



Subject Matter Experts

The instructional faculty comprises **experts from AIT, and a select number of women professionals and leaders from across the region**. WePower SAR-100 brings together a group of women and men who are highly regarded by their peers and will each highlight their perspectives in the broad topic of women and leadership contextualized to the area of sustainable energy. Each instructor brings specialized knowledge, deep knowledge of South Asia's regional context, and international experience, offering participants a comprehensive understanding of topics under discussion within the subject of Women and Leadership.



Prof. FAIZ SHAH

*Executive Director, Yunus Center AIT
President, Yunus Foundation Thailand
Program Lead, WePOWER-SAR100*

Professor Faiz Shah is Executive Director of Yunus Center AIT (YCA) and member of the AIT Management team. Between 2009 and 2020 he was Head of Development Management at AIT Extension with faculty affiliation at the AIT School of Management. In 2023, he received an appointment as Professor at the Albukhary Center of Excellence for Socio-Economic Development & Innovation. As a member of the WePOWER Steering Committee, Professor Shah facilitates the HRM Working Group, and has led the design and implementation of the SAR100. In a 40-year international career as educator, entrepreneur and development professional, Professor Shah has overseen over 300 projects and trained over 3,000 grassroots changemakers. Professor oversees the Yunus Masters in Social Business & Entrepreneurship, and the ESG Professional Masters at AIT, and the Masters in Social Business, and the Center for Graduate Studies at Albukhary International University. He is lead author of "Responsible Business Guide - A Toolkit for Winning Companies" (CIPE-RBI-ACCA, 2010), and has recently contributed book chapters and papers on enterprise-led development (OUP, 2024), social impact business design (Springer, 2023), and mobile health (Springer, 2022). In 2019 he published the authorized Urdu edition of Professor Yunus' "A World of Three Zeroes: The New Economics of Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions" AIT Press, 2020). Professor Shah is Managing Editor for the Albukhary Social Business Journal.



Prof. PAULA BANERJEE

*IDRC Endowed Research Chair, Gender & Development Studies
Director, Center on Gender and Forced Displacement
Asian Institute of Technology*

Professor Paula Banerjee has a long research and publication record on gender and forced displacement in both South and Southeast Asia, and serves as the IDRC Endowed Chair in Gender & Development at AIT since April 2023. She is the founding Director of the Centre on Gender and Forced Displacement (CGFD) hosted by Gender and Development Studies in the School of Environment, Resources and Development. She has served as Vice Chancellor of Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata, between 2017 and 2019. Before that she was Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Calcutta, responsible for approximately 7000 graduate students, 32 departments and 10 research centers. A world-class leader in gender and forced displacement, Professor Banerjee has served as a two-term president of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM). She was the Director of the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, India's premier think tank on forced migration, and a number of other research centers. She is the author of 15 books, and over 44 articles and book chapters, and numerous conference papers and reports. She is the editor of Refugee Watch and on the editorial boards of several other journals.



Ms. GARGI CHATTERJEA

*Executive Director (Regulatory Affairs & Corporate Services),
CESC Limited, India*

Dr. Gargi heads the Regulatory Affairs / Corporate Services and Legal divisions of CESC Limited as Executive Director (Regulatory Affairs & Corporate Services) since 2014. CESC is the private electricity distribution company for Kolkata, India and is also the oldest power distribution company of India. Dr. Gargi is also a Director of a number of power companies in India, including Noida Power Company Limited (NPCL), the power distribution company for Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh and Haldia Energy Limited, a generating company in West Bengal. She is a visiting faculty of the Asia Institute of Power Management (AIPM). Dr. Gargi has a PhD in Management (Power) from University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, India. She is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Dr. Gargi has received 'Outstanding Achiever', the topmost award in the RP-Sanjiv Goenka group of companies.

Dr. Gargi has been a moderator, speaker and panelist on topics of gender empowerment, equality and



human rights. She is also credited with a number of publications in academic journals. A person of varied interests, she has also lectured on Mahabharata at the Sanskrit College & University. Some of her English translations of Rabindranath Tagore's poems and short stories have been published.



