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## CENTRAL ASIA CLEAN ENERGY FORUM

### ENERGY TRANSITION AND INNOVATION

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2022 | ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN



### Central Asia Clean Energy Forum | September 13 – 15, 2022 Sponsored by United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

**Background.** Countries in the Central Asia Region (CAR) – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – are taking steps to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions from their power systems and adapt to climate change. These countries will benefit from innovative technologies, new business models and cross-border electricity trade to make their electric systems more resilient. This will require billions of dollars in public and private investment, and a deepening of cross-border collaboration and regional integration of the national grids.

The U.S. Government has worked with CAR countries for over 30 years on a range of endeavors related to economic growth, power sector modernization and resilience, natural resource management, and climate change adaptation. In recent years, USAID projects have supported CAR country efforts to improve the performance of electric utilities, promote investment in clean energy, and expand cross-border electricity trade. USAID's Power Central Asia Activity is a flagship five-year, \$40 million project organized around three pillars – energy sector revitalization, clean energy investments, and cross-border trade.

With the major changes in both the regional and global energy scene, the Central Asia Clean Energy Forum seeks to bring together policymakers, utility executives, leading technology companies, and international investors to discuss energy strategies, emerging clean energy technologies, and investment.

**Themes.** The Forum will concentrate on three key themes that have major implications for the future trajectory of energy system development in CAR and the role that U.S. Government institutions are taking or can take to assist the region:

1. Major initiatives countries are taking to meet climate commitments and energy transition.
2. The role of innovation, technology, and finance to support the energy transition.
3. Opportunities and challenges of market-based regional electricity cooperation and trade.

**Participants.** The Forum is expected to attract representatives from governments, regional and global investors, technology companies, utilities, and international organizations:

1. Representatives from energy ministries and regulatory authorities
2. Utility executives representing owners and operators of generators, transmission and distribution utilities, and system and market operators.
3. Energy technology companies and energy experts. The Forum will also launch a new initiative under The USAID Power Central Asia Activity - the American Innovation Center for Central Asia.
4. Representatives from international financial and policy-making institutions.

**Site Visit (optional).** The Forum will organize a site visit to a solar power plant site.

**Venue.** Ritz Carlton Hotel, Almaty, Kazakhstan

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**Day 1:**
**Tuesday, 13 September: Energy Transition**

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| 8:30-9:30   | <b>Registration and Networking</b>   |
| 9:30-9:40   | <b>Forum Welcoming Remarks – Yerlik Karazhan, Master of Ceremonies (MC)</b>  |
| 9:40-9:50   | <b>United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Opening Remarks – Lawrence Hardy, USAID Central Asia Regional Mission Director</b>   |
| 9:50-10:00  | <b>Host Country Opening Remarks – Zhandos Nurmaganbetov, Vice-Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan</b>   |
| 10:00-11:00 | <b>State of Energy Transition in Central Asian Countries</b><br>Panelists will share each country's low carbon plan, challenges, and resource needs.<br><b>Moderator: Yerlik Karazhan, MC</b><br><b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Kazakhstan – Zhandos Nurmaganbetov</b>, Vice-Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan</li> <li><b>Kyrgyz Republic – Tilek Aitaliev</b>, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li><b>Tajikistan – Sorbon Kholmuhamadzoda</b>, Deputy Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan</li> <li><b>Turkmenistan – Erkin Gurbanov</b>, Chief Engineer, State Electricity Corporation "Turkmenenergo" of the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan</li> <li><b>Uzbekistan – Bekzod Ummatov</b>, Deputy Chairman, Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan</li> </ul> |
| 11:00-11:30 | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| 11:30-12:30 | <b>Low Carbon Energy Transition – Regional and Global Lessons</b><br>Panelists will share global experiences in energy transition; how are low carbon strategies being created; how are they being financed; what is the best organizational structure to manage the process.<br><b>Moderator: Patrick Meyer</b> , Energy Advisor, USAID Central Asia Regional Mission<br><b>Panelists:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Maksudjon Safarov</b>, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank</li> <li><b>Praveen Kumar Agarwal</b>, Former Director &amp; Chief Information Security Officer, Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)</li> <li><b>Aman Sachdeva</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Synergy Consulting</li> <li><b>Tarik Taibah</b>, Senior Business Development Manager, ACWA Power</li> </ol>   |
| 12:30-13:00 | <b>Keynote Speech: Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition</b><br><b>Speaker: Jeffrey Haeni</b> , Deputy Director, Center For Environment, Energy and Infrastructure, USAID   |
| 13:00-14:30 | <b>Lunch</b>   |

