Meet our Panelist

High-level Policy Dialogue to Promote RE and EE in the Mediterranean region

RCREEE
Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
We are honored to welcome a unique and diversified mix of expertise around one table with to promote energy investments in the MED region including Southern Mediterranean countries.

Meet our Panelists
Mohamed El-Sisi
CFO
Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company

Mohmaed El Sisi is the CFO of the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company.
Jürgen Hogrefe
Chairman of International Business Consultancy and board member
Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ghorfa)

Mr. Hogrefe has been holding the position of the Chairman of International Business Consultancy and board member at the Ghorfa since 2009.

Prior to that Mr. Hogrefe has been Senior Vice President of EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG. Besides, he held the positions of Diplomatic Correspondent, Berlin and Middle east correspondent at DER SPIEGEL.

Mr. Hogrefe received many awards including European Excellence Award in 2008 and National Design Award“ – Business Publication in June 2004.

Also, he is the German-Qatari Association president and member of the German Association on Foreign Affairs and German Chamber of Commerce Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Oman.

“Renewable energies require private and public institutions to work closely together. Political support and solid legal frameworks provide the needed security for private investments.”
Tareq Emtairah
Director of the Department of Energy
UNIDO

Tareq Emtairah work experience spans over 22 years in developed and emerging economies with a progressive focus on sustainable industrial transformation, energy transition, policy advocacy, applied research and capacity development.

Before joining UNIDO, he worked as a senior research fellow at the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) at Lund University, Sweden, and prior to that served as the executive director of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) based in Cairo, from 2012-2015.

Mr. Emtairah holds a PhD in Industrial Environmental Economics from Lund University in Sweden; a Master’s degree in Environmental Management and Policy also from Lund University; a Diploma in Engineering (Materials Science) from Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan and a Bachelor’s degree in Engineering, also in Materials Science from the State University of New Jersey in the United States of America.

“Stable and consistent policy signals, building a reliable supply chain, learning from best practices in other regions and establishing relevant partnerships are key to scaling up Sustainable Energy Investments.”
Dr. Daniel-Alexander Schroth was previously the coordinator of the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Africa Hub hosted by the AfDB in partnership with the AU, NEPAD and UNDP. Daniel also coordinated inter alia the Africa Climate Technology and Finance Center project, the Secretariat to the African Energy Leaders Group and the Green Mini-Grid Market Development Program.

Daniel has extensive experience in energy policy. Prior to joining the AfDB, he worked for several years for the European Commission in both headquarters and the field, for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and in the private sector.

Daniel serves in several steering and oversight committees inter alia as Chairman of the Mini-Grid Partnership Steering Committee. Daniel holds a Ph.D. and Masters in International Relations with a focus on international energy policy from the University of Cambridge, and business degrees from Reims Management School and the European School of Business (ESB) Reutlingen.

“The success of renewable energy projects in the Mediterranean region will require special attention to the socio-economic development of local communities in order to ensure long-term suitability.”
Tessa Terpstra is the first Dutch Envoy for Water and Energy Security for the MENA region. She is based in Jordan since the summer of 2016 and deals with climate change and the water-energy-food nexus in the Middle East and North Africa.

In her capacity as Regional Envoy, Tessa focuses on regional cooperation towards sustainable governance of natural resources, in light of ever growing resource scarcity due to climate change. Tessa is currently working on financing for development, looking at renewable energy for refugees and access to climate finance for the MENA region with RCREEE and other partners such as the Dutch Development Bank FMO and the Islamic Development Bank. She is also establishing a regional water center of excellence in Jordan, to share best practices of water supply and reuse in agriculture.

Prior to coming to Jordan, Tessa worked on international energy policy and renewable energy as part of the Sustainability Department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague for five years. Tessa served as a diplomat in Cairo from 2006 to 2011, worked in Afghanistan for an American refugee organization and in Ethiopia and India as a researcher. Her spare time she divides between her husband and two kids, friends, hiking in Jordan and a lifelong study of Arabic.

“To tackle the huge challenges of climate change and be ready for the future, we need to design smart finance solutions: combining funding from governments, social impact investors, development banks and commercial lenders”
Rana Adib
Executive Secretary
REN21

Rana Adib is the Executive Secretary of REN21, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century. REN21 is a global public-private multi-stakeholder network on renewable energy headquartered at the United Nations Environment Programme in Paris/France.

Previously, Rana was REN21’s Research Coordinator developing the international expert community and leading the REN21 Renewables Global Status Report series to become an international reference. Prior to REN21 Rana worked in private industry and applied research in the areas of renewable energy, energy access, and waste management.

She was also responsible for coordinating the biogas-to-energy research programme of Veolia Environment. Rana holds a Master Degree in industrial engineering from the University of Wedel in Germany. She has over 20 years’ experience in the energy sector.

