



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



US-INDIA
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM

South Asia Women in Energy

SAWIE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2 | September 2021

SAWIE, a joint initiative of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), aims to increase representation of women at the leadership levels in the energy, industrial and manufacturing sector thereby enabling diversity in decision-making. As the name suggests SAWIE is focused in South Asia region, with India at its fulcrum.



Message from USAID



We at USAID, strongly believe that empowering women economically leverages their innovation and expertise to enable their transformational power to increase their overall contribution to the world economy. Recently during the International Women's day, President Biden called upon us all to recommit to the principle that our nation, and the world, is at its best when the possibilities for all of our women and girls are limitless.

The US Government has affirmed that gender equity will be at the core of the administration's policies, which not only strive through the government's domestic policies but also govern the foreign policy. We at USAID's are committed towards women's empowerment, as reflected in its decades of work and partnerships across the globe. Some of our partnerships, we always are proud upon includes - Advancing Gender in the environment (AGENT); SERVIR; Clean Cities, Blue Ocean Program; Engendering Utilities; Women's Land Rights and more.

India — the world's largest democracy and second most populous country — represents a unique mix of tradition and innovation. Indian women today are competing and leading in diverse spheres across the globe. USAID has, for many decades, been working closely with the Government of India, donors, philanthropists, and the corporate sector to promote programs that enable women, men, girls, boys, and transgender persons; addressing societal inequalities; and providing equitable access to health care, water and sanitation, education, nutrition, microfinance, clean energy, and sustainable livelihoods.

Over the next couple of years, USAID/India will intensify all such efforts in partnership with all key stakeholders more meaningfully to implement the many gender-responsive and transformative and social inclusion policies and initiatives in USAID's areas of work.

South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) is one such initiatives established here in India, with an aim in advancing USAID's efforts to build more gender equitable and inclusive economies for a sustainable future. In this endeavour, USAID is proud to partner with U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). SAWIE is focused on advocating greater gender equality and mainstreaming women's leadership – which really are the prerequisites for sustainable growth across sectors in any country.

I am pleased to share the key milestones achieved by SAWIE in this newsletter and congratulate all leaders and experts from across sectors join forces for our shared commitment to gender equality. Going forward, we strongly believe that SAWIE initiative would play a critical role to accelerate women's empowerment and achieve larger sustainable development across South Asia.

Karen Klimowski
Acting Deputy Mission Director, USAID India

Message from USISPF



Dear Colleagues,

I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones healthy. We at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum are working with several stakeholders, partners, and member companies, to provide tangible short-medium term support to India's COVID relief efforts. Over the last few weeks, the swift action from the business community to support India has been inspiring and will be crucial as we continue to fight this battle together

USISPF has always believed that there is much that the private sector can do to bring women to the table. And it was this inspiration that led to the joint initiative by USISPF and USAID—South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE). While women are seen participating in the workforce today, working long hours, and pursuing higher education in greater numbers, the wage gap is still stark – a woman working full time earns 81 cents for every dollar a man working full time earns. This is essentially where platforms like SAWIE can play a key role— bringing together women leaders across to work together on designing interventions in outreach and recruitment; mentorship and leadership; and professional development that can help bridge gender gaps.

In a short span of time since its launch last September, SAWIE has established itself as a leading advocate for gender equality, diversity and inclusion. SAWIE's convenings, roundtables, and thought leadership work are contributing toward the development of innovative solutions to reduce the gender gap in the energy sector, particularly at the leadership level. With an exceptional network of founding members and growing individual members, we are confident that SAWIE will be the premier platform for women to thrive and grow to their true potential.

Dr. Mukesh Aghi
President and CEO, USISPF



Our Network in Numbers

Linked in

1200+

LinkedIn Connections



125+

Individual Members

SAWIE Highlight

12 National and International
Events organized

10000+ Participants



25+ Countries

300+ Organisations, Institutions and
Agencies

SAWIE Highlight

4

Sessions under the Mentorship Series

2

Steering Committee Meetings

Launched

the SAWIE Leadership Summit

Released the White Paper on

“Best Practices in Gender Mainstreaming: Bridging the Gender Diversity Gap in the Energy and Industrial Sector”



Our Supporting Partners



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



US-INDIA
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM

Our New Partnerships



GWNET
Global Women's Network
for the Energy Transition

About GWNET

The Global Women's for the Energy Transition (GWNET) is an international non-profit organisation founded in 2017 under Austrian law. GWNET aims to advance the global energy transition by connecting and empowering women working in sustainable energy, through interdisciplinary networking,

advocacy, training, and mentoring. GWNET seeks to address the current gender imbalances in the energy sector and to promote gender-sensitive action around the energy transition in all parts of the world.



About ReNew Foundation

ReNew Foundation, the philanthropic arm of ReNew Power was setup in 2018 with a vision to impact the lives of people through clean energy. It aims to develop sustainable solutions in the area of renewable energy which focus on energy access to the last mile. Another important objective is

to drive thought leadership in the area of climate action and become a leading voice in the sector for policy advocacy and recommendations.



