



## CEM Matters #7 March 2020

**Dear colleagues,**

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. We want to share with you the latest information about the Eleventh Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM11), our latest [CEM Family Portrait](#), and [upcoming events](#) organised by CEM workstreams, which are continuing their work although in a virtual format, given current events. We also have a special feature on the [Horizontal Accelerator](#) project - a unique collaboration between CEM workstreams designed to facilitate closer collaboration between power system and transport policy experts.

Wishing you all good health!

Best wishes,

The CEM Secretariat



**CEM11/MI-5 - Postponement**

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Chile's Ministry of Health advised that an event of the size and scale of CEM11/MI-5 should not take place in June based on the risk it poses to both visitors and local communities. **Following the Ministry of Health's advice, Chile will no longer be able to hold the CEM11/MI-5 events in the form originally planned during June 2 - 4. Alternative options are currently under consideration and more information will be available soon.**

## Horizontal Accelerator project



## Horizontal Accelerator project - LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS UNIQUE COLLABORATION

The Horizontal Accelerator is a first concerted effort in the CEM to unify existing work streams, including [International Smart Grid Action Network \(ISGAN\)](#), [21<sup>st</sup> Century Power Partnership \(21CPP\)](#), the [Electric Vehicle Initiative \(EVI\)](#), and the [Power System Flexibility \(PSF\) Campaign](#) to produce coherent analysis and advice that leverages the expertise and outreach of each initiative and campaign. This focused and multi-disciplinary approach to EVs will offer new insights into power system integration and sector coupling, guiding the development of a modern and integrated energy system of the future.

The project is designed to facilitate international and cross-sectoral collaboration between power system and transport sector professionals with a view to increasing mutual understanding of opportunities and challenges, sharing best practices and co-creating new solutions. The project was inspired by the government of Finland and is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers. It is supported by all lead countries of the four participating CEM work streams. At the recent CEM11 Preparatory meeting in Riyadh the project was highlighted by many CEM Sherpas as an effective way to consolidate expertise and key messages developed through related work streams in the CEM. CEM Sherpas would like to bring this effort to the attention of CEM Ministers at CEM11 and also use it as an example for other topics in the CEM.

As part of this effort, ***two interactive knowledge exchange workshops will be organized on a virtual platform on April 21 and 22.*** One of them will focus on the challenges of and solutions for EV infrastructure integration in power systems, and another one will be devoted to policies and market frameworks that can facilitate the implementation of the identified solutions. Insights from the project will inform the EVI's Global EV Outlook Report coordinated by the IEA, the PSF's Status of Power System Transformation Report, developed jointly by IEA and NREL and will also be summarized and presented at CEM11. If you would like to know more about the Horizontal Accelerator and/or are interested in participating in these interactive workshops, please contact [Ellina Levina](#) in the CEM Secretariat.

## CEM Family Portrait



**Mr Khalid Abuleif**

*Senior Advisor to the Minister of Energy, Chief Climate Change Negotiator  
Ministry of Energy, Saudi Arabia*

*Saudi Arabia's Sherpa to the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)*

**Can you tell us about your professional background and your involvement with the CEM?**

I have over 30 years' experience in sustainability, climate change policy and carbon management and hold a B.S. degree from the University of Houston in Civil Engineering; and an M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering.

Currently, I'm a senior advisor to HRH Minister of Energy on Sustainability and Climate Policy, the lead negotiator for the climate change agreements and the Kingdom's focal point to the Secretariat for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), and the Chair of the G20 Climate Stewardship Working Group.

I was the Co-Chair of the Kyoto Protocol Compliance Committee and the Chairman of the Facilitative Branch on 2012/2013. I served in this branch since its inception in December 2005, leading the Kingdom's teams and acting as the focal point for the clean energy initiatives including the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) since 2005, Clean Energy Ministerial since 2014 and Mission Innovation since 2015.

I am currently serving as Co-Chair of the CEM Steering Committee. I have been involved in several CEM activities, such as Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS), Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group, Global Lighting and Energy Access Partnership (LEAP), Energy Management Working Group, and Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment Initiative (SEAD).

**What is your vision/hope for a clean energy future?**

It is very important to develop effective energy systems that take into account economic, political, and societal realities of different countries as well as the society of the world. Achieving this objective will require new technological approaches that reduce, reuse, recycle and remove GHG emissions (the 4Rs) to advance the so called Circular Carbon Economy. Since no single technology will address the suitability challenge of the energy sector on its own, RD&I has to be enabled and utilized to come up with a set of solutions for cleaner, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy systems.