Prof. MEGHNA GUHATHAKURTA

Executive Director, Research Initiatives, Bangladesh

Former Professor of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Meghna Guhathakurta taught International Relations at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1984 to 2006. She is currently Executive Director of Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB) a research organized based in Dhaka, which specializes in participatory action research with marginalized communities including the Rohingya refugees. Dr. Guhathakurta graduated from the University of Dhaka and received her Ph.D from the University of York, UK. in Politics. Her field of specialization has broadly been international development, gender relations and South Asian politics. She is well published in migration trends in Partition histories, peace-building in post conflict societies and minority rights in South Asia, and participation of women in politics and elections.

She also served as Honorary Member of the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh from 2016 to 2019.



Prof. MINI S. THOMAS

Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, JMI, India

Former Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli

Past President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI)

Prof. Mini Shaji Thomas, is currently the Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), and was the Director of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (NIT, Trichy) from 2016-2021, the top NIT as per the India Rankings by NIRF for 6 consecutive years. Dr. Thomas is on the Board of Directors of the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and was the President of Shastri-Indo Canadian Institute (SICI) 2020-21, a binational organization supported by MoE, GoI, that promotes understanding between India and Canada. She was the founder Director of the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) at JMI, has set up the first of its kind SCADA laboratory and Substation Automation (SA) Laboratory at JMI, and started a unique M Tech program in JMI, in Electrical Power System Management. She was the board member of 3 IEEE International Boards, has traveled extensively around the globe, and delivered lectures in prestigious universities. Dr. Thomas graduated from University of Kerala (Gold Medalist), completed her M. Tech from IIT Madras (Gold Medalist, Siemen's prize) & PhD



from IIT Delhi, India, all in Electrical Engineering. She won the IEEE EAB Meritorious Service in Continuing Education "for design and development of curriculum and laboratory facilities for professionals and students in the electric power utility industry" and many other awards. Her specialties are in power system SCADA, substation and distribution automation, and smart grid.

Ms. NIGMA TAMRAKAR

Expert in GESI/GRB and Economic Empowerment through Enterprise Development and Value Chain Initiatives

[LinkedIn](#)



Ms. Nigma Tamrakar is working as a freelancer for gender equality, social inclusion, gender responsive budgeting and women's economic empowerment. She gained a lot of first hand practical experience on the issues of gender equality and social inclusion and economic empowerment, in different sectors. She has good analytical skills to identify critical issues, designing policy framework, proper planning and budgeting, implementation and monitoring to ensure results. She has more than 30 years of experience in gender, inclusion and economic empowerment. She worked for NRREP/Alternative Energy Promotion Center as GESI advisor. Recently she is working with UNDP, USAID, FES/GIZ, SDC, TAF and other international organizations as a consultant for monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, research and study and producing knowledge products.



Ms. KATARINA ATALIFO

Pacific Development Specialist

[LinkedIn](#)

Ms. Katarina Atalifo is a distinguished Pacific Development Specialist with extensive experience in environmental sustainability and community development across the Pacific region. She has held pivotal roles in various organizations, contributing significantly to sustainable development initiatives.

Ms. Atalifo served as the Sub-Regional/National Coordinator for the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) in Fiji, a program under the United



Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In this capacity, she coordinated efforts to promote sustainable landscape management and biodiversity conservation, fostering community resilience and environmental stewardship. Her commitment to sustainable development is further exemplified through her contributions to Alinea International, where she co-authored articles highlighting the role of women and girls in building a sustainable future in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ms. Atalifo's academic background includes a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the South Pacific, reflecting her strong foundation in scientific principles that underpin her work in environmental and community development. Throughout her career, Ms. Atalifo has demonstrated unwavering dedication to empowering Pacific communities, advocating for sustainable practices, and promoting gender equity in development initiatives. Her leadership and expertise continue to inspire positive change towards a more resilient and sustainable future for the Pacific region.



Prof. SIVANAPPAN KUMAR

*Emeritus Professor
Sustainable Energy Transition, Department of Energy, Environment and
Climate Change
Asian Institute of Technology*

Prof. Sivanappan Kumar is a professor at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) with over 30 years of experience in renewable energy, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. He has taught at the master's and PhD levels, supervised more than 140 students, and published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and 70 book chapters. His research focuses on renewable energy and low-carbon development across Asia, and he has led over 90 projects with a combined budget exceeding \$9.5 million. Prof. Kumar has served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean at AIT, and he is the editor of the International Energy Journal. He holds a PhD from the Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse, France, along with degrees in Energy Technology and Mechanical Engineering. He is recognized as one of AIT's top 2% global scientists in Sustainable Energy Transition.



