and global levels. It was established in 1986 and over 25 years and has grown to become a leading research institute in the non-government sector in Bangladesh and South Asia.</p> <p>BCAS encourages multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary in its approaches of running programs and projects by working under four broad themes, Environment-development integration, Good governance and people's participation, Poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods, Economic growth and public-private partnership. BCAS has over hundred full-time and some part-time staff working in different capacities, with a large group of senior professionals and scientists, and many mid-level professionals and researchers.</p>

**Participants Profile**

**Dr. A Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, BCAS**

Dr. Rahman is a leading Environment and Development Specialist with wide national, international and global experience and involvement in Sustainable Development, Environment and Resource Management, poverty and equity, disaster management, people’s participation, global governance and modeling evaluation issues. He has been awarded the UN Highest Award for Environment “Champions of the Earth 2008”. This award recognizes "the extraordinary leadership and his contribution to environmental issues, sustainable development and climate change.



He is a well-recognized global leader in sustainable development. He was a lead author of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, which received Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He was a recipient of this Noble Peace Prize with other scientists. He is also the recipient of the ‘Paribesh Padak 2008’ the highest Environment Award of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh for “his contribution to research work and scientific innovation.”

**International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh**

**Institutional Profile**

ICCCAD is located in a country that is widely regarded as one of the most at risk from climate change, Bangladesh already suffers serious riverine floods, tropical cyclones, flash floods in the north east and water deficits in the North West. The aim of ICCCAD is to develop a world-class institution that is closely related to local experience, knowledge and research in one of the countries that is most affected by climate change. It is our mission to gain and distribute knowledge on climate change and, specifically, adaptation and thereby helping people to adapt to climate change with a focus on the global south. By focusing on such work in Bangladesh, ICCCAD allows international participants to gain direct knowledge of the issues in a real-world context. Through the expertise of ICCCAD and its local partners, international organisations will be exposed to relevant and grounded knowledge that can be shared and transmitted around the world for the benefit of other LDCs, and their governments, donors and international NGOs.

**Participants Profile**

**Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD**


Dr. Saleemul Huq is the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change & Development (ICCCAD) since 2009. Dr. Huq is also a Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED), where he is involved in building negotiating capacity and supporting the engagement of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in UNFCCC including negotiator training workshops for LDCs, policy briefings and support for the Adaptation Fund Board, as well as research into vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the least developed countries. Dr. Huq has published numerous articles in scientific and popular journals, was a lead author of the chapter on Adaptation and Sustainable Development in the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and was one of the coordinating lead authors of ‘Inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation’ in the IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report (2007). Prior to this, he was at Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) where he was in charge of management and strategy of the organisation. In 2000 he became an Academic Visitor at the Huxley School of Environment at Imperial College in London.




**Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan**

**Institutional Profile**

Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) is a not-for-profit organization committed to promote change towards economically sustainable, socially equitable and environmentally responsible development. LEAD Pakistan has placed itself in the centre of the Climate Change debate in Pakistan. It not only responds to the environmental needs and requirements but also shapes the course of development action through various programs and initiatives. Low Carbon Development is now starting to form an integral part of several interventions and researches being carried out by LEAD. The organization follows a holistic approach that anchors on its core competencies of Capacity Building, Research, Citizens’ Voice, Public Policy Engagement, Knowledge Management & Learning and Networking & Partnership Development.

	<p>LEAD is currently carrying out several assignments around the theme of low carbon development. These include development of low carbon scenarios for 6 sectors and Sialkot City Renewable Energy NAMA. The work by this focus group would easily dovetail into the core capacity of LEAD and will help in shaping the future vision, both for the country and for the organization. CDKN has undertaken NAMA development projects in Indonesia and Pakistan focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energy respectively. Both projects have strong potential to transform energy landscape in the countries by channeling international finance toward green and sustainable energy solutions.</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Ibad ur Rehman, Team Leader, Low Carbon Development, LEAD</b></p> <p>Ibad ur Rehman is working with LEAD Pakistan as Team Leader, Low Carbon Development since March 2016. He has been working on the nexus of industry-environment-development for close to 2 decades. His professional experience covers varying themes; technical audits, social assessments, project management, communication and dissemination, training, marketing, and monitoring &amp; evaluation. Previously, Rehman headed the Environmental Studies Division – South Zone in NEC, and remained one of the key NEC professionals for development projects. He led various NEC assignments for international and local clients, including EAs, EIAs, Baseline studies, feasibility studies etc. He also served a unique industrial NGO – Cleaner Production Institute – as its Deputy Director (development projects), and supervised many internationally funded projects. Rehman possesses an MS in Environmental Sciences, MBA and an M. Sc degree in Applied Chemistry. Besides, he is a trained Lead Auditor of ISO14001 standard.</p> 
<p><b>Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)</b></p>	
<p><b>Institutional Profile</b></p>	<p>The Sustainable Development Policy Institute is an independent, public interest think tank that provides advice to public, private and voluntary organizations, and undertakes policy-oriented research and advocacy.</p>



