

High-Level Panel VII

Catalysts for Innovation

Timing and Venue

Friday, 12 May 2017, 15:00 – 16:15 (75 mins) | Hofburg, Festsaal

Background

The aim of this session is to identify key catalysts for innovation and to explore how existing enabling frameworks can be adapted or enhanced to promote and sustain innovative technologies, business models and financing mechanisms for energy investments.

The session will address the need for enabling frameworks, as well the conditions and instruments that catalyze and promote innovative approaches needed to deploy renewable energy sources, enhance energy efficiency, and ensure access to sustainable modern energy services for all with a particular aim to address issues of inequality and gender equality.

- Catalytic enabling framework conditions are critical not only for spurring innovation but also for promoting the important task of absorbing and adapting innovative technologies, business models, and financing instruments.
- Effective policy and regulatory frameworks, inclusive business policies, and social innovation that promote new forms of social organisation, capacity building programmes and support for business development are all essential pieces of the required overall enabling framework.
- Dedicated national and regional institutions and the development of regional markets with common standards that can create economies of scale and local value chains, and help drive inefficient technology and appliances out of the market.
- The trend towards open innovation allows for better linking the innovation systems to actual problems in markets and society, and understanding and addressing the underlying problems in their local context, facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation and experience exchange processes.

The panelists will draw from their experiences on good practice examples of catalytic conditions for innovation to find answers on how local, regional, and global frameworks could evolve to spur clean energy development. They will discuss the role and potential of capacity building efforts and dedicated institutions from the perspectives of the private sector, policy makers, and civil society.

Key Questions

- How does government regulation have to evolve in order to foster the desired new business-models that address energy needs for the bottom-of-the-pyramid?

- Which policies are necessary to support the development and dissemination of innovations in energy efficiency and renewable energy tailored to the conditions of low-income segments of the population in developing countries?
- Which policy instruments are needed to stimulate the development of local value chains in energy efficiency and renewable energy in developing countries?
- Which policy mechanisms are necessary to stimulate cooperation on innovation in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies between different actors (academia, business, NGOs, governmental institutions etc.)?

Key Messages

- Governments stimulate innovation through three important drivers / levers: (a) Demonstrate political commitment by setting ambitious targets and plans and providing the incentives to realize those goals, (b) Support Research and development in cross sectoral innovation and provide platforms to deliver technologies and integrated solutions that respond to differentiated needs of the users, (c) Develop the energy system building on an integrated network approach rather than a top down approach.
- While the Government sets boundary conditions for creating the market, there is a need to find a proper mix between the regulatory conditions and the market forces. Every country has a different potential of renewable energy and energy efficiency and a varying level of innovation at the national level. Finding optimal solutions and innovations suited for each is extremely important and facilitating the knowledge exchange between countries of similar needs is paramount.
- Decentralized solutions for energy stimulate the creativity more.
- Private sector provides a different range of catalysts for innovation. Large companies spend significant resources on research and development. They also invest more and more in startups and partnering with established players offering complementary technologies and services. An example of this is energy companies coupling with companies providing intelligent ICT solutions for smart grids thus increasing the base for innovation.
- Providing more channels, networks and resources such as the CTCN to support the north to south and south to south transfer of knowledge and technologies and make the connection between the innovators and the consumers requiring urgent solutions for their energy issues.

Moderator

Mr. Martin Hiller | Director General, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)

Panelists

Mr. Kazuo Furukawa | Chairman, NEDO, Japan

Mr. Mikhail Chudakov | Deputy Director General, IAEA

Mr. David Walker | Group Chief Development Officer, DNV GL

Ms. Maria Sandviqst | Executive Director, Swedish Smart-grid

Mr. Reinhard Haas | Professor, Institute of Energy Systems and Electric Drives, Vienna University of Technology

Mr. Bazmi Husain | Global Chief Technology Officer, ABB Ltd

Coordinator

Ms. Rana Ghoneim | Industrial Development Officer, Department of Energy, UNIDO