About UNIDO

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

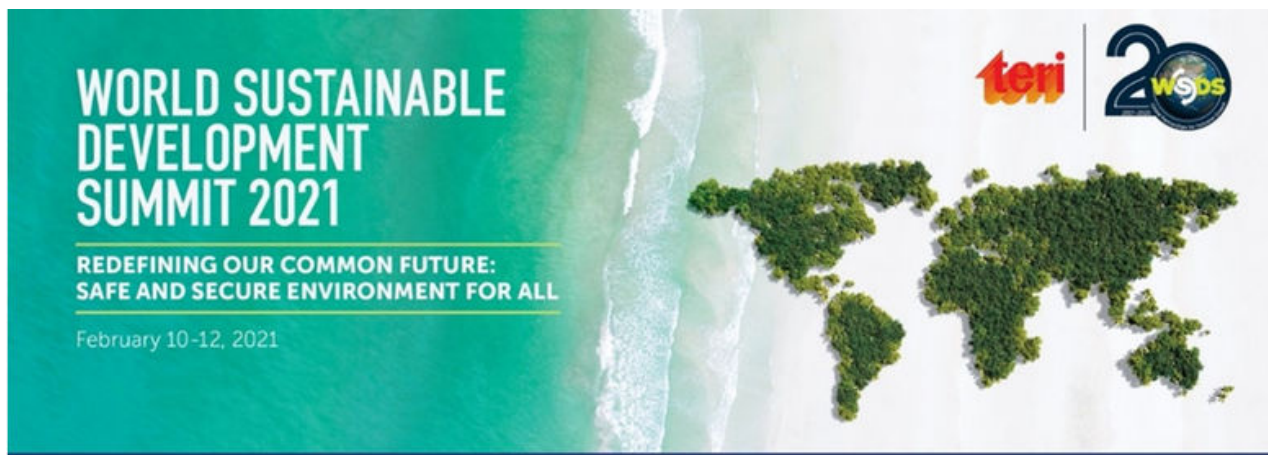
As of 1 April 2019, 170 States are Members of UNIDO who

regularly discuss and decide UNIDO's guiding principles and policies in the sessions of the Policymaking Organs. The mission of UNIDO, as described in the Lima Declaration adopted at the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in 2013, is to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States.

High Level Dialogues

World Sustainable Development Summit 2021

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



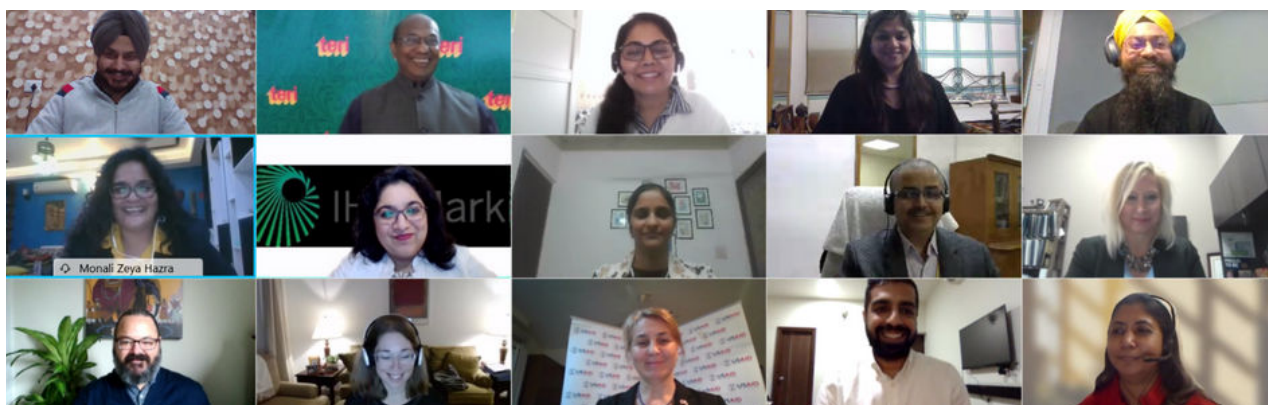
South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE), along with USAID, U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), and The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) partnered at this year's World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) which was under the theme, 'Redefining our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All.'

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has marked 20 years in its journey of making 'sustainable development' a globally shared goal. Over the years, the Summit series has brought together 49 heads of state and government, 13 Nobel laureates, ministers from 77 countries, 2200+ speakers and over 20,000 delegates from across the world to address environmental issues of topical import.



'Women on the Rise: Redefining Our Common Future'

Virtual Pre-Event | December 9, 2020



The high-level dialogue brought together experts from leading national and international institutions, academics, policymakers, practitioners, and civil society members working in the gender and sustainable development sector. Making a compelling case for gender-inclusive sustainable development, speakers championed greater participation of women in the climate change discourse.

An impressive array of leaders from the gender and sustainable development sector joined the dialogue, reflecting on their experiences and suggesting approaches to secure women's role in shaping a more sustainable future.



'Thematic Session titled Towards an Enabling Global Environment: Accelerating Women Leadership & Empowerment' February 11, 2021



The Thematic address multidimensional issues of gender equality, with an attempt to demystify stereotyping that exist because of the common beliefs of gender differences that make women and men effective in different roles.

Panel 1 on 'Diversity & Inclusion: Gender Equity as a Business Imperative' discussed the broader processes and procedures to incentivize the businesses to mobilise its

resources towards impacting gender equity and women's empowerment as part of their business model. It further deliberated the importance of creating evidences and accountability tools to bridge gap gaps.

Panel 2 on 'Advancing Women Leadership in Business' discussed some of the key challenges and underlying social norms that prevent women from claiming their space and leadership roles. It further deliberated on creation of networks, linkages and encouraging support systems grounded on social protection to advance women leadership.



Plenary Session on 'Women on the Rise: Prioritizing Gender Equity as a Business Imperative' February 12, 2021



The Plenary was aimed to address the many challenges confronting women in leadership positions, including poor access to social and economic capital, insufficient contacts to explore innovative entrepreneurship, constraining gender culture, paucity of role models; and a lack of positive attitudes about their own personal capacities.

The Plenary consequently deliberated and created a space for dialogue on issues to enable global environment accelerating

women leadership. Some of the key discussions were surrounding the need of a platform to address the barriers to leadership and empowerment for women such as structural barriers, institutional mindsets, individual mindsets and lifestyle choices. Additionally, the Plenary deliberated on what more can be done to expand social capital and attract, retain and advance women leaders at political, economic and public life.

