

South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE)

July 2024



Background

Only one in five leadership roles in the energy sector are held by women. The energy sector remains one of the most gender imbalanced sectors, and gender equity in this sector still poses a great challenge in India. The skewed gender dynamics coupled with inadequate representation of women in these sectors can partly be attributed to the social and perception barriers about the dominance of field-based activities, geographical mobility, and shift-based working, which have traditionally been considered as negative for women's participation in these sectors.

On September 5, 2019, during the 2nd International Conference on Large-Scale Renewable Energy in India, South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) was launched as a joint initiative of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). It aims to increase the representation of women at the leadership levels in the energy, industrial, and manufacturing sectors thereby enabling diversity in decision-making. As the name suggests SAWIE is focused on the South Asia region, with India at its fulcrum.

SAWIE provides a platform for women to form a collaborative and strategic approach towards reaching gender equality goals and building strong pillars across the sectors. The platform brings together women leaders across sectors and follows a working-group-based model to realize its objectives. SAWIE organized into four working groups i.e. mentorship, leadership, entrepreneurship and networking, each led by a senior women leader as the Working Group Anchor. Furthering this commitment, SAWIE also works towards strengthening the regional network of institutional partners across the South Asia Region.

Objectives



Recognition

Increased visibility by recognizing women leaders' contribution.



Networking

Ready access to diverse group of women leaders, mentors and fellow colleagues from a variety of institutions to learn from each other.



Knowledge Sharing

Increased knowledge-sharing about global best practices and latest developments and opportunities in the region.



Mentorship & Training

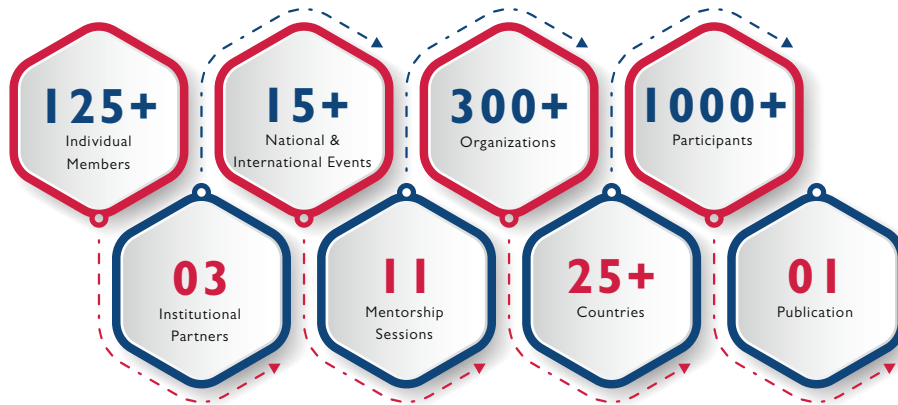
Increased opportunities to get mentored and trained by successful women leaders and mentors.



Policy & Advocacy

Evidence based collaborations established with other like-minded organizations.

Key Achievements So Far



Road Ahead (until December 2025)



Testimonials



Dr. Mukesh Aghi

CEO, USISPF

As the most defining partnership of the 21st century, the U.S. and India have taken rapid strides in tackling the pressing problems of tomorrow. Climate action is a challenge for all countries, and Washington and New Delhi, have directed an emphasis on renewables and clean energy, investing in India's clean energy sector, and the increased role of new technologies in green energy. As this sector creates new jobs, we need gender equity to be at the front and center of business priorities and build a work culture where women can thrive and grow to their true potential. At SAWIE, we aim for gender parity, building a more egalitarian world and a safer climate for posterity.



John Kerry

US Special Presidential Convoy for Climate

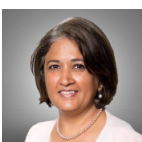
Gender equality and the promotion of women's leadership is not only critical for economic growth and sustainable development, it is essential to tackling the climate crisis.



Vaishali Nigam Sinha

Co-Founder, ReNew, 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 linkages and it is imperative that women are integral to the ongoing energy transition and play an enhanced role in the sector. The takeaways from the summit will strengthen SAWIE's efforts to create a more gender-responsive energy sector.



Dr. Shalini Sarin

Co-Founder and Executive Director, Elektromobilitat India, Co-Chair, SAWIE

Three key areas for women equality at workplace are enabling infrastructure, financial empowerment and women in position of influence.

Our Institutional Partnerships



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.



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.



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 August 2023, 172 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.

Founding Members



Vaishali Nigam Sinha
Co-Founder, ReNew,
Chair SAWIE



Dr. Shalini Sarin
Co-Founder and
Executive Director,
Elektromobilitat India
Co-Chair, SAWIE



Moutushi Sengupta
Chief of Capital
Mobilisation
AVPN



Nishi Vasudeva
Former Chairman &
Managing Director
HPCL



Ajaita Shah
Founder & CEO
Frontier Markets



Deepali Khanna
Vice President,
The Rockefeller
Foundation



Shloka Nath
CEO, India Climate
Collaborative



Annapurna Vancheswaran
Former Managing
Director,
The Nature
Conservancy India
Program



Meagan Fallone
Founder, Step Up
Advisers



Sindoor Mittal
Vice Chairperson,
Avaada Group



Join Us

SAWIE Membership is open to



Individuals



Corporates

who affirm to the objectives and vision of SAWIE

About USISPF

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), formed in 2017, is an independent non-profit, non-governmental, and non-partisan organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., with offices across both countries.

Through its network of 400+ global companies, USISPF bridges the gap between business and government and fosters closer public-private sector partnerships across all facets of the economy and society in the United States and India.

For further information

Ripu Bhanjan Singh

USISPF

Email: rsingh@usispf.org



About SAREP Partnership Fund

The SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF) supports market-based transformative solutions to enable the clean energy transition, particularly by engaging the private sector, local organizations, and new, underutilized partners. It also harnesses innovative business models, solutions, technologies, resources, experiences, and networks of relationships that exist across stakeholders. SPF aims to expand and maximize the impact of USAID resources innovatively and sustainably through activities designed, owned, and implemented by grantees under the SAREP Program. SAREP is USAID's bilateral initiative with the Government of India.

Contacts

South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)
 Commercial Tower of Novotel-Pullman Hotel
 (Floor-6), Asset No. 2, Aerocity Hospitality
 District, IGI Airport, New Delhi-110037
 Phone No: 011- 41287150
 Email: comms@sarep-southasia.org

US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)
 12, Hailey Rd, Hamdard Nagar,
 Vakil Lane, Mandi House,
 New Delhi, Delhi 110001
 Phone No: +91 98992 61667
snagpal@usinfoundation.org