SUMMARY NOTES

EEAP WEBINAR 11

Transforming the Way We Measure Clean Energy Transitions

On June 7, 2024, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific organized its 11th webinar during the gLOCAL2024 evaluation week, focusing on the important topics of ***Transforming the Way We Measure Clean Energy Transitions.*** The webinar featured two speakers; Michael Williamson, Section Chief Energy Division, United Nations ESCAP and Divya Gaur, Program Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), India.

Michael provided an overview of the Asia-Pacific region's progress on SDG7 for clean and affordable energy access. He provided an update on how we are tracking against SDG7 targets, and offered insights on approaches to high-level measurement, the emerging opportunities and the challenges in evaluating SDG7 targets. Divya shared an innovative project from India evaluating renewable energy's impact on livelihoods. The project used indicators for affordability, productivity, and gender equality across large, medium, and micro-scale projects.

The discussions underscored the importance of measuring the broader impact of clean energy transitions, going beyond energy and carbon savings, assessing the social, economic, and environmental benefits and challenges of clean energy initiatives. This document summarizes the key discussion points from the webinar.

Webinar Agenda

Time (IST)	Sessions/Speakers
1:00-1:15 pm	**Welcome Remarks & Context Setting** ***Nina Campbell****, Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)*
	Presenters

1:15-1:50 pm	1. ***Michael Williamson,*** Section Chief Energy Division, United Nations ESCAP **'Evaluating SDG 7 progress in Asia and the Pacific'** 2. ***Divya Gaur,*** *Program Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), India* **'Affordability & Socioeconomic impact of Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE)'**
1:50-2:10 pm	**Moderated Audience Q&A** Moderated by ***Nina Campbell****, Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)*
2:15 pm	**Concluding Comments & Vote of thanks** ***Nina Campbell****, Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)*

Introduction and Context Setting

Nina Campbell, Steering Committee Member, Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Nina Campbell, a member of the Steering Committee for EEAP, cordially greeted the participants and speakers, introduced EEAP and provided the context of the webinar.

Introduction to Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific (EEAP)

Nina introduced EEAP to the participants. Established as a non-profit organization in 2018, EEAP is focused on expanding the practice of objective evaluation in the Asia Pacific region. EEAP's mission is to lead in expanding evaluation practices, building capacity, and understanding the impact of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and policies, aiming to provide a strong evidence basis for continuous improvement in these areas.

The organization fosters exchange and interaction among evaluators, NGOs, government agencies, and academics to promote the value of energy evaluation and capacity building. EEAP offers a database of resources on best practices, holds webinars on various topics, and organizes international events and conferences, particularly interested in evaluation in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). What our mailing list for news of upcoming online and in-person events in 2024.

EEAP brings stakeholders together to support data-driven decision-making in the energy sector. One of its main objectives is capacity building, especially in the rapidly growing Asia Pacific region. Nina emphasized that monitoring and evaluation are central to EEAP's work, ensuring that robust methods and data support policymaking and practice in the energy sector.

Context of Measure Clean Energy Transitions

Nina Campbell discussed the urgent need to transform how we measure clean energy transitions, emphasizing current challenges such as millions lacking access to electricity and clean cooking fuels, and affordability issues even for those with access. She highlighted the barriers low-income groups face, like limited capital for clean energy investments. Campbell stressed the future energy system must be affordable, clean, and resilient, requiring a transition that is not just rapid but also fair.

She called for evidence-based policy-making that goes beyond traditional metrics like kilowatt-hours saved, advocating for measuring broader social and economic benefits, including cleaner air, better housing, job creation, and improved health. Nina referenced key recently published initiatives, such as the IEA's work on energy efficiency benefits and SEforALL's Evidence Gap Map, urging participants to share ongoing work and evidence. Concluding, she encouraged raising ambitions and exploring new measurement practices.

Presentation by Speakers

'Evaluating SDG 7 progress in Asia and the Pacific'

Michael Williamson, Section Chief Energy Division, United Nations ESCAP

Michael introduced ESCAP (the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) to the audience, explaining that ESCAP, one of the UN's five regional commissions, covered a vast and diverse region with 53 member states, focusing on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 7.

He outlined the progress and challenges in achieving SDG 7 targets in the Asia-Pacific region. Michael noted significant progress in access to electricity, with 98.6% of the population having access, though the quality of electricity varied. However, access to clean cooking remained a major challenge, with only 74% of the population having access and a projected shortfall in meeting the 2030 target. Michael also discussed the region's renewable energy trajectory, highlighting a U-shaped curve. Initially, traditional biomass and hydro power were prevalent, but their share declined due to insufficient new renewable projects and growing energy demand. Recently, there had been an upswing

with more investments in wind, solar, and hydro power, bolstered by commitments from COP 28 to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030.