Dr. PRASAD PATKI

*Senior Vice President & Group Chief Human Resource Officer (Group CHRO)
BSES Group
[LinkedIn](#)*

Dr. Prasad Patki is a seasoned HR leader with over 20 years of experience across sectors including Energy,



Healthcare, Automobile, BFSI, and Wellness. Currently serving as Senior Vice President and Group CHRO at BSES Group, he oversees a workforce of 19,000, driving transformative HR practices. Dr. Patki specializes in HR transformation, change management, capability building, and digital HR ecosystems. He holds dual master's degrees in Labour Studies (MBA-HR) and Commerce, along with a Ph.D. in Strategic HRM and Kautilya's Arthashastra.

Renowned for his visionary leadership, he was honored among the Top 20 Visionary CHROs in 2023 and received the ET HR Employee Experience Award. Dr. Patki also serves on the Board of Management for the Cooperative Banking Sector, showcasing his dedication to empowering people, shaping culture, and driving impactful organizational growth.



Prof. MOKBUL MORSHED AHMAD

*Head, Development Planning Management and Innovation
Department of Development and Sustainability (DS)
Asian Institute of Technology*

Prof. Mokbul Morshed Ahmad is a Professor and Head of the Department of Development and Sustainability (DS) at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). He leads the Development Planning Management and Innovation unit and specializes in regional and rural development planning, community development, NGOs and civil society, adaptation to climate change, and human conflicts. Prof. Ahmad holds a Ph.D. from the University of Durham, UK (2000) and M.Sc. in Rural and Regional Development Planning from AIT (1993), and an M.Sc. in Geography from Dhaka University, Bangladesh (1990), where his thesis focused on the Role of NGOs in the Rural Development of Bangladesh. He also holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Geography from Dhaka University (1989). Prof. Ahmad worked with the Government of Bangladesh as a civil servant in the Ministry of Public Administration and Commerce. He also taught and conducted research on international development, NGOs, community development, human conflicts, and adaptation to climate change. Prof. Ahmad has authored eight books and numerous articles, with notable projects funded by DAAD, UNEP, IFAD, and the Rockefeller Foundation, focusing on climate adaptation, rural development, sustainability, public policy, and community resilience.



Dr. TRIPTA THAKUR

*Director General
National Power Training Institute (NPTI), Ministry of Power
Government of India*

Dr. Tripta Thakur is Director General, National Power Training Institute (NPTI), apex body of Ministry of Power, Government of India. She was earlier Head and Professor, Electrical Engineering Department at the National Institute of Technology, MANIT-Bhopal, India. She is a graduate in Electrical Engineering with Master's degree in Power Electronics from IIT-Kanpur, and has a PhD from IIT-Delhi. She has been recipient of several awards such as Commonwealth Research Scholar at University of Dundee (2005-2008), UK, Commonwealth Academic fellow at Durham University Business School (2014), UK, COFUND Senior researcher at Durham University Business School (2016), Visiting Faculty at AIT, Bangkok (2010), technical member for International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), SEG4 Group, ISGF (MoP) working group member etc. She has teaching and research experience of 28 years, with close to 100 publications to her credit. She was also an international consultant for developing possible common South Asian electricity markets. She has done various consultancies for distribution companies in India.

Panel 1: Unpacking Transitions: Before and After experiences from SAR100-1.0

Moderator



Ms. TANUSHREE BHOWMIK

*Partnership Coordinator
WePOWER at The World Bank*

Ms. Tanushree Bhowmik is the Partnership Coordinator for WePOWER at the World Bank. She supports partnerships and National Chapters in India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Ms. Tanushree Bhowmik has two and half decades of experience in working in International Development and Finance with institutions like the UNDP, Australian Aid, World Bank and Government of India. She has



worked on energy access, demand side management, renewable energy and infrastructure. She specialises in looking at traditionally gender-blind sectors from a gender perspective. While in UNDP, she facilitated the first report that looked at rural electrification from a gender and socioeconomic lens. She also managed the first project involving women Self Help Groups in distribution management and commercial functions of distribution.