South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) Leadership Summit



REGISTER NOW

South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE)
 is pleased to invite you to
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

APRIL 6 2021

FEATURING

TIME- 5:45 PM (IST) / 8:15 AM (EST)

THE HONORABLE JOHN KERRY
U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate

NANDITA BAKHSHI
President & Chief Executive Officer,
Bank of the West;
Co-Chief Executive Officer
BNP Paribas USA Inc.
Board Member, USISPF

JILLIAN EVANKO
President & CEO
Chart Industries
Board Member, USISPF

MUKESH ACHI
CEO & President
USISPF

RAMONA M. EL HAMZAOU
Mission Director (Acting)
USAID

NEELAM DHAWAN
Board Member
ICICI Bank

VIDYA RAMNATH
President, Middle East & Africa,
Emerson Automation Solutions
Emerson

VAISHALI SINHA
Chair, ReNew Foundation
Chair, SAWIE

SHALINI SARIN
Executive Director
Elektromobilität
Co-Chair, SAWIE

KISHORE JAYARAMAN
President
Rolls-Royce
India & South Asia

SHLOKA NATH
Head - Sustainability &
Special Projects
Tata Trusts

MECHTHILD WÖRSDÖRFER
Director, Sustainability,
Technology & Outlooks
IEA

ATUL ARYA
Senior Vice President &
Chief Energy Strategist
IHS Markit

NIVEDITA MEHRA
Managing Director - India
USISPF

NOLTY THERIOT
Senior Vice President
USISPF

RAJIV SHAH
President
The Rockefeller
Foundation

SHRIKANT BAPAT
Country General Manager
& Managing Director India
Johnson Controls

For any further information, please contact Ms. Sanjana Priyaranjan at spriyaranjan@usinfoundation.org

SAWIE recognizes the importance of the U.S.-India energy relationship. It is imperative that the U.S. and India aggressively work to advance low-carbon, climate-resilient solutions by mobilizing resources, sharing knowledge and innovating to address climate change and promote green growth. Women are powerful agents of change and possess specific knowledge and skills to effectively contribute to sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation. However, they are vastly underrepresented in decision-making processes at all levels. SAWIE works to promote women's participation in high-level processes shaping the sustainable development and climate change agenda, as well as advocates for a better understanding and acknowledgment of women's needs and roles in the fight against climate change at all levels.

Thus, South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) hosted its first Leadership Summit in a virtual event today since its

inception in 2019. The Leadership Summit brought together senior government officials, business leaders, and experts from India, US, and South Asia to discuss advancing environmental sustainability efforts and the role of gender equity in fighting the climate crisis.

Honourable John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate delivered the keynote address, in the presence of industry leaders like Ms. Nandita Bakhshi, President and CEO, Bank of the West; Co-Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Ramona M El Hamzaoui, Mission Director, USAID; Ms. Vaishali Sinha, Chief Sustainable Officer, ReNew Power, among others.

Speaking at the event, Honourable John Kerry said, “Advancing gender equality and the promotion of women's leadership is not only critical for economic growth and sustainable development, it is essential to tackling the climate crisis.” Speaking about US- India relations and collaboration in climate change and sustainability he remarked, “India is a major player on a global stage. Decisive action from India



now, in partnership with the rest of the world will determine what this transformation will mean for all generations to come.” [Click here for full remarks](#)



Mukesh Aghi

USISPF President
and CEO

“We need an urgent action plan against the threat of climate change in the same way we have one to fight the pandemic. I am looking forward to the Secretary’s upcoming visit to India and the two countries uniting strongly against this common challenge that affects all of us and future generations. We have also seen that the current health and economic crisis and the climate crisis has had a disproportionate impact on women. We need gender equity to be the front and center of business priorities, build a work culture where women can thrive and grow to their true potential.”



Raj Shah

President of the
Rockefeller Foundation

“A gender-equitable recovery from this pandemic will require reliable access to renewable energy because in the modern economy, energy unlocks potential. It empowers women and girls to be healthier and safer; to study, earn money, and start businesses; and to lead their families, their communities, and local economies. At The Rockefeller Foundation, we are committed to working with partners around the world to ensure a more equitable and sustainable future, where opportunity is truly universal.”



Ramona M El Hamzaoui

Acting Mission Director, USAID

“Advocating for greater gender equality is a pre-requisite for long lasting growth.”



Nandita Bakhshi

President and CEO, Bank of the West;
Co-Chief Executive Officer, BNP Paribas USA Inc.

“Our main goal is to be purposeful and have an all-inclusive mindset allowing women to be themselves and bring out the best in everyone.”