“**There is incredible renewable energy potential in the Mediterranean and Middle East Region. Some countries are taking advantage of and, through this, contributing to the global advancement of renewable energy solutions, such as in the case of CSP in Morocco or renewables-based desalination in the Middle East.**

However, much of the potential still remains to be exploited, and some countries lag behind in terms of investment in renewable power and fuels and have seen increasing energy intensity in recent years. The region as a whole can foster increased investment in renewables and energy efficiency by setting priorities through tax and other financial incentives and creating a level playing field; setting ambitious targets for the energy system as a whole, including for all major end-use sectors; designing for flexibility; and ensuring long-term policy certainty to facilitate increased investment across sectors.

The global development of solar PV and wind power prove that the energy transition is possible! To accelerate the transition in all regions and across all sectors, leadership and collaboration are needed in policy, industry, and finance.”
Ayman Ismail
Palestinian Energy and Environment Research Centre (PEC)
Palestinian Energy Authority

Mr. Ayman Ismail, BSc in mechanical engineering, Damascus University, 1994. He is working at Palestinian Energy Authority since 1996 until now.

He is an expert in renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy economics.

Currently Mr. Ayman occupies the GD of Palestinian Energy and Environment Research Center in Palestinian Energy Authority. Member of the Board of Trustees of regional center for renewable energy and energy efficiency (RCREEE).

He is a member of the Committee of Experts of renewable energy and energy efficiency at the League of Arab States. Also, he is a member of Energy Committee at ESCWA.

“Solar energy is a gift from God to all, Even the occupation cannot prevent the sunrise”
Emad Ghaly
Chief Executive Officer
Siemens S.A.E.

Eng. Ghaly, an Egyptian national, is a 21-year veteran of the company, and was most recently the Senior Executive Vice President for Wind Power and Renewables in the Middle East, and for Power and Gas for Siemens in Egypt. His career at Siemens started in 1995, and since then has held several senior managerial positions across a wide range of businesses, including telecommunications, information technology, strategic planning, and corporate development and government affairs.

Ghaly brings a broad international experience. Prior to his role as Senior Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Government Affairs in Egypt, he served as the Director of Regional Sales for Northern and Western Europe where he has contributed to development of Siemens’ business in Germany, the UK, Ireland and The Netherlands.

A sustainable, economically competitive energy system is the cornerstone of a successful society, as prosperity always begins with energy. Energy is always the first element that enables an economy to begin growing.

The good news is, we never in the past did we have as many possibilities for securing reliable, economical and, above all, sustainable power supplies for the world as we have today.

Innovations in conventional power generation as well as the drop in costs for renewable energy technologies now make it possible to meet the rising demand for electricity better than ever. The availability of electricity is a key for other sectors of economy to be electrified and thus decarbonized.
Mrs. Touhami’s work focuses mainly on the UNEP finance activities that are aimed at bringing about increased levels of investment in the sustainable energy sector. Within the Mediterranean Investment Facility program, she is responsible for identifying, developing, structuring and implementing various financing mechanisms that help lenders and investors lower transaction costs and scale up investment in the clean energy sector in different countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, the Balkans, etc.). She is also managing the implementing of several financial support mechanisms in Latin America and South East Asia, especially in Vietnam and Indonesia.

Mrs Touhami also manages specific project activities on other UNEP sustainable energy finance activities, and acts as an advisor on matters relating to the clean energy finance. She supervises the structuring, legal and regulatory process for finance mechanisms implementation, and identifies and pursues needed policy reform measures that would contribute to increased commercially-based deployment of renewables in target countries.

Before joining UNEP, Mrs. Touhami held the positions of Deputy Country Manager of the Photovoltaic Market Transformation Initiative and the Solar Development Group, two solar investment funds managed respectively by the International Finance Corporation and Triodos.

Mrs Touhami holds a Master of Business Administration degree from IONA University in New York, USA, and a Bachelors of Business degree in International Business from the same university.

“The creation of a stable investment-enabling environment underpins financing for RE projects to achieve universal access to modern energy services. Governments need to maintain long-term policy commitments. Regulatory frameworks need to be able to attract the support of national and international financial institutions and project developers. The public power sector needs to be financially healthy.”
Dr. Fuad Siala is currently a Senior Advisor with the Strategic Planning and Economic Services Department at the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). His portfolio includes supporting OFID’s Energy Poverty Programs and Other Special Projects.

He represents OFID on the SEforALL’s Clean Energy Mini-grids HIO and Water-Energy-Food Nexus HIO. Before joining OFID in 2011, he was the Senior Adviser on alternative sources of energy and the Officer-in-Charge of the Energy Department at the OPEC Secretariat.

Prior to that, he was Deputy Director-General and Associate Scientist at the Centre for Solar Energy Studies in Tripoli, Libya. Dr. Siala holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Toronto in Canada.

