



SAARC Energy Centre
Islamabad

Programme Agenda

SAARC Webinar on

“Urbanization-Energy demand Nexus: Challenges and Mitigations”

Friday, 25th October 2024: 1000 – 1200 hrs Pakistan Standard time (PKT)

1000 – 1005	Introduction <i>Mr. Ihsanullah Marwat, Research Fellow (Energy Efficiency), SAARC Energy Centre</i>
1005 – 1010	Opening Remarks <i>Dr. Nawaz Ahmad (Director, SAARC Energy Centre)</i>
1010 – 1045	Urbanization and Energy Demand: Strategies for Optimal Response <i>Mr. Merrill Goonetilleke, Former Additional Secretary Ministry of Energy, Govt. of Sri Lanka</i>
1045– 1050	Q & A session
1050 – 1140	Smart Urbanization: Managing Energy Demand with Efficiency, Mitigation, and Future Trends <i>Dr. Abbas Ihsan, Applications Engineering Lead at Energy Australia</i>
1140 – 1150	Q & A session
1150 – 1155	Conclusions and Recommendations
1155	Closing of Webinar

1. All times mentioned in agenda are according to Pakistan Standard Time (PKT). The participants from other Member States may attend Webinar by following their own national time. The time conversion for all Member States is given below for reference:

Country	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Local time	(PKT-00:30)	(PKT+01:00)	(PKT+01:00)	(PKT+00:30)	PKT	(PKT+00:45)	(PKT+00:30)

2. The participants can ask questions to presenters by typing questions or clicking to the raised hand option into the Attendees pane of the main window of MS Team software. The participants may send in questions at any time during the presentations; we will collect these and try to address them during the Q&A session.
3. All participants can also submit comments/views and/or observations on webinar to SAARC Energy Centre through email to Mr. Ihsanullah Marwat, Event Coordinator (SEC) (rfee@saarcenergy.org) by 31st October, 2024.

Mr. Merrille Goonetilleke, Former Additional Secretary Ministry of Power and Energy, Govt. of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Merrille, is a Chartered Electrical Engineer with over 33 years of distinguished service at the Ceylon Electricity Board, Ministry of Power and Energy, where he retired as the Additional General Manager. Throughout his career, he played a pivotal role in modernizing national power systems, particularly in optimizing hydro-thermal dispatch, load management, and overseeing technical operations for the Ministry of Power and Energy. He was instrumental in shaping the regulatory framework for Sri Lanka's electricity sector, contributing to key legislations such as the Sri Lanka Electricity Acts and the Engineering Council Act. Post-retirement, Mr. Merrille has transitioned to consultancy roles, contributing to power sector reform projects under ADB and World Bank funding. His wealth of experience in technical oversight, regulatory frameworks, and policy formulation makes him an invaluable expert in the field.



Dr. Abbas Ihsan, Applications Engineering Lead at Energy Australia

Dr. Abbas Ihsan is an experienced energy professional currently working as Applications Engineering Lead at Energy Australia, where he leads technical, economic, and commercial evaluations of innovative projects in the energy sector, with a focus on urban electrification and emerging technologies like Behavioural Demand Response, Virtual Power Plants, Community Battery and Electrical Vehicles. With over 15 years of expertise in renewable energy, integrated energy modelling, and financial and commercial analysis, Abbas has successfully driven strategy and innovation in energy portfolios. He holds a PhD in Energy Systems, specializing in the techno-economic optimization of hybrid renewable energy systems and carbon abatement solutions.