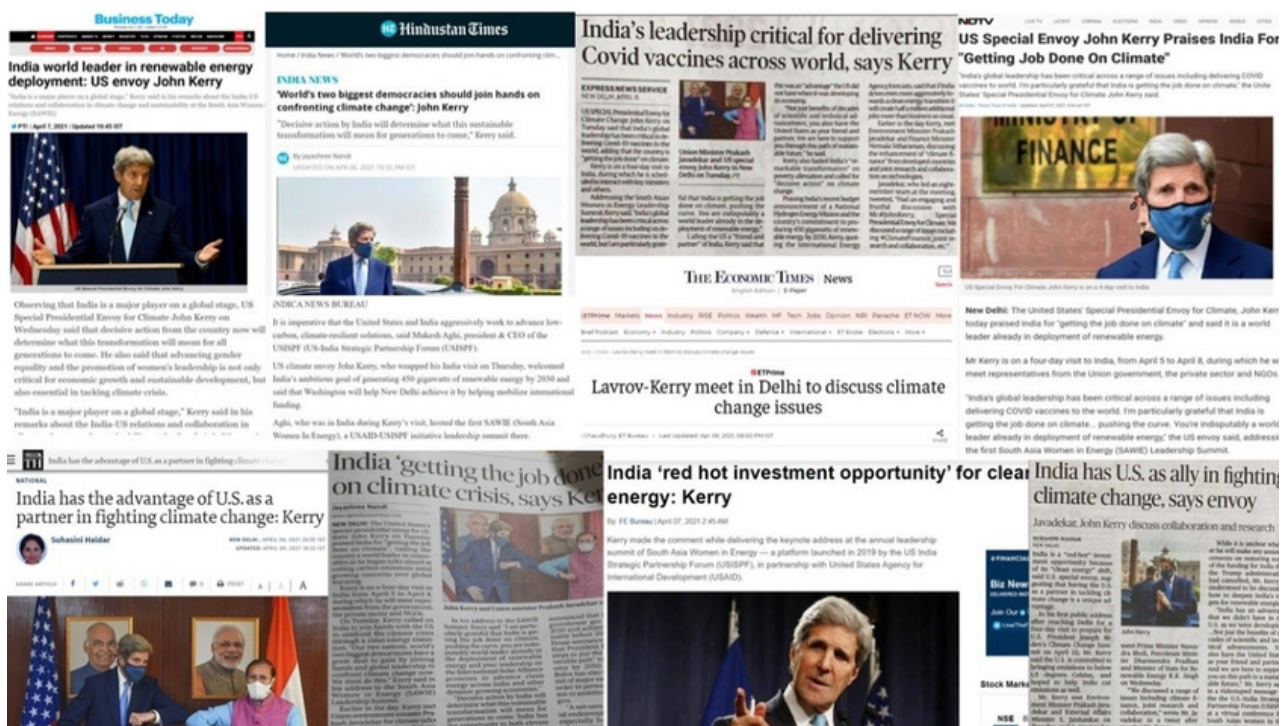
Vaishali Nigam Sinha

Chair, ReNew Foundation;
Chair, SAWIE

“The SAWIE Leadership Summit provides the perfect platform to discuss ideas and insights that will help boost the representation of women in the energy sector. We know that gender parity and sustainability have close interlinkages and it

is imperative that women are integral to the ongoing energy transition and play an enhanced role in the sector. The takeaways from this summit will strengthen SAWIE's efforts to create a more gender responsive energy sector.”

Press Coverage



Role of Women's Leadership in Advancing the Global Clean Energy Transition Greening the Grid (GTG) National Conference on Large-Scale Integration of Renewable Energy in India



USAID
U.S. AID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

TRANSFORMING INDIA'S POWER LANDSCAPE

**National Conference on
Large-Scale Integration
of Renewable Energy In India**

As a run up to the
U.S-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) Ministerial

South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) Panel on
**Role of Women's Leadership in Advancing
the Global Clean Energy Transition**

Date: August 24, 2021 | Time: 7:30 PM (IST)/10:00 AM (ET)

**SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL
ENERGY HUB**

SAWIE
South Asia Women in Energy

US-INDIA
Strategic Clean Energy Partnership

In the run up to the U.S-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership Ministerial and furthering the long-standing partnership on power sector reforms in India, USAID organized a two-day 'National Conference on Large-Scale Integration of Renewable Energy in India – Transforming India's Power Landscape' on August 24-25, 2021. As part of the conference, the South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE), hosted a high-level dialogue on the 'Role of Women's Leadership in Advancing the Global Clean Energy Transition'. SAWIE is a joint initiative of USAID and USISPF, and this program is being hosted in collaboration with USAID's regional coordination and communications platform the South Asia Regional Energy Hub (SAREH).

The panel discussion spotlighted women's leadership on how women-led, institutions, and organizations can advance the renewable energy transition for a clean energy future.

Furthermore, the panel deliberated on how to create an enabling global environment that accelerates women's leadership in renewable energy transition and in the clean energy sector. The program also marked the public release of a 'SAWIE Summary Report - The journey so far....' The report highlights the activities and achievements of SAWIE during June 2019-July 2021 since its inception and announces SAWIE collaborations with like-minded organizations. [Click here](#) to read the report.



Energy Compact on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for a Sustainable Energy Transition



SAWIE part of Gender and Energy coalition led by UNIDO, GWNET & ENERGIA, launched at the UN High Level Dialogue on Energy 2021



In September this year, the UN Secretary-General convened a High-Level Dialogue on Energy, the first called for by the UN General Assembly in 40 years since the 1981 oil crisis. The goal of the Dialogue was to raise ambition and accelerate concrete actions towards achieving SDG7 – which called for universal access to affordable, reliable,

sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 – and the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Countries, companies, cities and other entities were called on to support global progress by making bold commitments captured in the form of Energy Compacts.

Achieving SDG7 is essential for achieving other SDGs, including those related to gender equality, poverty reduction, health, jobs, climate and environment. Vice-versa, gender equality and women's empowerment as well as youth empowerment are fundamental to achieving sustainable energy for all.

South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) is partnering with UNIDO, ENERGIA, GWNET and the UN Women; the Governments of Ecuador, Iceland, Kenya and Nepal; and other platforms, to form a coalition to catalyze action towards gender equality and women's empowerment to accelerate a just, inclusive and sustainable energy transition.

For more information, [click here](#)

OUR LATEST INITIATIVES

Mentorship Series



The SAWIE Mentorship Series, as a part of the mentoring pillar for SAWIE, brings together likeminded individuals and allows them to converse candidly and share their experiences and ideas. To that end, it invites experts in the industry, working proactively towards gender diversity in the energy space, to come forward and engage with a select few of our SAWIE members. SAWIE aims to facilitate a strong relationship between mentors and mentees, and to help future female leaders in the energy sector develop their confidence, communication skills, and leadership abilities, such that they can go on to become an effective organisational change intervention.