“The creation of a stable investment-enabling environment underpins financing for RE projects to achieve universal access to modern energy services. Governments need to maintain long-term policy commitments. Regulatory frameworks need to be able to attract the support of national and international financial institutions and project developers. The public power sector needs to be financially healthy.”
Since the first January 2016 Dario Chello is the head of European Union & International Organisations Unit of ENEA in Brussels.

He has been elected Chair of MEDENER, the Association of national Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Agencies of the Mediterranean Region. The General Assembly, held in Marrakech as a side-event of the COP22, elected the Chair for the period 2017-2018. The MEDENER Presidency Office has been established in Brussels at ENEA premises.

Dario Chello became Senior Advisor for International Co-operation at the National Agency for Energy Efficiency of ENEA in February 2013. Doctor Chello is Italian by nationality, and completed a Ph.D. in physics of energy systems from the University of Paris “Paris 7” in 1989.

Before becoming Senior Advisor, Dario Chello was Director of Energy Efficiency & Investment at the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussels, from February 2007. Specialist member of the Technical Secretariat of the General Directorate for Energy at the Italian Ministry of Industry, now Italian Ministry of Economic Development, from January 1995 to May 1996, he was a consultant in the Policy Assessment Office of the Minister’s Cabinet. On 1st November 2004, he was appointed by the Director General to coordinate international relations and energy planning with reference both to EU activities and to other international activities. He also coordinates these same activities with the offices of the Minister’s Diplomatic Counsellor.

“More pragmatism and less dogmatism are required from Mediterranean governments to mobilize sustainable energy investments.”
Erwin Künzi is heading the unit of the Austrian Development Agency ADA that provides technical expertise in support of policy development, programme and project implementation.

Before, he worked as Senior Advisor on Environment and Natural Resources for ADA and, more recently, as Acting Head of Office at ADA’s Country Office in Uganda. All in all, he has been working in the field of Development Cooperation for more than 20 years as researcher, consultant and practitioner in various capacities and different countries.

He has also been lecturing on development cooperation and technology transfer at Universities in Vienna and Innsbruck. Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in several policy development fora and expert groups.

“The MENA region offers excellent opportunities for sustainable energy investments, particularly in the areas of solar and wind energy, as well as in energy efficiency improvements. Business Partnerships can support in tapping this potential by supporting innovative business ideas that add value from a development policy perspective.”
Mohammed Alsayed
Manager, Economic Infrastructure
Islamic Development Bank

Mr. Mohammed Alsayed is the Manager of economic Infrastructure at the Islamic Development Bank leading the development of the Bank’s strategies and policies in Energy, Transport and ICT sectors across IDB’s 57 member countries.

He has more than 20 years of experience in financing and project management across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the United States. His career has been focused on providing integrated solutions, improving infrastructure efficiency, promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency and establishing regional electricity and transport integrated networks.

Prior to joining the IDB in 2005, Mr. Alsayed worked with Motorola in the United States and held various responsibilities as Systems Engineer and Project Manager. He holds a Bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana State University, USA and a Master degree in Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, USA.

“The success of renewable energy projects in the Mediterranean region will require special attention to the socio-economic development of local communities in order to ensure long-term suitability.”
LAMBERTO DAI PRA’
Head of Africa, Asia and Australia area
ENEL Green Power

Lamberto Dai Pra’ is currently head of Africa, Asia and Australia area at Enel’s Global Renewable Energies division and he is based in Rome.

Lamberto was born in Goa (India) in 1966 and holds a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rome in 1990. He started his activity in Enel in 1991 as design engineer dealing with antipollution systems.

Lamberto has been working in the Enel Group since 1991, being involved in several sectors related to power generation business, both in the conventional and renewables fields. He started his carrier as design engineer in Enel’s Construction Division, then switching to business developer and M&A in Enel’s International Division in 1999.

Subsequently his international experience increased holding executive management positions in business development for Eastern Europe, for new countries and for solar photovoltaic power as well as general manager positions in France and South Africa.

“Successful renewables development models have been already implemented and should be replicated, adapted and - of course possibly - improved.

In Africa, for instance in South Africa and in Morocco, but also recently in Zambia, important experiences in implementing Renewable power plants projects have already matured; most of such countries have today renewable power plants successfully built and operating.

This important experience is a splendid example to align and strengthen future Renewable Investment programs.”
There is no doubt about the vast opportunities that the RE transition can bring to the Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to falling technology costs, strong resource availability, growing energy demand, and increasingly available access to finance, Southern-Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan African countries are rapidly gaining attention as new markets for RE investment. What is now needed is the right enabling environment for investors and private sector for market growth.
Roshni Dave is a climate change and sustainability expert with over 12 years’ professional experience including within the UN System and international NGOs. She is skilled in policy analysis, capacity building, advisory services and project management in developing countries including in the MENA, Horn of Africa and Latin America & Caribbean regions.