	<p>It was established in 1992 on recommendation of National Conservation Strategy that was duly approved by the then Federal Cabinet of Pakistan. Its mission is to work toward equitable and just development within and across generations. SDPI’s vision of development includes the important issues of energy, governance, socio-economic justice, and peace and conflict resolution in tandem with the areas of economic growth, equitable resources distribution, health, population, education, agriculture, industrial development and environment. While research is at the heart of SDPI, policy advice, advocacy, monitoring &amp; evaluation, impact assessment and training are the main activities undertaken by the Institute.</p> <p>SDPI’s is a multidisciplinary, process-oriented, knowledge-based organisation, which has facilitated its national, regional, and international collaborators and partners in transition towards sustainable development; defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and well-being, within and across generations.</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, Senior Research Associate and Research Coordinator, SDPI</b></p> <p>Shakeel Ahmad is an experienced, goals-oriented professional with strong background in, energy, renewable energy, peace, negotiations skills, environment, economic studies and program development.</p>  <p>He has also been engaged in various national and regional forums including, Imagine New South Asia, the Prime Minister’s task force on Climate Change, Executive Board member of CANSA, Member of Core team on Climate change at the Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan amongst others. He also has the honor of being part of Pakistan’s official delegation at UNFCCC negotiations.</p> <p>Academically, he has a postgraduate degree in Agriculture Economics from University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan.</p>



**Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS)**

**Institutional Profile**

For over 35 years since its inception in 1979, the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) has built a formidable reputation of an independent think tank. Through a distinguished body of work, it has proven its commitment to research and advocacy of a more holistic approach to sustainable development. The Institute’s work has centered on informing public policy through empirical research; building capacity of government and non-governmental agencies; and facilitating exchange of knowledge and experience across institutions within and outside Nepal. The forte of IIDS is in field-based policy research spanning economic policy, agriculture, food security and nutrition, poverty, rural development and environmental management.

IIDS aims to remain Nepal’s leading development institute that contributes to evidence-based policymaking, trains and hosts young professionals, and broadens public understanding of sustainable development challenges in the 21st century across South Asia. Over the next decade, the Institute seeks to reorient and consolidate its priorities by clustering work around themes as follows.

**1. Shared Growth:** This covers work on the sources of long-term prosperity, and on removing the most binding policy obstacles. Themes include economic growth; trade, investment and entrepreneurship; infrastructure; migration and remittances; poverty and inequality; health and education. This also involves work on political and economic institutions in a newly federated Nepal, and ways to ensure effective service delivery across regions and ethno-social groups.

**2. Resilience:** This covers the existing hazards and emerging threats, environmental and otherwise, that need to be addressed to protect achievements, and to sustain progress in the future. This includes disaster preparedness, adapting to climate change, and the multitude of themes covered by the Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030).

**3. Geo-Strategy:** Nepal’s unique location has to be harnessed for prosperity. Half the world lives and works within six hours of flight from Kathmandu. The rapid rise of China and India, Nepal’s immediate neighbors, needs to be leveraged for economic opportunity. This will require informed economic diplomacy to boost trade, investment and tourism and to take advantage of regional growth poles, shared production and agglomeration.