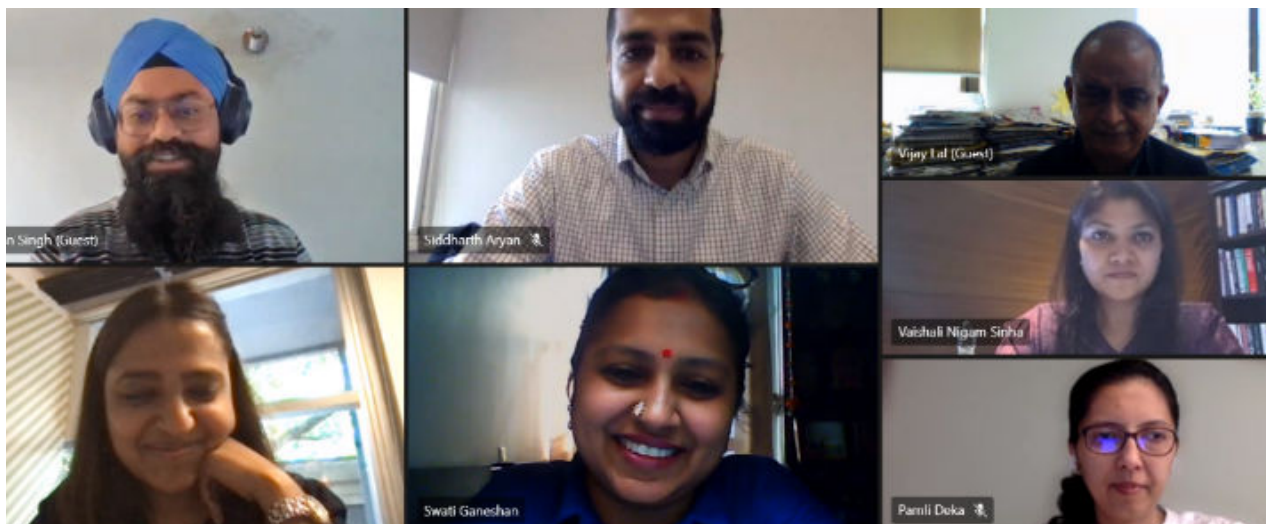
SAWIE so far has organized four closed-door virtual sessions as a part of the SAWIE Mentorship Series, where diverse individuals, come together to share their journeys while also exchanging their fundas and mantras.

The poster for the SAWIE Mentorship Series Session 1 features a portrait of Ms. Vaishali Nigam Sinha. The text on the poster includes the logos for USAID, SAWIE, and US-INDIA, followed by 'South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) MENTORSHIP SERIES'. It identifies Ms. Vaishali Nigam Sinha as the guest speaker, with her title 'Chief Sustainability, CSR and Communications Officer, Founding Chair, ReNew Foundation, and Chairperson, SAWIE'. The session date is 'Date: 3rd March 2021 | Time: 4:00 PM (IST)' and the topic is 'TOPIC Environmental, Social and Cultural Governance towards Business Growth'. At the bottom, it says 'For SAWIE Members only, please RSVP with spriyaranjan@usinfoundation.org'.

Session 1

SAWIE kickstarted its Mentorship Series with Ms. Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Chair, ReNew Foundation & Chair, SAWIE. A leader with tremendous experience in sustainability and gender empowerment ideals, she led the first series with her insights on her mantra towards Environmental,

Social and Cultural Governance towards Business Growth. Besides sharing unique anecdotes, the session took a deep dive on the biases and challenges in the path of gender diversity and probable interventions that we can collectively make, to address some of those.



South Asia Women in Energy
MENTORSHIP SERIES

Dr. Shalini Sarin
Co-Founder and Director, Elektromobilität; and
Co-Chairperson, SAWIE.

Date: 17th March 2021 | Time: 3:00 PM (IST)

TOPIC Navigating through the Corporate Matrix in the
Post-Pandemic Era

For SAWIE Members only, please RSVP with spriyarajan@usinfoundation.org



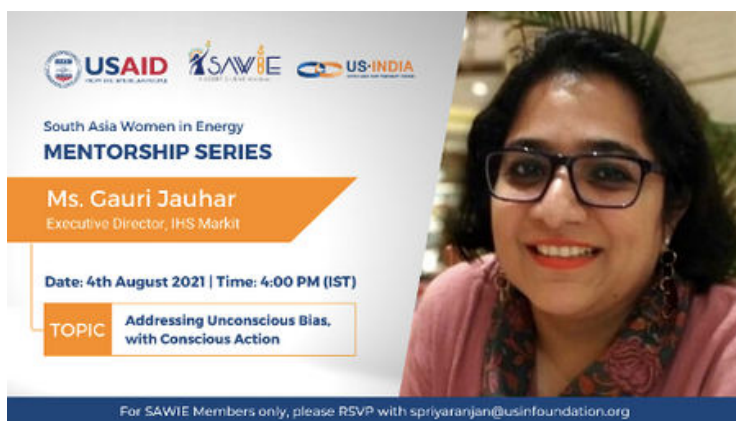
Session 2

For the second edition of the Series, Dr. Shalini Sarin, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Elektromobilität; and Co-Chairperson, SAWIE, a leader with 30 years of experience in the corporate world across India, Europe and global roles, having led various roles such as Chief people officer, head and chair of global

foundation and lead a solar business at the base of the pyramid in Companies like Schneider Electric and Philips Lighting, served as the Mentor for the House.

She engaged with a diverse cohort on 'Navigating through the Corporate Matrox in the Post-Pandemic Era.' The closed-door session involved sharing of personal stories as well as exchanging of tips and hacks needed to navigate through the corporate matrix.