On energy efficiency, Michael pointed out that while there had been improvements in the past, progress had slowed. Achieving future targets would require substantial increases in annual energy efficiency improvements. He explained that measuring energy efficiency through energy intensity had limitations, as it could be influenced by various economic factors unrelated to actual efficiency gains.

Michael then explored the complexities of measuring SDG 7 progress, citing delays in data collection and verification, inconsistencies in survey data, and the challenges of regional aggregation. He emphasized the need for detailed, country-specific analysis to understand the true progress and dynamics at play.

Michael addressed the interconnectedness of energy with other sectors and the importance of measuring additional benefits. He advocated for a broader understanding of energy's role in human and economic development, arguing that energy justice, efficiency, and renewable adoption were essential for sustainable progress. He concluded by stressing the need for quantitative evidence to support the multifaceted benefits of sustainable energy transitions.

‘Affordability & Socioeconomic impact of Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE)’

Divya Gaur, Program Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), India,

Divya introduced CEEW's role as a leading think tank in Asia, focused on sustainability and driving India towards a low-carbon economy. She outlined their three-pillar approach: transformation, quality of life, and enabler. Under these pillars, CEEW aims to green major sectors, improve living standards, and facilitate the flow of finance to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Divya delved into the critical importance of clean energy access for livelihoods, particularly in remote areas where reliable electricity remains elusive. Emphasizing the need for progress beyond mere energy access, Divya highlighted CEEW's initiative, "Powering Livelihoods," designed to leverage renewable energy solutions for enhancing productivity and reducing drudgery among farmers and micro-entrepreneurs.

CEEW's Powering Livelihoods initiative plays a crucial role in supporting manufacturers of PURE technologies by providing capital, technical assistance, and market linkages. Gaur stressed the importance of an evidence-based approach, explaining that CEEW generates comprehensive data on the economic, social, and environmental impacts of PURE technologies to inform policymakers and financial institutions. This data

demonstrates how PURE technologies lead to higher net annual income for users through increased productivity, savings, new revenue streams, and improved product quality.

Beyond economic benefits, Gaur highlighted the positive social impact of PURE technologies. They empower individuals, particularly women, by increasing self-confidence, social capital, and decision-making agency. Additionally, these technologies foster skill development and significantly reduce the drudgery associated with manual labor. The environmental impact is also noteworthy, with PURE technologies contributing to lower carbon emissions through reduced fossil fuel use and food loss.

Gaur concluded by emphasizing the importance of affordability analysis in understanding adoption barriers and designing appropriate financial instruments to ensure greater access to PURE technologies. She highlighted that a one-size-fits-all approach is not effective due to the diverse contexts in which these technologies are used. Furthermore, Gaur stressed the need for rigorous training and clear communication to ensure accurate impact assessment and drive further research and growth in the sector.

Presenters Bios

Mr. Michael Williamson

Michael Williamson is Section Chief of the Energy Division in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Michael works on regional cooperation for sustainable energy across ESCAP's 53 member countries on intergovernmental cooperation, technical assistance and knowledge building. Prior to this, Michael was the acting Director of ESCAP's Subregional Office for South and South West Asia overseeing 10 countries of South and South West Asia. From 2015 to 2017 he was Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP in Bangkok. He began his UN career in in India in 2013 as the Head of ESCAP's Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.
Michael's experience over the last 25 years covers the private sector, government and international organisations with a focus on sustainable development, energy, technology and climate change. Prior joining the UN, he worked in Australia in state and federal government, on climate change, sustainability and energy policy. He worked for Australia's national climate change agency managing commercialization programs funding advanced renewable energy technologies. In between his government roles he undertook technical and humanitarian assignments with the International Committee of the Red Cross, restoring essential services to affected communities during the civil war in Nepal from 2004 to 2007. During the 1990's, Michael gained hands on experience developing energy access projects for remote communities in Nepal.

Michael holds a Master of Science in Renewable Energy Technology from Loughborough University, UK and an honours degree in Civil Engineering from Monash University, Australia. He has also completed a post graduate diploma in management from the Australian Institute of Management and is a graduate of the UN leadership course at the United Nations Staff College.

Divya Gaur

Divya is a social impact leader working towards positive socio-economic and environmental changes at the grassroots level through data-driven research. At The Council, Divya is part of the Powering Livelihoods programme, a CEEW-Villgro initiative, and leads Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation(MLE) within the programme. Further, in her role, she also looks into strategising for gender inclusivity, market accessibility, and state partnerships to scale up the adoption of decentralised renewable energy (DRE) livelihood technologies across India. Previously, Divya worked with Sattva Consulting as a social impact consultant on their impact measurement and advisory team. At Sattva, she evaluated multiple development programs across thematic areas using a holistic approach to drive evidence-based decision-making among stakeholders.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **Energy Evaluation 101 Workshop, Youth in Evaluation Week, July**
- Registration Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvcumtpjMrG9Sj68rPU4WB9ti5dWrsn4gh

2. **EEAP Newsletter issue 6, July**

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