

The Asia Clean Energy Summit – connecting government, industry, and academia

Revolutionizing the way Clean Energy is communicated

Clean energy is no longer a luxury of the rich and developed nations alone – those that have the finances and technological capabilities to develop clean energy solutions. According to the Bloomberg New Energy Finance 2030 Market Outlook, until 2030, the Asia Pacific region will add as much power capacity as the rest of the world combined. Renewables will play a key role, attracting two-thirds of investment or an average of \$252bn a year. It is also not just the large conglomerates with millions in R&D funding who are developing clean energy solutions. Many self-made entrepreneurs are starting up their own companies, developing their own technology, and seeking their own funding. Clean energy technology is now becoming more competitive as prices of raw materials have started to fall, slowly enabling more people to start using clean energy and to move away from using fossil fuel energy sources only. More developing countries are also looking at lowering subsidies on traditional energy sources thus making renewables more competitive.

However, the actual adoption of clean energy as part of the global energy mix is still slow in many countries. Many governments are still hesitant to make strong regulation changes that will enable a faster and greater adoption of clean energy. In the private sector, there are still many companies that are so overwhelmed by the huge range of technologies available in the market they don't know where to start. We need a new way to communicate how exactly more clean energy technologies can be adopted, and both on a larger scale as well as at a corporate level.

Need for a political will

In order for greater adoption of clean energy to happen, policies need to be developed or streamlined to encourage innovation, and develop the market for clean energy technologies. An example of this would be to have policies to increase the demand for clean energy. In addition to making policy changes, the government needs to take the lead as an adopter to give additional confidence to the market. Clean energy is already commercially viable as mentioned; some business models such as solar leasing offer adopters little or no operating costs. Thus it is a good time now to ramp up clean energy adoption.

Having clean energy contribute to a country's energy mix also gives a country energy security – it is not solely depending on one or two types of energy sources, and in resource poor countries like Singapore, it makes us more energy independent. This is not to say that clean energy should completely replace fossil fuels now, but with increased adoption of clean energy, we can slowly move away from our dependence on fossil fuels. It will also ease the strain on the environment,

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reduce carbon emissions, and help combat rising oil prices.

Thus, support from the government is very important, because when they take the initiative as an adopter, in addition to boosting market confidence, they are affirming the value of clean energy as part of a country's energy mix.

Moving Forward with ACES

Thus in the context of changing landscape as discussed above, SEAS as the voice of the sustainable energy industry hopes to bring together the industry, government, and academic sectors at the Asia Clean Energy Summit (ACES) to collaborate and discuss areas like technologies, finance & policies that will make projects bankable. SEAS will be working together with the Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N), and the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS) to organise the Asia Clean Energy Summit.

The conference is spread over two days and some of the highlights include:

1. Clean Energy Leaders Dialogue
2. PV Asia Scientific Conference
3. PV Asia Financial Summit
4. Offshore Renewables
5. Power to Gas and Fuels
6. Smart Grids, Electricmobility & Renewables Integration
7. Sustainable Laboratories Conference

Thus, ACES covers a wide range of topics– there is the financing, scientific, and technological aspects of renewable energy that will be discussed, the Clean Energy Leaders' Dialogue, which is a high-level forum for top-level executives as they are the influencers in clean energy technology adoption, and there are conferences like Solarising Singapore and the Sustainable Laboratories conference that focus on the Singapore market.

Highly influential speakers and senior executives from government and industry will be speaking at the event and SEAS is very proud to bring everyone together for this event to take clean energy adoption further, making Singapore a leader in this field.

For more information please visit www.aces.com.sg

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