Panelists:



Ms. MONAMI ISLAM

*Sub Divisional Engineer
Bangladesh Power Development Board
SAR100-1.0 Alumna*

Bangladesh

Ms. Monami Islam works as a Sub-Divisional Engineer at Bangladesh Power Development Board in Bangladesh. With an undergraduate degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet, she began her career as a NOC Engineer at Bangla Trac Communications Limited (2016-2017), later switching to the power sector in 2017, as assistant engineer in Bangladesh Power Development Board.



Ms. SANGAY ZANGMO

*Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Druk Green Power Corporation
SAR100-1.0 Alumna*

Bhutan

Ms. Sangay Zangmo is currently employed in the Projects and Contracts Department, specializing in managing contracts for hydropower and solar construction projects, with a strong emphasis on the tendering processes for Goods, Works, and Services. DGPC is actively diversifying energy sources by developing rooftop and utility-scale solar projects, aiming to achieve an initial target of 500 MWp by 2026 and an additional 500 MWp by 2030 to address the growing domestic energy demand and energy security challenges. To support this initiative, DGPC has formed a “Project Implementation Team” to oversee all matters related to utility and rooftop solar projects. In this capacity, she serves as the focal contract officer, responsible for overseeing the tendering and management of contracts for both ongoing and upcoming solar projects. Previously, Ms. Sangay Zangmo began their career at the Tala Hydropower Plant, one of Bhutan’s largest hydroelectric projects, where she gained valuable experience in various roles within the Operation & Maintenance team. She later transitioned to the Corporate Office, where she was responsible for managing corporate planning and strategy, including setting annual performance targets



for DGPC's power plants and subsidiaries. These subsidiaries are involved in all aspects of the hydropower sector, ranging from design and engineering to construction, reclamation, manufacturing, and automation systems.



India

Ms. TARALI DEKA

*Assistant General Manager (Tariff)
Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited
SAR100-1.0 Alumna*

An Electrical Engineer by profession, Ms. Tarali Deka built her academic foundation at Goreswar Girls High School, Assam Engineering Institute in Guwahati, Arya College of Engineering and IT in Jaipur, and pursued Management studies at IGNOU, India. She is currently working as Assistant General Manager (Tariff) at Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited (AEGCL), where she oversees tariff and regulatory affairs. With 14 years of experience in the power sector, her expertise includes the operation and maintenance of high-voltage grid substations, along with her previous role as Resident Engineer of a 132 kV Grid Substation.

Over the course of her 14-year professional journey, Ms. Tarali Deka has received several recognitions. In 2016, she was nominated for the Young Managers Contest organized by the Guwahati Management Association, securing a special prize for achieving fourth place. In 2017, she was honored with an award for exemplary maintenance of the establishment assigned to her at AEGCL. A particularly inspiring milestone in her career was her participation in the first edition of the WePower SAR100 program, where she attended the Capstone Event at the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, and received a professional award from Padma Bhushan Dr. Sudha Murthy, a philanthropist, Chairperson of Infosys Foundation, and distinguished Member of Parliament of India.



Maldives

Ms. HAMNA ZADHY

*Assistant Engineer
Avi Technologies Pvt Ltd
SAR100-1.0 Alumna*

Ms. Hamna Zadhly is an electrical engineer with expertise in power system design and analysis, dedicated to advancing renewable energy solutions. Currently working at Avi Technologies Pvt Ltd, she designs and



analyzes solar PV systems customized to meet customer energy needs, ensuring optimal efficiency through detailed calculations and simulations. She also contributes to Battery Energy Storage projects, helping clients transition to off-grid solutions. Beyond her technical skills, Ms. Zadhy excels in problem-solving and analytical thinking, essential for overcoming challenges during project implementation. Her accomplishments include serving as School Captain and President of the English Club in 2013. She achieved notable academic recognition, securing 2nd place in the Top Ten Maldives (O Level, 2013) and 6th place (A Level, 2016).



