

## **JOINT ESI-ISAS ROUNDTABLE**

### **ENERGY TRANSITIONS IN EMERGING ECONOMIES: OPPORTUNITIES, RISKS AND WAYS FORWARD**

ESI Conference Room, Energy Studies Institute, Level 10, Block A

29 Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Singapore 119620

Thursday, 2 May 2019 | 10.00am – 11.30am

[By Invitation Only]

#### **Abstract**

Emerging economies are in the midst of several energy transitions, from providing energy access to investments in cleaner energy infrastructure while ensuring energy security for their growing economies. These transitions create many opportunities for investment but are they also hindered by a range of risks and bottlenecks. Dr Arunabha Ghosh and Ms Kanika Chawla will draw on their extensive research in India and elsewhere on how the opportunities may be tapped, how the risks might be mitigated, and how greater energy cooperation between emerging economies might be fostered.

#### **Programme**

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| 9.30am  | Registration   |
| 10.00am | <b>Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council on Energy, Environment and Water and CEEW Centre for Energy Finance</li><li>• Energy Studies Institute</li><li>• Institute of South Asian Studies</li></ul>   |
| 10.20am | <b>Roundtable</b><br><b>Energy Transitions in Emerging Economies:<br/>Opportunities, Risks and Ways Forward</b><br><b>Dr Arunabha Ghosh</b><br>Chief Executive Officer<br>Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)<br><br><b>Ms Kanika Chawla</b><br>Director<br>CEEW Centre for Energy Finance |
| 10.50am | <b>Discussions</b><br><u>Chaired By</u><br><b>Dr Christopher Len</b><br>Senior Research Fellow<br>Energy Studies Institute, NUS  |
| 11.30am | <b>End of Roundtable</b>   |

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**Dr Arunabha Ghosh***Chief Executive Officer**Council on Energy, Environment and Water, India*

**Dr Arunabha Ghosh** is a public policy professional, adviser, author, columnist, and institution builder. As the founder-CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, since 2010, he has led CEEW to the top ranks as one of South Asia's leading policy research institutions (six years in a row); and among the world's 20 best climate think-tanks in 2016. He has been actively involved in the design of the International Solar Alliance since inception. He conceptualised and is founding board member of the Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN).

With experience in 44 countries, he previously worked at Princeton, Oxford, UNDP (New York), and WTO (Geneva). In 2018, the UN Secretary-General nominated him to the UN's Committee for Development Policy. In 2018, the Government of India appointed him as a member of the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for the National Capital Region.

He is the co-author/editor of four books: *The Palgrave Handbook of the International Political Economy of Energy* (2016); *Energizing India: Towards a Resilient and Equitable Energy System* (SAGE, 2016); *Human Development and Global Institutions* (Routledge, 2016); and *Climate Change: A Risk Assessment* (FCO, 2015). Arunabha's essay "Rethink India's energy strategy" in *Nature* was selected as one of 2015's ten most influential essays. Arunabha advises governments, industry, civil society and international organisations around the world. This has included India's Prime Minister's Office, several ministries and state governments. He was invited by France, as a *Personnalité d'Avenir*, to advise on the COP21 climate negotiations; and also advised extensively on HFC negotiations. He serves on the Executive Committee of the India-U.S. PACEsetter Fund. He is a member of Track II dialogues with ten countries/regions; and formulated the Maharashtra-Guangdong Partnership on Sustainability. His monthly columns in the *Business Standard* (Inflexion Points) and the *Hindustan Times* (Over The Horizon) are widely read. He hosted a documentary on water in Africa, and featured in a *National Geographic* documentary on energy. He is a World Economic Forum *Young Global Leader*, was a member of WEF's Global Future Council on Energy (2016-18), and an Asia Society *Asia 21 Young Leader*. He holds a D.Phil. from Oxford and topped Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi.

**Kanika Chawla***Senior Programme Lead**Council on Energy, Environment and Water, India*

**Kanika Chawla** is a policy specialist, working at the intersection of India's two revolutions: in renewable energy and in financial markets. As Senior Programme Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Kanika manages The Council's work on renewable energy policy, markets, finance, and socio-economic benefits. Her current responsibilities include: analysing financial risks affecting renewable energy investments in India, decoding market dynamics, managing The Council's periodic surveys on RE jobs, and convening a high-level working group on renewable energy finance (comprising investors, developers and manufacturers). She is actively engaged with private and public enterprises within and outside India to design and develop new financial de-risking instruments and new financial institutions, such as green banks. Her research has been used within government, by electricity regulators, and by international agencies and strategic philanthropies. She is actively engaged in the Council's initiative, Women in Sustainability.

Kanika has also undertaken extensive research on the International Solar Alliance, work which has been used periodically by the Government of India and other countries. She has represented The Council at various international forums, including the International Renewable Energy Agency, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21) Steering Committee, and the UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties. Her columns have been published in various newspapers. Prior to CEEW, she worked at the REN21 Secretariat in Paris, and was one of the authors of REN21's Global Status Reports on Renewable Energy. She has also worked on distributed renewable energy, urban energy policy, and energy and climate policies in developing countries. She also previously worked with GIZ on sustainability reporting standards for industry. Kanika holds an M.Sc in Economics and Development Economics from the University of Nottingham and an undergraduate honours degree in Economics from Miranda House, University of Delhi. She is fluent in English and Hindi and speaks basic French.

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