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| 14:30-16:00 | Concurrent Panel Sessions   |
|-------------|---|
| A           | <p><b>Corporate Low Carbon Strategies</b></p> <p>Panelists will discuss development of low carbon pathways for their companies, including the role of existing plants to facilitate the transition.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Victor Kovalenko</b>, Partner, Climate Change and Sustainability Leader in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Ukraine, EY</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Blair Blackwell</b>, Advisor on Corporate Programs and Low Carbon Projects, Chevron Eurasia Business Unit</li> <li><b>Allen Eisendrath</b>, Senior Technical Advisor, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</li> <li><b>Elvira Konakhbayeva</b>, Managing Director for Strategy and Sustainable Development, Kazakhstan Electricity Grid Operation Company (KEGOC)</li> <li><b>Serik Tyutebayev</b>, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Samruk-Energy</li> </ol>   |
| B           | <p><b>Key Developments in Renewable Energy Deployment</b></p> <p>Panelists will discuss global trends in renewable energy development, RE financing and investment planning and grid integration, storage, etc.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ainur Sospanova</b>, Chairperson of the Executive Board, "Qazaq Green" Renewable Energy Sources Association</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ilya Chernyakhovskiy</b>, Grid Integration Specialist, U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)</li> <li><b>Zhenis Dyussenov</b>, Director, Development Department of the National Electric Grid, Kazakhstan Electricity Grid Operation Company (KEGOC)</li> <li><b>Emmanuel Terroir</b>, Senior Business Developer, Total Eren</li> <li><b>Tarik Taibah</b>, Senior Business Development Manager, ACWA Power</li> </ol>  |
| C           | <p><b>State of the Central Asia Regional Electricity Market (CAREM)</b></p> <p>Panelists will discuss benefits of trade, how to maximize global and local benefits, the role of markets, development of new products such as ancillary services, and infrastructure financing.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Pedro Robiou</b>, Lead, Senior Regional Energy Expert, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Manuel Berlengiero</b>, Lead Energy Specialist and Program Coordinator for Central Asia, World Bank</li> <li><b>Fatih Kölmek</b>, Senior Electricity Manager, USAID Ukraine Energy Security Project</li> <li><b>Abdurashid Mirzaev</b>, Chief Dispatcher, Coordinating Dispatch Center "Energiya"</li> <li><b>Kairat Rakhimov</b>, Chairman, Kazakhstan operator of electricity and power market operator (KOREM)</li> <li><b>Sergey Yelkin</b>, Energy Projects Specialist, USAID Central Asia Regional Mission</li> </ol> |





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| 16:00-16:30 | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| 16:30-17:15 | <b>Wrap Up Round Table</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> Yerlik Karazhan, MC<br><b>Participants:</b> Day One session moderators  |
| 17:15-18:00 | <b>Official Launch of American Innovation Center in Central Asia</b><br><b>Announcement of First Round of Awards</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> Laura Cizmo, Regional Economic Development Office Director, USAID Central Asia Regional Mission<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Introduction to AICCA and Announcement of Awards:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luis Rivera, Deputy Mission Director, USAID Central Asia Regional Mission</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Introduction of Awardees and AICCA Future Plans:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andriy Mitskan, Chief of Party, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Awardee Spotlight: General Electric (GE) and CDC Energia:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ruslan Barba, Regional Senior Sales Manager – Eurasia, GE</li> <li>Abdurashid Mirzaev, Chief Dispatcher, CDC “Energia”</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Wrap-up:</b> Yerlik Karazhan, MC</li> </ol> |
| 18:00-20:00 | <b>Social Hour</b>  |

## Day 2:

**Wednesday 14 September: Innovation, Technology and Finance**

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| 8:30-9:30  | <b>Registration, Networking</b>  |
| 9:30-11:00 | <b>Concurrent Sessions</b>   |
| <b>A</b>   | <b>The Digital Utility</b><br><p>Panelists will present specific case studies of smart grid application and how demand response is contributing to managing load, including WAMS/WAMC, RAS, DERMS. Lessons learned in CAR. Topics related to cybersecurity will also be discussed.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Pramod Jain, Energy Advisor, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hector Altuve</b>, Dean, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc. (SEL) University</li> <li><b>Ruslan Barba</b>, Regional Senior Sales Manager – Eurasia, General Electric (GE)</li> <li><b>Aydar Makhambet</b>, Chairman of the Board, Mangistau Regional Electricity Network Company</li> <li><b>Natalya Lapshina</b>, Head of Telecommunications Department, Alatau Zharyk Company</li> <li><b>Alibek Ilyassov</b>, Chief Manager, Department of Technological Development and Research and Development, Kazakhstan Electricity Grid Operation Company (KEGOC)</li> </ol> |