Nepal

Ms. SHUBHA LAXMI SHRESTHA

*Deputy Director
Alternative Energy Promotion Center
SAR100-1.0 Alumna*

Ms. Shubha Laxmi Shrestha has a strong foundation in sustainable energy practices and is currently working as Deputy Director at Alternative Energy Promotion Center in Nepal. This institution, operating under the Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, an apex government organization mandated for promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate mitigation actions throughout the country. Driven by a passion for social justice and environmental resilience, she is committed to tackling the complex challenges at the intersection of energy frontiers and mitigation actions to climate change. She is focused on advancing policy advocacy that fosters a just transition to cleaner, more inclusive, and climate-resilient energy systems, ensuring that marginalized groups and communities are uplifted, not left behind. Colleagues and partners describe her as a results-oriented, collaborative, and passionate advocate for a future where sustainability, equity, and innovation converge.



Pakistan

Ms. RABIA KALSOOM

*Assistant Manager (Demand Forecast)
Islamabad Electric Supply Company
SAR100-1.0 Alumna*

An electrical engineer with nine years of experience working for DISCOMs in Pakistan, specializing in load forecasting and transmission system planning of power systems. She is also keen on contributing to the policy and regulatory aspects of the power sector in her country. In addition to her professional pursuits, she is a mother to two young children under the age of two, navigating the challenges of balancing career and motherhood.



Sri Lanka



Ms. F.Z. MARZOOK

Electrical Engineer

Tower Line Construction & Material Management, Distribution Division 1

Ceylon Electricity Board

SAR100-1.0 Alumna

With over 11 years of experience as an Electrical Engineer at the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), Ms. Zahra Marzook specializes in Tower line construction, material management and Occupational Health and Safety in the Projects and Heavy Maintenance branch for medium-voltage (33 kV) systems. She is the IET Young Woman Engineer Award winner of 2019 in Sri Lanka and the recipient of the Prof. Sudatta Ranasinghe Memorial Gold Medal for Excellence in Research from the Open University of Sri Lanka in November 2021. She is a City & Guilds (UK) certified Trainer.

Recently elected as the Electrical, Electronics, and Telecommunication Sectional Committee Chairman of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) she is an alumna of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of USA. As an active Toastmaster, she continuously develops her leadership and communication skills. Her experience includes roles in overhaul management and condition monitoring at Sri Lanka's 3x300 MW Coal Power Plant.

Panel 2: Young professionals

Moderator



Ms. NIGMA TAMRAKAR

*Expert in GESI/GRB and Economic Empowerment through Enterprise
Development and Value Chain Initiatives*

[LinkedIn](#)



Panelists:



Bangladesh

Ms. SHARMIN AHMED

*Sub-divisional Engineer
ICT Division, Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)*

With over 16 years of experience in the energy sector, Ms. Sharmin Ahmed has been specializing in the field of Management Information Systems (MIS). In her role at DESCO, she is responsible for delivering optimized information systems that enhance decision-making processes by transforming data into actionable knowledge.

As a mid-career professional, Ms. Sharmin Ahmed continues to strive for a balance between professional and personal goals, a challenge faced by many women in her country. She strongly believes in the importance of inclusivity in the professional sector, recognizing its critical role in shaping a better future for individuals and society as a whole.

Ms. Sharmin Ahmed holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering, as well as a Master's in Business Administration (MIS). Additionally, she is currently pursuing a second master's degree in information technology.



Bhutan

Ms. DECHEN DEMA

*Executive Engineer
Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy*

Ms. Dechen Dema is an Executive Engineer at the Department of Energy under the Ministry of Energy in Bhutan. Dechen completed a Master of Renewable and Sustainable Energy at Murdoch University in 2021 with the support of an Australia Awards Scholarship. Since then, she has worked at the Department as the focal person for creating awareness on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Dechen conducted the Department's first ever webinar series, titled 'Energy Week', to allow participants to share expertise and experiences in renewable energy and energy efficiency. She leads the Department's coordination with donor agencies to review energy efficiency in Bhutan's appliance sector and the development of a framework for standards.