The CEM's flexible model allows members to participate in what is most relevant to them given their national clean energy priorities. This work must advance clean technology for all energy sources, fuels and gases.

**Outside of clean energy issues, what else are you passionate about?**

Spending quality time with the family is my priority. Walking, reading, hiking, and swimming are our favourite activities.

## News and upcoming events



**RGEI - China's Perspective on Northeast Asia Electricity Interconnection - 24th March.**

The second in a 2020 series of webinars from the Clean Energy Ministerial Regional and Global Energy Interconnection Initiative.

Speaker: Mr. Lei Xiaomeng (China Electricity Council) is the senior advisor of China Electricity Council (CEC) on regional international power interconnection since 2016. He has made an important contribution to the establishment of the Northeast Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation (NEARPIC) Forum and he is the NEARPIC steering committee member representing CEC. [REGISTER HERE](#).



**ISGAN Exco - 24th March - virtual meeting.**

ISGAN is holding its nineteenth Executive Committee Meeting, now virtually. The agenda can be obtained [here](#).



**Microreactors in the Near Horizon: Innovative Solutions for Clean Energy Systems - Webinar on 25th March.**

Microreactors (a specific subset of small modular reactors characterized by a generation capacity



**Second International Forum on Long-term Energy Scenarios (LTES) for the Clean Energy Transition - 26th March.**

**Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the Forum will now be held virtually.**

This Forum will gather experts directly involved in either using or developing long-term energy scenarios to support policymaking and planning for the clean energy transition. Representatives from governments, technical institutions, academia, industry and the private sector will be invited to exchange practical experience and gather good practices from around the world.

It will be built on the rich discussions that have been held under the umbrella of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) Campaign on [Long-term Scenarios for the Energy Transition \(LTES Campaign\)](#), since its inception in June 2018, and on activities organized under IRENA's Long-term Energy Scenario Network, which expanded the scope of the LTES Campaign.

The Forum will be held in the form of a one-day Webcast, with speakers and participants joining from all around the world. The [2019 LTES International Forum](#) provided a platform for dynamic discussions with around 130 experts from over 35 countries. [Virtual Concept Note](#) can be accessed here.



of approximately 1 to 20 megawatts of electricity) offer a combination of reliability and operational flexibility that no other small electrical generating system can match. These paradigm shifting technologies enable remote villages, island communities, military operations, off-grid consumers, and high-temperature process heat customers to benefit from carbon-free nuclear energy. The reactors utilize a small land footprint, can be transported using a semi-truck, and potentially operate for years without refueling. Panelists will discuss the state of the technology development, benefits, economics, potential customers, and opportunities to incorporate cutting edge innovations, such as additive manufacturing and remote/autonomous operations.

Special remarks by Alice Caponiti, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fleet and Advanced Reactor Deployment at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Panelists include Marc Nichol (Nuclear Energy Institute), Keyes Niemer (Canadian Nuclear Laboratories), Nick Smith (National Reactor Innovation Center, Idaho National Laboratory), and Troy Warshel (U.S. Department of Defense). Moderator is Tim Crook (ANS YMG Executive Committee and IYNC member).

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



**SEAD/IEA Efficient cooling webinar series:**

International Finance Corporation's Sustainable Cooling Innovation Programme has been postponed for now but a new date will be announced soon.



**Women's Energy Entrepreneurship, Friday 27 March.**

The Clean Energy Solutions Center and the [Clean Energy Education and Empowerment](#) (C3E) International initiatives, in partnership with

**International NEA Workshop: Towards Sustainable Nuclear Financing - currently postponed.**

There is a growing recognition around the world that nuclear energy has a possible role to play in decarbonizing energy systems worldwide. A number of advanced nuclear reactor technologies are under development around the world and are rapidly approaching the commercialization stage. However, like most technologies that have large physical infrastructures, these technologies confront a financing gap. It is not yet clear whether nuclear plants based on advanced nuclear technologies can be financed or how such financing arrangements would be made. Simultaneously, there has been a growing interest in the financial sector in financing sustainable infrastructure and energy projects. This interest in sustainability in the financial sector has led to the emergence of sustainable financing taxonomies and green or climate bonds. However, it is not yet clear whether these emerging mechanisms can be applied to large infrastructure projects. This first of a kind workshop will bring together experts from the nuclear energy, sustainability and financing sectors to discuss approaches for financing sustainable, large infrastructure projects with a focus on nuclear reactor construction projects.

[MORE INFORMATION.](#)



**EVI - Webinar - Off-street charging for plug-in electric vehicles in Nordic cities - 2nd April.**

On-street charging stations are relatively costly to build, and most market designs stipulate other market actors to deploy charging infrastructure, rather than the cities themselves. Furthermore, on-street parking, which historically has been undisputed in the Nordics, is increasingly causing conflict in the public space. Join this webinar, which explores off-street charging for plug-in electric vehicles in Nordic cities.