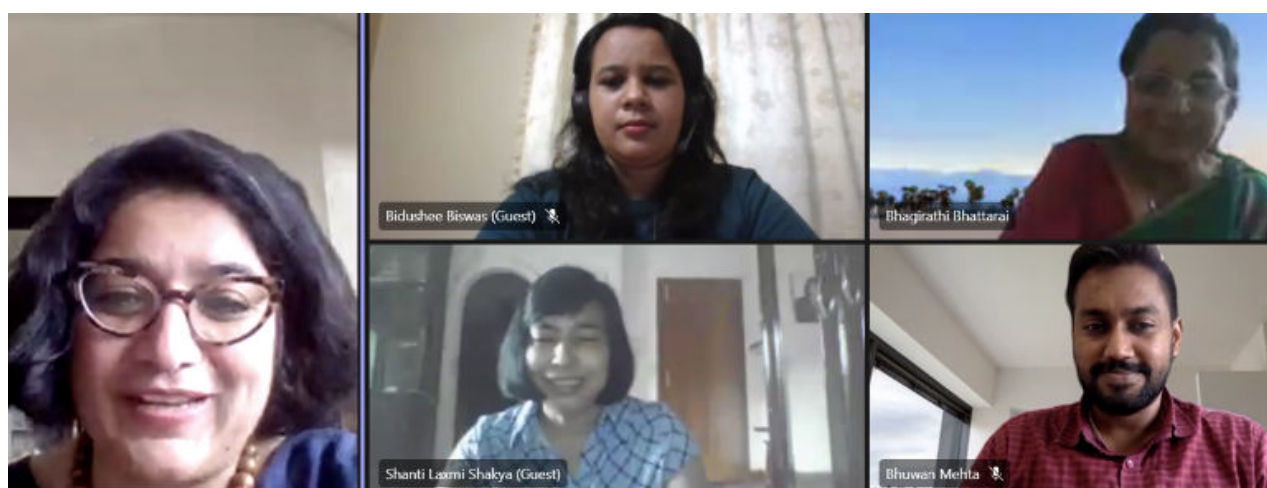




Session 3

Across the globe, unconscious bias is known to affect workplaces and organizations, given its ability to introduce unintentional discrimination that often even results in poor decision-making. Consequently, unconscious bias can be a huge setback in the creation of a truly diverse and inclusive workplace.

For Session 3 of the SAWIE Mentorship Series, the mentor Ms. Gauri Jauhar, Executive Director, IHS Markit and the cohort discussed how such biases can have an impact on recruitment, mentoring and promotions, and that in turn can hamper equal opportunities for women in terms of selection and progression to a high-level management and leadership role. Among the many key ideas that was discussed during the session, one of the major highlights for the cohort was around conscious awareness and action following the teachings of The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz.



Session 4

Being an experienced professional, with a demonstrated history of working in the management consulting industry, the 4th instalment of the Mentorship Series had Ms. Garima Garg, Head – Talent and People Strategy, ReNew Power, share her vast knowledge on the themes of leadership development, talent management, executive coaching, and organizational design.

An effective people strategy can help support overall business goals by improving employee performance. But most importantly, it places employees at the forefront of your organization's vision, which can have long-lasting positive effects. The session discussed on how to transition from the position from a manager to a leader; key difference between leadership and followership and how personalised power varies from socialised power in the setting of an organisation.



Job Portal

Opportunities for the SAWIE Community

In order to better the representation of women in the energy, industrial and manufacturing spaces, SAWIE displays new open roles at different SAWIE member organisations, across different locations in the above-mentioned sectors to the 'Job Portal' on a regular basis for the SAWIE Community's perusal.

The SAWIE Job Portal aims to enable the discovery of career-defining experiences for the women of the SAWIE Network.

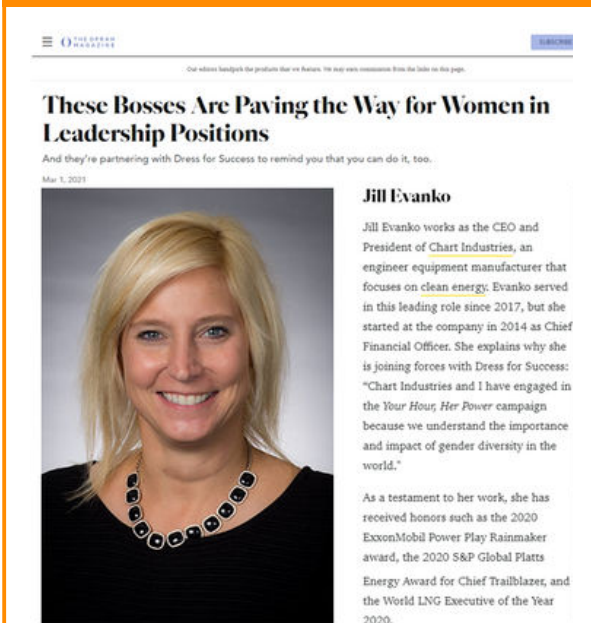


[Click Here](#)

Initiatives by SAWIE's Member Organisations



Dress for Success Your Hour Her Power by Chart Industries



Ms. Jill Evanko recently featured in Oprah Magazine's article on the 31 women supporting the 'Dress for Success Your Hour Her Power' campaign.

This campaign is inspired by the belief that when a woman has access to opportunities that can change her life, she becomes powerful beyond measure. Therefore, under this campaign, by giving the equivalent of just one hour of your pay, you give a Dress for Success woman access to programs, services, and tools that will help her achieve economic advancement.

Throughout the month of March, donations were made and Ms Evanko personally donate the difference between what was fundraised and their \$25,000 goal.

Rolls-Royce Unnati Scholarships for Women Engineering Students



STEM continues to be a predominantly male bastion in India. While women enrolment across school and higher education improved remarkably over last several years, enrolment in Engg & Tech courses witness decline. Females are frequently nudged to take basic science courses and take up a career in teaching or nursing. Despite 43% enrolment in STEM subjects only 18% take-up Engg & Tech and only 14% women take up Research upon graduating.