	<p>In addition to the thematic areas above, IIDS also seeks to fully adopt modern methodologies and techniques in Impact Evaluation and Open Data to inform cross-cutting policy with credibility and rigor. Before 1990, IIDS was known as the Integrated Development System (IDS).</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Bishnu Dev Pant, Executive Director, IIDS</b></p> <p>Dr. Pant has a PhD in Applied Statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute. He began his professional career as a Lecturer in Tribhuvan University in 1976 and worked at the Agricultural Projects Services until 1984. He also served in the National Planning Commission as a Statistics Advisor for about 18 months until the end of 1985. Early 1986, Dr. Pant joined the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in Bangkok as the Chief of the Statistical Information Services Section, where he worked for ten years. In 1996, Dr. Pant moved to the Asian Development Bank in Manila and worked in various positions at the Economics and Research Department. In March 2006, he was appointed as the Director of the Development Indicators Policy Research Division. He retired from the ADB in July 2008. After returning to Nepal, he served as professor and director of the Centre for Economics and Applied Statistics at the South Asian Institute of Management. An applied statistician with over 30 years of national and international experience, Dr. Pant has extensive management and leadership experience. He has managed statistical offices in international agencies, devised statistical programs for less advanced countries, undertaken evidence-based policy research and data analysis. He has published widely in economics and applied statistics.</p> 
<p><b>Niti FOUNDATION</b></p>	
<p><b>Institutional Profile</b></p>	<p>Niti Foundation (Niti) is a non-profit policy institute committed to strengthening and democratizing the policy process in Nepal, with a particular focus in the areas of energy, natural resource management, water governance, and economic growth. Since its establishment in 2010, NITI's work has been guided by its diagnostic study of Nepal's policy process, which identifies weak citizen participation, ineffective policy implementation, and lack of accountability as the three key</p>

	<p>factors behind the failure of public policies in the country. In order to address these deficiencies, Niti works towards identifying policy alternatives by encouraging informed dialogues and facilitating public forums that are inclusive of citizens, policy experts, think tanks, interest groups, and the government.</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Nirjan Rai, Executive Director, Niti Foundation</b></p> <p>Nirjan Rai is the Executive Director at Niti Foundation, where he is responsible for the overall management of the institution and its research and programs, including program design and implementation, and for building and maintaining institutional relationships with relevant policy stakeholders. Prior to his engagement with Niti, he was with the Asian Development Bank where he contributed to developing their Country Partnership Strategy for Nepal, led the assessment of Nepal’s policy and institutional framework in supporting sustainable growth, poverty reduction, and the effective use of development assistance, and served as the focal person for ADB’s private sector development initiatives in Nepal. Nirjan also worked for The Asia Foundation in Nepal where he managed research and programs on political process, local governance, and economic development. Nirjan holds a Master in Public Policy degree from George Mason University, Virginia and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bennington College, Vermont.</p> 
<p><b>Samriddhi, The Prosperity Foundation</b></p>	
<p><b>Institutional Profile</b></p>	<p>Samriddhi Foundation is a research institution – a think tank—whose mission is to promote ideas of freedom- civil, political and economic—through public policy recommendations (based on independent research), educational programs and public participation. Registered in 2007 at the Company Registrar’s Office as a profit not sharing company, it formally started its operations in 2008.</p> <p>Samriddhi’s beginnings are rooted in the political and economic context of its time of inception. The second People’s Movement in April 2006 had become a landmark for Nepalese in terms political</p>


freedom, political awareness and civil liberties. However, considering the fact that the real longing for democracy in Nepal comes from the country’s long history of economic deprivation, the realization among the founders was that if economic growth is not taken seriously, chances of another major political setback is very high. With this strong realization, on that very year of Nepal’s major political transformation which led to the writing of a new constitution, Samriddhi was initiated in 2006. With this, the Foundation formally started its operations in 2008.


For the creation of a prosperous Nepal, Samriddhi believes in the power of private entrepreneurs as key to economic development and engages in fostering democracy and building a more conducive environment for economic growth.

<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Deependra Chaulagain, Director, Samriddhi Foundation</b></p> <p>Deependra Chaulagain is the Director of Operations at Samriddhi Foundation where he is responsible for devising and executing operational systems, processes and policies to ensure sound administration of the organization. He also oversees the development of outreach programs of the Foundation and coordinates the organization’s outreach with parliamentarians, politicians and bureaucrats. He has long experience of designing and executing several national and international programs in youth participation, youth politics, youth volunteerism and peace building. He has also served as a Vice President of Association of Youth organization of Nepal and is also a former president of Liberal Youth of South Asia (LYSA), a network of liberal youth organizations of South Asia. He holds a Master degree in Political Science.</p> 
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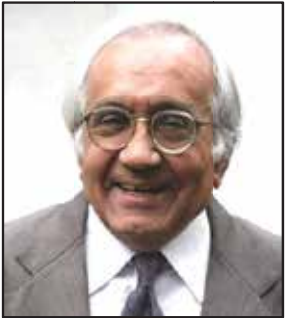
**The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**

