



SAWIE Leadership Summit

April 6th, 2021

Time: 5:45 PM – 9:00 PM (IST)

Virtual Platform: CISCO Webex

US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), in partnership with USAID, launched the South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) in September 2019. A platform build for leaders in the energy, manufacturing and industrial sectors, to come together and deliberate the importance of gender diversity in decision-making & leadership roles and **inspire change**.

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.

The SAWIE Annual Leadership Summit aims to bring together senior Indian Government officials, US Government officials, business leaders and experts from India, U.S. and South Asia to discuss advancing environmental sustainability efforts and the role of gender.

Objectives

The leadership Summit attempts to bring leaders together to discuss and deliberate the importance of gender diversity in decision-making and leadership roles. The Summit will focus on women's role towards building an equitable and inclusive economy while also addressing climate priorities for a sustainable future.

Outcomes

- Through such dialogues, we will be able to better understand the challenges that stand in the way of gender-diversity in decision making roles.
- Will be more equipped to mentor and identify women leaders in the energy and infrastructure space who have shown exemplary leadership and highlight their contributions to the sector.
- Further, through knowledge exchange and success stories, we'll be able to promote gender-inclusive policies and motivate qualified aspiring women to opt for careers in Indian and global energy sector through this Summit.

05:45 PM – 05:55 PM: Welcome by **Dr. Mukesh Aghi**, President and CEO, USISPF

05:55 PM – 06:05 PM: Opening Remarks by **Ms Vaishali Sinha**, Chair, ReNew Foundation; Chair SAWIE

06:05 PM – 06:15 PM: Remarks by **Ms Ramona M El Hamzaoui**, Acting Mission Director, USAID

06:15 PM – 06:25 PM: Opening Keynote by **The Honorable John Kerry**, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, US Government

06:25 PM – 06:30 PM: Remarks by **Dr. Raj Shah**, President, The Rockefeller Foundation

06:30 PM – 06:45 PM: Fireside chat with **Ms Nandita Bakhshi**, President and CEO, Bank of the West; Co-Chief Executive Officer, BNP Paribas USA Inc. with **Ms Nivedita Mehra**, Managing Director – India, USISPF

06:45 PM: - 7:45 PM: Panel 1: Balance for Better: More Women Leaders in the Boardrooms

Globally, only 5% of board executives and 16% of board members of the top 200 utilities, were women (Ernst and Young, 2019). Additionally, given that women's participation in STEM jobs is far lower than in administrative jobs, men end up holding 62 per cent of manager positions, while women hold only 38 per cent (McKinsey, 2018). However, research clearly suggest the positive relationship between diversity and improved outcomes. Boards with at least 30% women have higher profit margins than those who don't; and women CEOs in Fortune 1,000 companies drive three times the returns of S&P; enterprises dominated by men.

Therefore, with this background, the panel will discuss the importance of gender-equal leadership. It will further deliberate as to how the current leaders can take bold action to develop the pipeline of female talent, accelerate the progression of women and tackle biases in their organisations, so that there's representation of women at decision making positions across energy ecosystem.

Panelists:

1. **Ms Neelam Dhawan**, Board Member, ICICI Bank
2. **Ms Vidya Ramnath**, President, Middle East & Africa, Emerson Automation Solutions, Emerson
3. **Mr Kishore Jayaraman**, President, Rolls-Royce, India & South Asia
4. **Mr Shrikant Bapat - Country** General Manager & Managing Director India, Johnson Controls

Conversation Moderated by: Dr. Shalini Sarin, Co Founder & Executive Director, Elektromobilitat; Co-Chair SAWIE

7:45 PM – 08:30 PM: Panel 2: Gender Equality for Inclusive and Sustainable Development

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Women are powerful agents of change and possess specific knowledge and skills to effectively contribute to sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Still,

they are vastly underrepresented in decision-making processes at all levels. For this reason, studies have suggested that industry's challenges around innovation and diversity, after all, maybe linked. Embracing gender equality and providing equitable opportunities to the right talent can fast-track innovation and deliver significant value to their customers. 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.

In this context, this session will discuss the relationship between gender equality and sustainability and how women can drive this change towards sustainable development as agents who bring in their perspectives and lived experiences towards achieving gender-inclusive outcomes.

Panelists:

1. **Ms Vaishali Sinha**, Chair, ReNew Foundation; Chair SAWIE
2. **Ms Shloka Nath**, Head – Sustainability & Special Projects, Tata Trusts
3. **Dr Mechthild WÖRSDÖRFER**, Director, Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks, IEA

Conversation Moderated by: Dr Atul Arya, Senior Vice President and Chief Energy Strategist at IHS Markit

08:30 PM – 08:45 PM: Closing Keynote Address by **Ms Jill Evanko**, President and CEO, Chart Industries

08:45 PM – 08:50 PM: Closing Remarks by **Ms Monali Zeya Hazra**, Regional Energy Manager and Clean Energy Specialist, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India

08:50 PM – 08:55 PM: Thank you by **Mr Nolty Theriot**, Senior Vice President, USISPF
