



GWNET
Global Women's Network
for the Energy Transition



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Energy

KIREC SIDE EVENT

EMPOWERING WOMEN - BEST PRACTICES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SECTOR

**TUESDAY, 22ND OCTOBER 2019
12.00 – 13.30
COEX, ROOM E6**

NARRATIVE

The energy sector workforce is coined by a gender gap greater than most other sectors. As stated in the recent report “[Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective](#)” by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA,) the energy industry is far from being gender-balanced with only 22% of women in the oil & gas sector workforce and 32% in the renewable energy workforce. According to Ernst & Young’s Women in Power and Utilities Index, only 5% of board executives and 16% of board members of the top 200 utilities are women.

The energy transition and the trend towards sustainable energy (renewable energy and energy efficiency), however, present unprecedented chances for women interested in the industry. Empowering women in the clean energy sector is crucial for the sector’s success. Scientific research has found that a diversified workforce delivers better results, not only in terms of increased creativity and innovation potential, but also related to better decision-making and greater profits.

Initial research findings have also led to conclude that companies with more women on their board of directors are inter alia more likely to invest in renewable power generation, mitigate climate change and proactively address environmental concerns. Still, this potential has not yet translated into a substantially narrower gender gap in the energy sector. Taking into account that the workforce in the renewable energy sector is predicted to rise from 11 million jobs today to about 42 million jobs in 2050, the attraction of female talent will be crucial to ensure a thriving sector.

GWNET with support of BMWi is currently producing a study that looks at women empowerment in the sustainable energy sector from a workforce perspective. Taking as a point of departure that women are entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to have access to employment on equal terms as men, the study will sketch a picture of the current participation of women in the sustainable energy workforce in developed/emerging economies, including in leading positions.

OBJECTIVE

The side event will focus on a sneak-preview presentation of the study followed by a panel discussion about women's empowerment in the energy sector.

Key discussion topics

1. Women in the sustainable energy sector
2. Summary of scientific evidence on the effects of gender diversity and inclusion in the workplace
3. Female decision-making - does sustainability really matter more?
4. Obstacles, enablers and best-practices for women's access to and participation in the sustainable energy workforce
5. Recommendations for a more gender inclusive sustainable energy sector

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Keynote speech & panel chair

H.E. Irene Giner-Reichl, President of GWNET

Panel discussion

- Barbara Zollmann, Executive Director, Korean-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (t.b.c)
- Rabia Ferroukhi, Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance division, IRENA
- Rana Ghoneim, Chief, Energy systems and Infrastructure Division, UNIDO
- Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, CEEW, India
- Mika Obhayashi, Director, Renewable Energy Institute, Japan

Closing

WOMEN'S NETWORKING BREAKFAST AT KIREC2019

Thursday, 24th October 8.00 - 9.30

COEX, third floor, Room E8



Background

Gender diversity drives innovation, opens new pathways for technology deployment, brings fresh perspectives to development of societies and attracts and retains a richer pool of talent.

It is a well-known fact that the energy sector continues to be male-dominated. The few women that manage to secure top positions are often less well connected with their peers than their male colleagues.

This women's networking breakfast at KIREC aims to facilitate connections among the women attending KIREC. It will discuss what is needed to give more visibility to women in the sector, thereby striving for more gender diversity and strengthening the renewables industry.

Format

Networking breakfast on Thursday 24th October 2019 from 8.00 - 9.30 with welcoming remarks from:

- H.E. Irene Giner-Reichl, President of GWNET - Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition
- Ellen von Zitzewitz, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany

Light breakfast will be provided at the standing breakfast which will facilitate networking among the women attending.

Get in touch:

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