<p><b>Institutional Profile</b></p>	<p>The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. Our aim is to</p>
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	<p>influence policy and practices to meet environmental and livelihood challenges emerging in the HKH region. To do this we bring together researchers, practitioners, and policy makers from the region and around the globe to generate and share knowledge, support evidence-based decision making, and encourage regional collaboration. ICIMOD seeks to improve the lives and livelihoods of mountain women and men, now and for the future.</p> <p>The availability and affordability of modern forms of energy and their efficient use are crucial to poverty eradication in the HKH region--but access to modern energy remains a major challenge. The priority areas for sustainable energy activities at ICIMOD are to improve access to modern energy in rural mountain areas, to engage in knowledge generation and sharing to support sustainable hydropower development and off-grid solutions in the region, and to develop institutional mechanisms for benefit sharing in energy-related activities. we have recently completed a study, currently in the publication process, on the lessons learnt from global practices for cross-border power trade in our region.</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Ramesh Vaidya, Senior Advisor, ICIMOD</b></p> <p>Ramesh Vaidya, is Senior Advisor at ICIMOD. His interest and experience is in the economics and policy of water and energy in the context of regional economic cooperation and climate change.</p> 
<p><b>Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)</b></p>	
<p><b>Institutional Profile</b></p>	<p>IRADe is an independent advanced research institute which aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organizations, corporations, academic and financial institutions. Energy, climate change, urban development, poverty, gender equity, agriculture and food security are some of the challenges faced in the 21st century. Therefore, IRADe research covers these, as well as policies that affect them. IRADe’s focus is effective action through multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder research to arrive at implementable solutions for sustainable development and policy research that accounts for the effective governance of techno-economic and socio-cultural issues. Based on research for effective</p>

	<p>action and implementation, IRADe is a ‘think tank’ that works with ‘action tanks’.</p> <p>IRADe was established under the Society’s Act, in 2002 at New Delhi, India. It is certified as a Research &amp; Development Organization by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). It has also been selected as a Centre of Excellence (CoE) by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) for urban development and climate change. In addition, it provides expertise to other ministries, national and international institutions and partners with other reputed organizations.</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe</b></p> <p>Dr. Jyoti K Parikh, Executive Director of (IRADe) was a Member of the Prime Minister’s Council on Climate Change – India and is a recipient of Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC authors in 2007. She served as the senior professor and Acting Director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai 1986-2003, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria for 8 years (1980-86, 76-78) and Planning Commission, as senior energy consultant at New Delhi (1978-80). She has served as energy consultant to the World Bank, the U.S. Department of Energy, EEC, Brussels and UN agencies such as UNIDO, FAO, UNU, and UNESCO, Environment Consultant to UNDP, World Bank and so on. She worked as an advisor to various ministries for Gov. of India.</p>  <p>Her publications include nearly 200 project research papers and 25 books and monographs and span many areas ranging from policy analysis of energy and environment, climate change policies, modeling, technology assessment, power sector, natural resource management, agriculture, health, poverty and gender.</p> <p>She has held national and international appointments, which includes the Technical Advisory Committee (TAG) for Energy Trust Funds Programmes of the World Bank; the advisory Board of Tyndall Center for Climate Change, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, 2001-2004;</p>



	<p>Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to Global Environment Facility (GEF) – 1995-1998. She was on the Board of directors of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) 2001-2004 and also National Institute of Urban affairs (NIUA), MoUD, GoI.</p>
<p><b>Participants Profile</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe</b></p> <p>Professor Kirit Parikh, Chairman of IRADe was a former Member of India’s Planning Commission (2004-2009) with the status of Minister of State. He has been a member of the Economic Advisory Councils (EAC) of five Prime Ministers of India, Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar, P.V. Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.</p>  <p>He was awarded “Padma Bhushan” by the president of India, the third highest civilian award in India. He was also a recipient of Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC authors in 2007.</p> <p>He was the Founder Director (Vice Chancellor) of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India. He has a Doctor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master’s Degree in Economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and M. Tech from IIT (Kharagpur). He has been a Professor of Economics since 1967. From 1997 to 1998, he was Special Economic Adviser to the Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York.</p> <p>He has been a member of many high level advisory committees spanning diverse areas such as the Indian National Committee for Environmental Planning &amp; Coordination (1971-74), the National Committee on Science and Technology (1974-76) and the Fuel Policy Committee (1970-74).</p> <p>He chaired the Expert Committee on “Integrated Energy Policy” and also the Expert Group on “Low Carbon Strategy for Inclusive Growth” set up by the Planning Commission. He is widely recognized as the architect of India’s integrated energy policy. He also played an important role in energy policy reforms in the country.</p>