India

Dr. RASHI GUPTA

*Founder and Managing Director
M/s Vision Mechatronics Private Ltd.*

Dr. Rashi Gupta, Founder & Managing Director, Vision Mechatronics Pvt. Ltd. Fondly known as “Batterywali of India”, Dr. Rashi Gupta is the pioneer of manufacturing of Advanced Lithium Batteries in India along with the “World's Smartest Lithium Battery”. She is the Founder & Managing Director of Vision Mechatronics Private Ltd, leading it towards a name to reckon for in the field of Robotics, Renewable Energy & Energy Storage. A Women Entrepreneur who has been fearless & ferocious in creating a brand for herself & the company in these male-dominated fields. Dr. Gupta became a prominent name in the Renewable Energy Sector of India and is featured as Asia’s Most Influential Women in Renewable Energy, 2020. She has been working on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment issues globally. She holds degrees of BE, MBA, LLM, & Ph.D. to her title. She is a committee member of the Bureau of Indian Standards for Batteries, Energy Storage, and E-Mobility. She is also a Member of the International ElectroTechnical Commission, a committee member of the National Energy Storage Committee- FICCI, Chairperson Energy Storage -International Solar Energy Society e. V.(ISES), CleanTech Business Club- Chair of Task Force- Energy Storage & Smart Energy, and Chairperson-Women’s India CBC, CBC Vice Chair India and a Council Member of the Council of Engineers on the Energy Transition (CEET), United Nations.



Pakistan

Ms. ALIYA ALI KHAN

Gender Specialist and independent Development Consultant

Ms. Aliya Khan has over 14 years of experience working in the development sector on gender-related projects. She has worked with the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women and UNFPA since 2016, on projects to enhance women’s representation and leadership in the public sector. Her skills range from conducting awareness sessions on women's rights, laws for women's protection and redress mechanisms for survivors of gender based violence, to international human rights law and gender-based planning, budgeting and mainstreaming. In the past, she has also worked on legal and policy review, management of projects related to women's empowerment, and gender sensitivity trainings. A lawyer by education, Aliya’s professional focus has been on gender and women's rights, family law, and social justice. Before joining the Commission in 2016, Aliya worked with Shirkatgah Women's Resource Centre, the American Bar Association's rule of law initiative, PILDAT, GIZ and Rahuma - FPAP. Most recently, Aliya worked as a



Technical Advisor for the gender based violence initiative by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Ms. Khan holds an LLM from University of California, Berkeley, and an LL.B. from University of London.



Sri Lanka

Ms. SEROSHI NANDASIRI

Founder and Chair
Women's International Foundation
[LinkedIn](#)

Ms. Seroshi Nandasiri is the Founder and Chair of the Women's International Foundation (WIF), a social service organization that supports the empowerment of women in Sri Lanka. She is also a Non-Executive Director at Survey Research Lanka, a market research institute, and a proud Rotarian in the Rotary Club of Colombo Uptown in District 3220. Seroshi holds a BSc in Marketing Management with first-class honors and the prestigious University gold medal from the University of Sri J'pura, Sri Lanka. She also holds an MSc in Marketing with Distinction and the University Prize for 'Best Overall Student' from the University of Hertfordshire, UK. In addition, Seroshi completed her professional studies in management accounting and marketing with CIMA-UK and CIM-UK, securing Sri Lankan prizes. She also holds a certificate in Diplomacy and International Relations and completed her executive education in Strategic Management from the National University of Singapore (NUS). Seroshi has also followed her training on Gender and Women's Empowerment from the UNWOMEN Training Center.

She is also a GESI (Gender equality and Social inclusion) and Marketing Consultant working on the Deloitte-USAID PARTNER project supporting and capacitating the SMEs of Sri Lanka. She has also worked as a Consultant for Palladium Group under MDF (Market Development Facility) for an Australian Aid project strategically supporting the National Tourism Organisation in the new normal revival including the development of a five-year global communication campaign and the development of the 2022-2025 strategic action plan.

Through WIF, she has been engaging with the UNDP GEF small grants program and IFC in supporting and developing women entrepreneurs in the MSME sector across Sri Lanka.

In recognition of the impact and engagement, with the MSME women entrepreneurship sector, Seroshi has been invited, for three consecutive years to be part of the 'Panel of Judges' at 'Vanithabhimani', a national-level award ceremony recognizing Sri Lankan women, organized by MTV and NDB.

Her previous involvements included Director Marketing and Business Development at Colombo School of Business & Management, Non-Executive Director at Survey Research Lanka, Head of Business School at CA Sri Lanka, Assistant Director at Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, and Account Manager at MAS Holdings. Seroshi began her corporate career with Hayleys Group as a Management Trainee and today she accounts for over 17 years of cumulative corporate and development sector experience.



