

GFSE Expert Workshop

Sustainable Cities in Developing Countries

29th May 2019, 14:00 - 16:30

K°LP!NGHAUS WIEN-ZENTRAL, Gumpendorfer Straße 39, 1060 Vienna, Austria

SDG 11 calls for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. The urban population of the world has grown rapidly from 751 million in 1950 to 4.2 billion in 2018. Today, 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68% by 2050. Access to cleaner and affordable energy options in cities is therefore essential for improving the livelihoods in exponentially growing urban areas in developing countries. New business models, community empowerment, collaborative engagement of multiple stakeholders, awareness raising as well as new financial and institutional mechanisms are needed to adequately address the urban energy and poverty challenges. This workshop, organized by the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE), will explore the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy in providing energy services in urban areas of developing countries.

Developing and emerging countries face a number of challenges to meet basic needs, address inequality, build infrastructure, overcome shortage of skills, alleviate poverty, diversify and modernise their economies, promote the private sector and reduce unemployment, among others. Through innovative policy frameworks, technologies, business models and financing schemes, renewable energy and energy efficiency can substantially contribute to tap synergies between economic development and poverty reduction, on the one hand, and climate protection on the other. Low-carbon energy systems will also have to be robust to the variety of climate outcomes we could face in the future.

Cities are vulnerable to climate change and already today are being affected by its impacts. Extreme weather events (e.g. storms, floods, droughts, heat waves, sea level rise), for example, can disrupt urban infrastructures and services. High population density can complicate the impacts of such climate-triggered disruptions, given that the rapid urbanisation trends already pose a considerable strain on water and energy supply, land use, waste management, sanitation and transport. On the other hand, cities are well positioned to undertake climate protection actions. Long-lived urban infrastructures have a substantial influence on our ability to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change. Therefore, it is important that decisions made today pave the way for low-carbon, climate-resilient urban infrastructures. These infrastructures can also have multiple benefits in different areas such as air pollution, poverty reduction and sanitation.

Clean energy systems are a key element in making cities climate-smart. Access to affordable renewable energy and energy efficiency can also substantially improve the livelihoods of the urban poor. The uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency can further yield substantial co-benefits and should

be coordinated with other urban infrastructures. Thus, there is a need for a nexus approach between water, energy, land use, waste management, sanitation and transport in urban areas. Actors need to cooperate so that infrastructure projects fit together into a low-carbon, climate resilient city system. City-level action must also be supported by national policies enabling cities access to sufficient resources and knowledge and guaranteeing sufficient coordination between city administrations and regional/national authorities. In addition, given the shortage of public funds, cities must increase their ability to attract private investment to climate-resilient urban infrastructure projects.

The workshop will address the following key questions:

1. Which policies and measures are available for cities in developing countries to strengthen the use of energy efficiency measures and renewable energies?
2. Which are the main climate protection and adaptation measures for cities in Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), which are among the most vulnerable actors in regard to climate change?
3. What innovative approaches do exist to achieve gender equality in the energy sector by 2030?
4. What are the challenges in addressing energy poverty in urban areas? What is the role of renewable energy communities?
5. Which are the measures to achieve access to electricity for the low-income population in slums in urban and peri-urban areas?
6. Which measures have been implemented to increase the involvement of women in energy efficiency projects in urban areas?
7. How to enable an effective framework for Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for the financing of low-carbon urban energy infrastructure?
8. Which framework conditions that are relevant for energy policy have proven to be successful and how could these be implemented in other countries?
9. How can local communities be strengthened and empowered to gain better access to finance?
10. Which financial incentives and instruments should be introduced for renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions in cities?

Agenda Expert Workshop “Sustainable Cities in Developing Countries”	
14:00 – 14:10	Opening
	<p><i>Opening and Moderation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irene Giner-Reichl, Austrian Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil, President of GFSE and Vice-Chair of REN21
14:10 – 14:40	Key Note Speeches
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jorge Pinheiro Machado, R20 Director for Latin America • Francesco Azzena, International Consultant, UNIDO “Bridge for Cities 4.0 - Belt and Road Initiative: Connecting Cities through the New Industrial Revolution”
14:40 – 15:20	Panel Discussion – Round 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oliver Walter, Sustainable Energy Advisor, Austrian Development Agency (ADA) • DI Susanne Formanek, President, Austrian Institute for Healthy and Ecological Building (IBO) • Jorge Pinheiro Machado, R20 Director for Latin America
15:20 – 16:00	Panel Discussion – Round 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DI Hans-Martin Neumann, Thematic Coordinator, Urban Resilience and Transformation, Center for Energy, Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) • Univ.Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Rosemarie Stangl, Institute of Soil Bioengineering and Landscape Construction (IBLB), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences of Vienna (BOKU) • Dipl.-Ing. Stefan Geier, City and Energy Planer, City of Vienna (MA 20)
16:00 – 16:30	Q&A Session and Closing Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Panelists & Moderator • Workshop Participants

Organizer

With support from