**Participants Profile**

**Mr. V.K. Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI/IRADe:**

Mr. Kharbanda is Electrical Engineer and have done Advance Management Program and has rich experience of about 35 years working both in public and private power sector in India. Before joining Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) the implementing partner of USAID for the South Asia Regional initiative for Energy Integration Program, he has worked in reputed organizations such as National Hydro Electric Power Corporation, Power Grid Corporation, Power Finance Corporation (all are Govt. of India undertaking) and Lanco power Trading a private company in trading of electricity. He has diverse experience in power sector such as designing of Hydro power Projects, domestic and international Contracts, Transmission line construction, Techno-economic appraisal of Thermal and Hydro Power Projects etc.



**Participants Profile**

**Mr. Rohit Magotra, Assistant Director, IRADe**

Mr. Rohit Magotra is Assistant Director, IRADe. He is Masters in Environmental Science with advanced degree in management from IIFM, Bhopal. He has 16 years plus experience working on thematic of environment, policy research, energy, urban development and ICT4 Development in South Asia.



He has experience in facilitating co-ordination and partnerships at city, regional, national level and international level. He has managed several national, regional and international conferences on energy, environment and climate change. He has rich experience in programme management, setting multi-stakeholder consortiums and forums of government, public and private sector.



**Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal (ISET-Nepal)**

**Institutional Profile**

ISET-Nepal is Think Tank, based in Kathmandu that conducts interdisciplinary research and holds interactions on crosscutting issues involving the environment, water, technology, politics, and society with a wide spectrum of the Nepali society as well as with global actors. Established in 2001 the organization examines social and environmental challenges with the aim of contributing to building a society capable of addressing such challenges through improved knowledge and capacities. ISET-N collaborates with diverse national and international academicians, researchers and organizations. ISET-Nepal engages, educates, and enhances capacity of young professionals and influence youths to come up with innovative solutions to emerging challenges. For this, we conduct trainings; carry out art competition in schools, conducts Immersion courses for teachers of government schools, held interaction and discussions at the local, regional and national level. ISET-Nepal provides student grants to five Masters level students each year to support their thesis. ISET-Nepal awarded Abhiskar Fellowship to innovative proposals from Bachelors level students. ISET-Nepal produces high-quality evidence-based knowledge products like reports, policy briefs and newspaper articles in order to inform and influence existing policies and practices. The publications are posted in the organizations website for dissemination.

**Participants Profile**

**Mr. Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, ISET-Nepal**

Ajaya Dixit received MSc. in Hydraulic and Water Resources from University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (1981). He works as an analyst of water resources and environment. In 1987, he published interdisciplinary journal *Water Nepal*. He has directed national and regional research that examined climate changes impacts on flood, drought and food system adaptation in South Asia. Ajaya Dixit currently directs and manages Think Tank Initiative grant from IDRC. He is studying the role systems play in building societal resilience and using the knowledge generated to engage the policy making domain.





## About IRADe

IRADe is an independent advanced research institute which aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organizations, corporations, academic and financial institutions. Energy, climate change, urban development, poverty, gender equity, agriculture and food security are some of the challenges faced in the 21st century. Therefore, IRADe research covers these, as well as policies that affect them. IRADe's focus is effective action through multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder research to arrive at implementable solutions for sustainable development and policy research that accounts for the effective governance of techno-economic and socio-cultural issues.

IRADe was established under the Society's Act, in 2002 at New Delhi. It is certified as a Research & Development Organization by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). It has also been selected as a Centre of Excellence by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) for urban development and climate change. In addition, it provides expertise to other ministries, national and international institutions and partners with other reputed organizations.

## About SARI-EI

Over the past decade, USAID's South Asia Regional Initiative/Energy (SARI/E) has been advocating energy cooperation in South Asia via regional energy integration and cross border electricity trade in eight South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives). This fourth and the final phase, titled South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI), was launched in 2012 and is implemented in partnership with Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) through a cooperative agreement with USAID. SARI/EI addresses policy, legal and regulatory issues related to cross border electricity trade in the region, promote transmission interconnections and works toward establishing a regional market exchange for electricity.