Panel 3: Regional Role Models

Moderator



Prof. FAIZ SHAH

*Executive Director, Yunus Center AIT
President, Yunus Foundation Thailand
Program Lead, WePOWER-SAR100*



Ms. TANUJA BHATTACHARJEE

*Sr. Energy Specialist
Energy and Extractives
The World Bank*

Bangladesh

Ms. Tanuja Bhattacharjee is a Senior Energy Specialist at The World Bank, where she has been working since 2017. In her role, she manages renewable energy and carbon finance projects and provides key support to advance the agenda of energy efficiency in Bangladesh. Tanuja has also contributed significantly to various analytics, cross-sectoral projects, and capacity-building efforts at both national and regional levels¹.

Before joining The World Bank, she worked for German Development Cooperation (GIZ) in the area of eco-industrial development. She started her career as an academician, moved to private sector service, and then transitioned to the development field in 2013.

Throughout her professional journey of around fifteen years, Tanuja has made extraordinary efforts and impacts through designing and managing capacity development interventions for various target groups. She is widely recognized as a champion in promoting gender and sustainable energy, bringing positive changes to the lives of people.

Ms. Tanuja holds a Master of Engineering in Energy from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand, in 2008, and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Bangladesh University of



Engineering & Technology (BUET) in 2005. She also has a Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management from Dhaka University in 2017.



Bhutan

Dasho TASHI WANGMO

*Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment
Royal Government of Bhutan*

Dasho Tashi Wangmo is a distinguished Bhutanese engineer and policymaker. She began her education in Kanglung and Khaling before attending Sherubtse. Awarded a scholarship, she graduated with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Honours) from the University of Wollongong, Australia, in 1997. The university recognized her achievements with their Outstanding Alumni Award in 2014. In 2003, she earned a Master's in Public Policy from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan. Tashi's career began as an Assistant Engineer at the Department of Civil Aviation (1999–2000), followed by three years with the National Technical Training Authority (NTTA). She later served as Head of the Policy and Planning Division at the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources. In 2008, at the age of 35, she was appointed to Bhutan's National Council as a special nominee of the King and successfully retained her position in the 2013 and 2018 elections. In 2010, the World Economic Forum recognized her as one of their Young Global Leaders, highlighting her contributions to public service and policy development.



India

Prof. MINI S. THOMAS

*Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, JMI, India
Former Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli
Past President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI)*



Maldives



Dr. MARIYAM SHAKEELA

Former Cabinet Minister of Government of Maldives; Former Chairperson for Executive Board of WHO (World Health Organization); Former council member of IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency); Former Member for Tourism Research Cluster, Hospitality and events Management/Curtin University); Honorary Consul of Belgium in Maldives; International Executive Council Member of SAARC Chamber

Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC); Chair for Regional Committee of Asia Pacific ISGF (International Scouts and Guide Fellowship); Founder Member of Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL); Chairperson for Addu Women's Association (AWA), President of Women's Chamber of commerce Maldives (WCCM). President of Multi-Cultural Integration Association of Australia (MCIA); Vice President SAAR Chamber of Commerce And Industries

Dr. Mariyam Shakeela is a doctoral graduate from Curtin University, a former cabinet Minister in the Maldives and a dynamic and successful female entrepreneur in the Maldives. With over 30 years of extensive experience and expertise that spans diverse political, social, and economic environments she has played key roles in international negotiations on various global issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), human rights, health, and climate change.

Driven by her philanthropic spirit, she has established institutions to offers affordable quality services in medicine, mental well-being and education to underserved communities.

An inspiring leader recognized for her dedicated advocacy in gender equality, her commitment to creating an inclusive society is evident in her extensive involvement in civil society organization locally and internationally to facilitate opportunities for economic, political and social empowerment of women and youth in need. She also focuses on conflict resolution, human rights, and building peace. Additionally, she is a multi-award-winning an academic, a published poet, and author with works available in online and physical bookstores.



Prof. Dr. SANGEETA SINGH

*Professor and Director
Center for Applied Research and Development (CARD)
Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Nepal*

Nepal

Prof. Dr. Sangeeta Singh is a Professor in Urban planning and has been teaching for more than 26 years at the Institute of Engineering. Was the Director at the Centre for Applied Research and Development at the



Institute of Engineering. Is the member of the board of trustees of Gandaki University and Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology. Is a member of the advisory board of GEM Foundation, Pavia, Italy. Is the vice chairperson of Om Adi Foundation, an organization dedicated for social welfare and secretary of MBSingh Trust.