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| B           | <p><b>Financing Clean Energy Transition</b></p> <p>Panelists will discuss how utilities and governments are raising capital to climate-proof their businesses and investments.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Sandeep Kohli</b>, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Ankit Chaturvedi</b>, Managing Director, Synergy Consulting</li> <li>2. <b>Lucinda Sadrian</b>, Managing Principal, Capital Navigation Strategies</li> <li>3. <b>Tarik Taibah</b>, Senior Business Development Manager, ACWA Power</li> <li>4. <b>Yerlan Ramazanov</b>, Associate Director, Regional Head Energy – Eurasia, Middle East, Africa, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</li> <li>5. <b>Marat Yelibayev</b>, Deputy Chairman, Development Bank of Kazakhstan</li> </ol>   |
| 11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break   |
| 11:30-13:00 | Concurrent Sessions  |
| A           | <p><b>Diversifying and Strengthening the Utility Workforce</b></p> <p>Panelists will discuss the role of education, professional development, and gender sensitivity in strengthening the utility workforce.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Anar Nurbayeva</b>, Principal, Gender Advisor, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irene Giner-Reichl</b>, Senior Advisor, Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)</li> <li>2. <b>Jamola Khusanjanova</b>, Head of Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan</li> <li>3. <b>Ainur Sospanova</b>, Chairperson of the Executive Board, "Qazaq Green" Renewable Energy Sources Association</li> <li>4. <b>Bayan Abylkairova</b>, Deputy Chief of Party, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</li> <li>5. <b>Mariana Vasquez del Mercado Castro</b>, Gender Advisor, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</li> </ol> |
| B           | <p><b>Role of Energy Storage and H2 in the New Energy System</b></p> <p>Panelists will discuss role of H2, BESS, pumped hydro as part of the new energy system, for stability as well as to meet climate objectives. Discussion will revolve around cost, commercialization, business models, and adoption.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Pramod Jain</b>, Energy Advisor, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Constance McAninch</b>, U.S. Department of Energy Office Director, U.S. Embassy in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan</li> <li>2. <b>Naim El Chami</b>, Senior Analyst - Energy Storage and Hydrogen, Clean Horizon</li> <li>3. <b>Ilya Chernyakhovskiy</b>, Grid integration Specialist, NREL</li> <li>4. <b>Sandeep Kohli</b>, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank</li> </ol>  |



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|--------------------|---|
| <b>13:00-14:30</b> | <b>Lunch Break and Networking</b>   |
| <b>14:30-16:00</b> | <b>Concurrent Sessions</b>  |
| <b>A</b>           | <p><b>Role of Small-Scale Systems in the Modern Energy System</b></p> <p>Panelists will share CAR project and regulatory experiences related off-grid, rooftop solar, captive power, and other similar systems.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Markus Straslicka</b>, Energy Advisor, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Yerlan Dairbekov</b>, Expert on Renewable Energy, United Nations Development Programme</li> <li><b>Robert Foster</b>, International Renewable Energy Expert, American Solar Energy Society</li> <li><b>Umarkhon Madvaliev</b>, Head, Tajikistan Renewable Energy Association</li> <li><b>Kairat Bakenov</b>, Associate Professor of the Department "Power Supply and Renewable Energy Sources", Almaty University of Power, Engineering and Telecommunications</li> </ol> |
| <b>B</b>           | <p><b>Q&amp;A with International Energy Experts</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Allen Eisendrath</b>, Senior Technical Advisor, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hector Altuve</b>, Dean, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories Inc. (SEL) University</li> <li><b>Ilya Chernyakhovskiy</b>, Grid Integration Specialist, U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)</li> <li><b>Pramod Jain</b>, Energy Advisor, The USAID Power Central Asia Activity</li> <li><b>Fatih Kolmek</b>, Senior Electricity Manager, USAID Ukraine Energy Security Project</li> <li><b>Praveen Kumar Agarwal</b>, Former Director &amp; Chief Information Security Officer, POSOCO</li> </ol>   |
| <b>16:00-17:00</b> | <p><b>Wrap Up Round Table</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> MC</p> <p><b>Participants:</b> Day Two session moderators, <b>Sergey Yelkin</b>, Energy Projects Specialist, USAID Central Asia Regional Mission</p>   |

**Day 3:**

**Thursday 15 September: Site Visit (optional)**

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