She also has strong experience working with international climate funds and multilateral development banks. Roshni works as Partnerships Development Advisor for the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Geneva, where she is responsible for programme development in the area of environment, energy and climate change, including coordinating a new initiative on renewable energy in fragile and conflict-affected settings called UN Electric.

She holds a Master’s in Environmental Security and Peace, and two Bachelor degrees in Environmental Studies (Hons.) and Political Science (Magna Cum Laude) respectively.

“Structured political dialogue, strategic partnerships, and positioning end-users at the core of any renewable energy plan has huge potential for unlocking opportunities for technological innovation and financing that can deliver sustainable developmental outcomes.”
Mr. Schipfer was born in Austria. He obtained his economics degree in Economics from Wirtschaftsuniversität, Vienna.

Mr. Schipfer held various positions including head of capital goods underwriting division and head of OeKB’s Export Guarantees – Project Underwriting Department (export credits, overseas investment support).

Since 2017, Mr. Schipfer has been the head of International Relations & Analyses Department involved also in system- and product development.

He has been a member of Supervisory Board of OeEB (Austrian Development Bank) since 2008.

“Very much in keeping with Austria’s industrial capabilities, OeKB’s book is heavy on renewable energy, public transport or water projects.”
Mr. Henk Nijland has been working for FMO since 2001 in various positions. Currently, he is responsible for project finance transactions in the energy sector, mainly solar, wind and hydro power projects. He heads a team of 10 banking professionals covering West Africa, North Africa and The Middle East.

previously, he held management positions in the Infrastructure, Manufacturing & Services Department covering Latin America and Africa and in the Financial Institutions Department covering Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Before that Mr. Nijland was amongst others Fund Manager of the USD 300 million Micro & Small Enterprise Fund & the Capacity Development Program and Senior Investment Officer active in the financial sector in Africa. He also served as Chairman and Member of the Board of various financial institutions and as Investment Committee Member of private equity funds.

Mr. Nijland started his career at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs in 1994 in the position of Policy Officer and later on Senior Policy Officer responsible for promoting investments of Dutch companies in Central and Eastern Europe. He holds a Master’s Degree in Economics from the Dutch University of Groningen.

“This commitment should be aimed at the long term and not at the sort term. The race to the bottom with ever lowering tariffs is beneficial in the short run for governments and countries. It is however not sustainable in the long run because it will put too much pressure on developers in terms of decreasing quality of cheaper equipment and too low returns on investment. For financiers, it will become increasingly difficult to obtain interest rates on their loans that truly cover the risks of renewable energy projects.”
Dr Matteo Barra acts as project manager of the meetMED project, an EU-funded project developed by RCREEE and MEDENER.

He coordinates and monitors the project activities providing regional cooperation and technical assistance in order to facilitate energy transition in the Mediterranean region. Previously, Matteo worked as senior energy investment expert at the Energy Charter Secretariat in Brussel and as senior arbitration associate with a large law firm in Geneva, where he acted in investment and commercial disputes concerning among others the electricity, gas and oil industry.

Matteo holds a Ph.D. in International Economic Law (Bocconi) and an LL.M. in International Energy Law and Policy (CEPMLP).

“Together we switch to clean energy: regional cooperation and technical assistance for sustainable energy investments”
Dr. Ahmed Badr joined RCREEE as of 1st of August, 2015 as the new Executive Director. Dr. Badr has more than 20 years of international experience in several senior operational positions in the field of renewable energy, water and infrastructure in most of the multinational financial institutions, namely The World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Commission, and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Dr. Badr is civil engineer graduated from Ain Shams University June 1990, has a PhD in Renewable Energy from Springfield University, Illinois - USA, plus two master degrees as one in civil engineering from Springfield University, Illinois – USA and the other one in Project Management in Innovation Economics from Univrsite de Nantes, France. Dr. Badr is married and has two children, both in preparatory school stage.
Eng. Ashraf Kraidy is an electrical engineer and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency expert with more than 15 years of expertise in cost-effective policies design, support institution capabilities, technical assistance, and implementation strategies in the Arab region.

Kraidy has participated in several projects, strategic activities and initiatives serving the Arab region’s transformation towards sustainable energy adoption.

Kraidy started his career in 2002 at the Syrian Ministry of Electricity in Damascus. In 2009, Engineer Kraidy has started working with RCREEE as a Senior Energy Expert and Initiations Portfolio Manager. In 2013, he was assigned to work as a Senior Advisor to the Energy Department at the League of Arab States on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Building (BMUB).

Currently, Kraidy is the Planning Director at the RCREEE in charge of organizational planning, fundraising and communication development of RCREEE. Kraidy obtained his Master’s degree in Power Engineering in 2009 within the topic of “energy efficiency labels and standards for home appliances”.