She was the Member of National Planning Commission in the Government of Nepal, in 2023 and 2024 and was involved in the preparation of the 16th National plan and the 3rd VNR National report.

In various positions at IOE, has led a number of research projects related to ecological urban planning, Disaster resilience, equitable urban resilience, sustainable development, gender mainstreaming among others. In one of the recent initiatives, led the GCRF research as a city lead of the "Tomorrow's cities" in collaboration with University of Edinburgh and others. Has been undertaking research and has published various research works especially in the field of eco city and sustainable development, and disaster risk management and has been a visiting scholar at Kyushu University, (Japan) KU Leuven University (Belgium), and Tibet University. She has won the best presentation award at the Gender and Education conference in Zurich (2018), "Dirgha Sewa Samman" from the Institute of Engineering and Tribhuvan University, and "Pragya Samman" from the Institute of Engineering. Apart from academic research was involved in several professional services in Engineering design and urban planning including several housing and apartment projects in Kathmandu.

Prof. Dr. Sangeeta Singh holds PhD in Urban Planning (specializing in eco cities). Did M.Sc. in Infrastructure Planning from the University of Stuttgart, Germany and basic degree in Bachelor's in Civil Engineering.



Dr. TAUSEEF SALMA

*Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
Clean Air at Johnson Matthey (JM)*

Pakistan

Dr. Tauseef Salma joined Clean Air JM in November 2022. Currently, Dr. Salma is responsible for technology across the Clean Air Sector at Johnson Matthey (JM). JM is a global leader in sustainable technologies, operating in more than 30 countries with 200+ years of innovation, applied in driving down emissions in the transportation sector, decarbonizing chemical production, transforming energy systems, and creating a circular economy.

Dr. Salma is the executive sponsor for Gender Equity Network at Johnson Matthey, which was selected to be a finalist for the 2024 European Diversity Awards. Recently, Dr. Salma was recognized as the Woman of the Year, 2024 by Women in Chemicals.

Dr. Salma joined JM from Flowserve, where she served as the Vice President of Marketing and Technology. In that role, she led energy transition, market intelligence, R&D, portfolio management, product



development, commercialization, marketing, corporate communications, strategic applications development and pricing process and strategies.

She spent her first 21 years with Baker Hughes, where she held senior executive roles including: Vice President of Global Chemicals business across 50+ countries, Vice President Enterprise Technology, Country Director Trinidad, and first Chief Engineer of Baker Hughes.

Dr. Salma mentors two energy transition start-ups, has served on the advisory boards of various universities, and two non-profit organizations, dedicated to education of children and professional development.



Sri Lanka

Dr. KALA OSHADHI PEIRIS

*Director, Sri Lanka Center for Development Facilitation (SLCDF)
Senior Researcher, Former Director, Center for Women's Research
(CENWOR)
Advisor for Women's Empowerment and Social Enterprises, Geo Explore
Foundation*

Dr. Kala Oshadhi Peiris De Costa is a seasoned transformational leader, researcher, and educator with over 25 years of professional experience. As an accomplished Attorney-at-Law and holder of multiple advanced degrees— including two PhDs in social sciences , three master's in law (LLM) , Environmental Science (MSc) and Business Administration (MBA)

Dr. Peiris De Costa has established herself as a thought leader in gender studies, sustainable development, and social entrepreneurship. Her expertise spans academia, program management, and policy development. A lecturer for 23 years, she has taught postgraduate and undergraduate courses in entrepreneurship, diversity management, strategic leadership, and gender studies at esteemed institutions like the Postgraduate Institute of Management and the University of Colombo. She also serves as a consultant to organizations such as the UN, USAID, and the World Bank, specializing in gender equality, social inclusion, and local governance. Recognized internationally, Dr. Peiris De Costa was the first Sri Lankan woman to receive the prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship for social entrepreneurship. She has led groundbreaking initiatives, including policy development on gender equity, environmental sustainability, and disaster resilience. A dynamic trainer and advocate, her work has significantly influenced national and international discourse on human rights, economic inclusion, and community development. Dr. Peiris De Costa is deeply committed to empowering marginalized communities through research-driven, sustainable solutions.