'Rolls-Royce Unnati Scholarships for Women Engineering Students' is an initiative of Rolls-Royce India Pvt. Ltd. to financially support meritorious girl students in completing their engineering programme. The scholarship is aimed at helping girl students studying in the 1st/2nd/3rd year of undergraduate engineering degree programme at an AICTE recognized institution in India.

SAWIE at Other Global Platforms

SAWIE at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)'s Annual Flagship Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) virtual series

January 12, 2021



VEF VIRTUAL SERIES *on Gender & Youth*

YOUTH, GENDER AND EQUITY
Day 1: Future-Proof Skills and Enabling Environments
 12 JANUARY 2021 | 14:00-16:00 CET



SAWIE received an invitation from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to talk about SAWIE and its work at their annual flagship Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) Virtual Series on January 12, 2021.

The VEF Virtual Series is a platform with the overarching goal of progressing agreed recommendations and delivering policy briefs with action-oriented solutions in targeted locations, to assist countries around the world align their recovery efforts with an Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. The Virtual Series focused on the importance of empowering women and youth to become actors of change in the road towards a clean and inclusive energy transition.

SAWIE was represented by Ripu Bhanjan Singh, Monitoring Evaluation and Knowledge Management Specialist, USAID GTG-RISE Initiative at the series as a speaker on the panel on "Future-proof skills and enabling environments" who talked about the key barriers that women face in acquiring the right skills to enter and advance in the clean energy sector. He also outlined the role that mentoring, networking and role models play in supporting women's pathway to leadership positions.

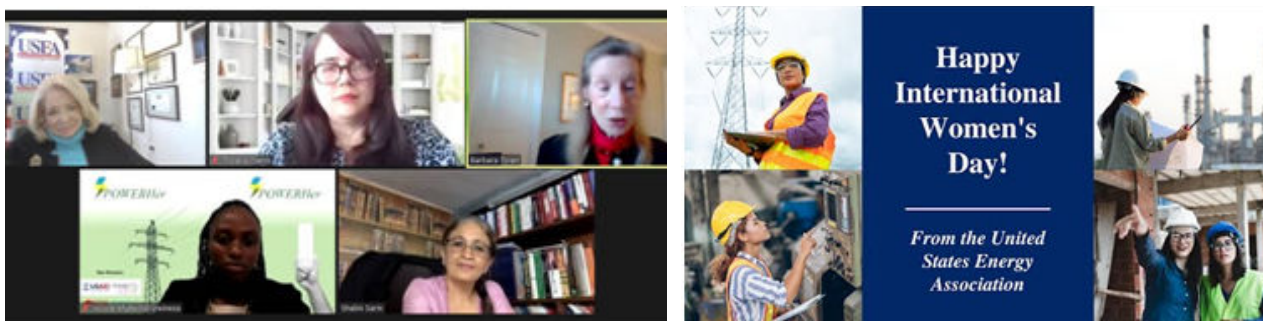


To watch the Session- [click here](#)

United States Energy Association (USEA) International Women's Day Webinar on Promoting Women in Energy

March 8, 2021

On International Women's Day 2021, USEA hosted the webinar on "Promoting Women in Energy." The webinar highlighted groups around the world that are promoting women in energy and discussed how these organizations were formed, the activities and the challenges they faced in trying to achieve their goal. The webinar also touched upon the personal stories and journeys of such organizations.



USEA's Executive Director Sheila Hollis provided the opening and closing remarks and SAWIE was represented by its Co-Chairperson Shalini Sarin. She brought to the fore how SAWIE as a platform is providing mentoring programs and is showcasing the stories of role models in the energy and infrastructure space, such that the younger generation, especially women, are inspired to take up similar roles, and also men so that they are more Sensitive to be able to facilitate and enable women to succeed.

Watch Dr. Sarin's full remarks- [click here](#)

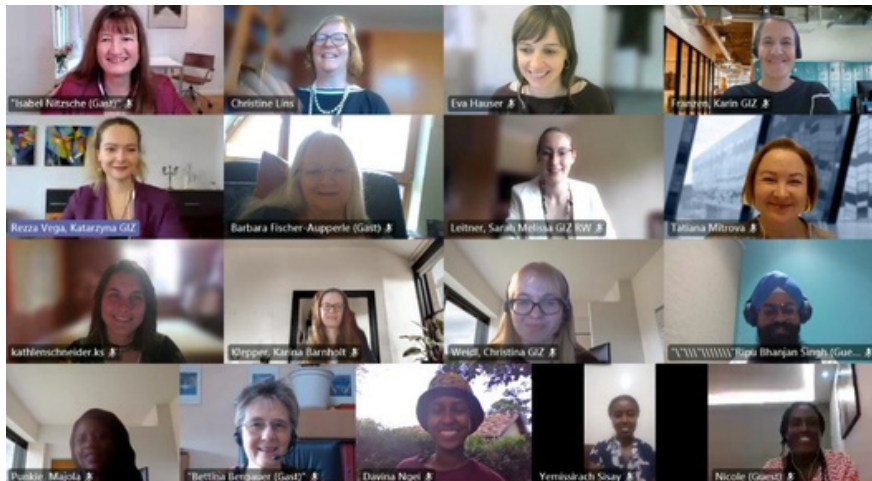
SAWIE at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)'s Annual Flagship Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) virtual series

January 12, 2021

SAWIE received an invitation from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to talk about SAWIE and its work at their annual flagship Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) virtual series on January 12, 2021. SAWIE's presentation of its work at the virtual series led to conversations with UNIDO regarding partnership at their main event in July 2021. The arrangement with UNIDO offers SAWIE a decent outreach/branding opportunity with limited risk.

GWNET Virtual Networking Event for National/Regional Women in Energy Networks

March 15, 2021



The virtual meeting connected regional/national women in energy networks from all around the world to discuss key issues faced by their networks, exchange best-practices and brainstorm about future joint activities. This event was designed to bring

more networks together to advance gender equality in the energy transition at a faster pace. The session was attended by the SAWIE Representatives from USISPF and USAID, who made valuable contribution to the discussion and together ideated interventions towards addressing the lack of women's participation in the energy space.

SAWIE on World Environment Day- Ecosystem Restoration in the world of Responsible Hospitality by Tamara Leisure Experiences

June 5, 2021



On the World Environment Day 2021, Tamara Leisure Experiences hosted its first-ever webinar on "Ecosystem Restoration in the world of Responsible Hospitality" to initiate a dialogue on how travel, tourism, and hospitality can profitably rebuild as innovative and conscious sectors. SAWIE Co-Chairperson and Executive

Director of Elektromobilität India, Shalini Sarin attended this session as a panelist.

Moderated by the CEO and Director of Tamara Leisure Experiences Shruti Shibulal, the panel of three distinctive and venerated minds in the sustainability space, discussed how with the second wave of the pandemic in 2021, having posed grave challenges among enterprises across industries in India, it is urgent that we understand this space better than before.



“The more we educate, train, and empower people, the more conscious decisions will be taken towards saving the environment,” added Dr. Sarin who made vital comments on the adoption of socially and

environmentally responsible practices in corporates, towards creating and sustaining a culture of conscious business across all ranks of the organisation.

Watch the full remarks- [click here](#)



COP 26: Time to Place Gender at the Heart of Climate Mitigation Efforts



By Vaishali Nigam Sinha

**Chief CSR, Sustainability and
Communications Officer,
ReNew Power**

**Chair, ReNew Foundation
Chair, SAWIE**

The bugle for COP 26, to be held at Glasgow in November this year has been sounded. In the 5 years since Paris, most nations have failed to meet their emission reduction targets, resulting in a deepening of the climate crisis. Recognizing the need for greater urgency and bolder commitments, COP 26 President Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma (MP) and President Biden's Climate Envoy, Secretary John Kerry have started dialogues with key nations, with a view to ramp up global ambitions and nudge countries to adopt frameworks for net zero economies. Not surprisingly, India, given its undisputed importance in global climate action, figures prominently in their itineraries. Close on the heels of Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma's visit in February, India welcomed Secretary Kerry in early April for discussions to set the stage for a fruitful Glasgow summit. In many ways the time is opportune to raise the issue of prioritizing gender responsive climate action, ensuring a key role for women at Glasgow and steps required to unlock the potential of women as change agents.

It is time we recognize that gender and climate are cross cutting issues with women much more vulnerable to socio-economic and environmental shocks due to climate change. 80% of people displaced by climate change are women and they are also 14 times more likely to suffer direct impact of climate disasters. Their traditional role in society and barriers like restricted access to resources, technology, limited mobility and minimal say in decision making lowers their resilience, exposing them to a far higher risk of disruption in livelihood and food security besides violence and abuse.

This calls for prioritizing gender dimensions in climate mitigation policy responses, by ensuring adequate women representation in decision making processes. Climate action cannot continue to neglect the problems of those most affected and turn a deaf ear to their voices. Women must play a bigger role in climate dialogues and their needs and preferences integrated within adaptation and mitigation plans. The best way to make this happen is by enabling women leaders to shape & drive the climate agenda.

There is conclusive evidence that a more gender diverse climate leadership results in stronger and more effective solutions. Climate change risk perception and concern is consistently higher among women and they also tend to be more supportive of policies and lifestyle changes to tackle climate change. Research shows that countries with high representation of women in parliament are more likely to ratify international environment treaties. Multiple studies indicate female policymakers are better at driving collaborations and negotiations across party lines and more sensitive to community needs. There are also several success stories of women led climate smart solutions transforming lives in communities. The Solar Sisters programme in Africa and the Solar Mamas initiative of Barefoot College which train women as solar engineers, the Wonder Women programme in Indonesia or tribal women in Rajasthan turning greenpreneurs by mass manufacturing of solar lamps, are all examples of women catalyzing change towards a sustainable future.

Despite the compelling evidence and rationale for women leaders, the numbers tell a very different story, underlining the gross under representation of women in decision making and policy design. The average representation of women in national and global climate negotiating bodies is below 30% and doesn't improve at the local level. At last year's COP25, only 21% of the 196 heads of delegation were women. The senior leadership team of forthcoming COP 26 is also male dominated with women occupying a mere 25% of key leadership roles, thus raising the prospect of their concerns and perspectives being excluded from the conversation. Lack of a gender balance will seriously undermine the credibility and effectiveness of the COP 26 leadership. The discussions need to be gender inclusive with women lending their voice and actively participating in and influencing the agenda, negotiations, and key decisions.

Additionally, to boost gender responsive climate action, the summit must address the following issues:

Wider adoption and implementation of the enhanced Gender Action Plan as agreed to in COP 25. Encourage nations to appoint a high-level Gender Champion for climate negotiations and policy making.

Enhanced access to funds for women-led and women's rights organisations addressing climate change impacts at the grass root level.

Skill development to enable women to lead deployment of sustainable solutions.

Urge Governments to incorporate gender perspectives into their climate policies & action plans through systematic gender analysis; collecting and utilizing sex-disaggregated data & establishing gender-sensitive benchmarks and indicators.

Drive equal representation of women in all national delegations to the UNFCCC, national and local climate action task forces, committees.

Recognize and share success stories of gender sensitive and/or women led climate action

To tackle the climate crisis effectively, women, as the most affected group, should be adequately represented in decision-making processes and deserve an equal seat at the table. The COP 26 summit provides an excellent opportunity to move towards a more inclusive mitigation strategy that is also shaped and spearheaded by women. There isn't a better time for women to be at the forefront of the climate movement and I hope we don't miss the bus.

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SAWIE Membership
is open to



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who adhere to the
objectives and vision of SAWIE

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