Webinar speakers:

**Gabriella Castegren and/or Carl Ståhle, Public Housing Sweden.** Business models for multi-family houses

the [Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition](#) (GWNET), will host this webinar as the fifth in a six-part webinar series on Gender Equality for a More Rapid and Inclusive Energy Transition. This webinar will spotlight the data and evidence base around women's entrepreneurship in the energy sector that participants can use to inform policy and program design going forward.

Presentations will highlight findings related to:

- Strengthening the Women's Entrepreneurship Ecosystem within the Energy Sector ([report](#))
- Practical Strategies to Catalyse Women-Led Access-to-Energy Ventures in India ([report](#))
- Women's Entrepreneurship, enterprise and financing supports, and Productive Uses of Energy in West Africa
- The IFC's Energy2Equal program efforts to advance women's entrepreneurship through corporate supply chains and community engagement and investment strategy.

The presentations will be followed by an interactive question and answer session with the audience.

[REGISTER HERE.](#)



**CEM/NICE Future's Flexible Nuclear Campaign (FNC) for Nuclear-Renewables Integration for Advanced Clean Energy Systems Expert-Level Working Meeting via Webinar (by invitation only) - 29th April.**

The NICE Future initiative's Flexible Nuclear Campaign (FNC) has kicked off a working group of distinguished experts from around the world (called the "Flexibility Working Group"). The working group will be convening to discuss preliminary results of their analysis, which will culminate in a policy briefing, a technical report, and a new website portal to communicate the roles that flexible nuclear energy can play in enabling clean energy systems. The new Flexible Working Group currently spans over 15 international organizations and 6 countries and is growing. The Flexible Working Group will highlight existing analysis tools for flexible nuclear operations and suggest future research to further expand the capability of such systems. Key products of the Flexibility Working Group will

**Gent Grinvalds Harbro, Copenhagen Electric.** Deployment of charging infrastructure for housing companies in Denmark.

**Eva Sunnerstedt, City of Stockholm.** Presents the information campaign [www.fixaladdplats.se](http://www.fixaladdplats.se) which targets tenants-owned housing companies. [REGISTER HERE.](#)



**CCUS - Learn about CCUS developments in CEM countries via webinars - recordings and slides now available online.**

In January-March, the CCUS Initiative held two country webinars, presenting current action and future plans for CCUS in the **United States** (21 January 2020) and in **China** (5 March 2020). Both countries are vital for CCUS and have recently published roadmaps for large-scale deployment. The webinar recordings and slides can be accessed on the Clean Energy Solutions Center [website](#) and [CEM website](#).



**CEM provides boost for Gulf Region collaboration on CCUS**

On Wednesday 15 January 2020 the CEM CCUS Initiative organised a workshop on CCUS in hard-to-abate sectors and in the Gulf Region. Hosted by the Ministry of Energy and Industry of United Arab Emirates, the event was held in the sidelines of the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi. Workshop participants were from governments in the region, other Clean Energy Ministerial CCUS Initiative governments, from various industries in the region and beyond, academia, as well as from key organisations such as the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, Global CCS Institute and the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Dr. Matar AlNeyadi, Undersecretary for Energy at the UAE Ministry of Energy and Industry highlighted the role of CCUS as a tool and solution for a sustainable energy future. The workshop discussed, inter alia, how to accelerate

be released at the 11th annual Clean Energy Ministerial.



**Horizontal Accelerator workshops - 21st and 22nd April (by invitation only).**

As mentioned in our feature article, these events will be the first activity for the Horizontal Accelerator project. If you would like to know more about the Horizontal Accelerator and/or are interested in participating in these interactive workshops, please contact [Ellina Levina](#) in the CEM Secretariat.

CCUS deployment in the Gulf Region. Potential areas of future activity were highlighted, such as developing a regional strategy for CCUS; jointly identifying regional hubs, clusters and key project opportunities for CCUS; providing a joint regional atlas for permanent CO<sub>2</sub> storage and EOR; developing joint approaches in policy and finally jointly planning infrastructure to link capture hubs to storage / injection areas in the region. A regional CCUS group is scheduled to meet, potentially under the auspices of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to advance the discussions. The CCUS Initiative continues to be available to support the region in jointly advancing CCUS. The day before the workshop, the Initiative held its first members' meeting of the year, discussing work items such as collaboration with the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI), work with the finance sector, as well as the emerging dialogue with steel and cement industries.

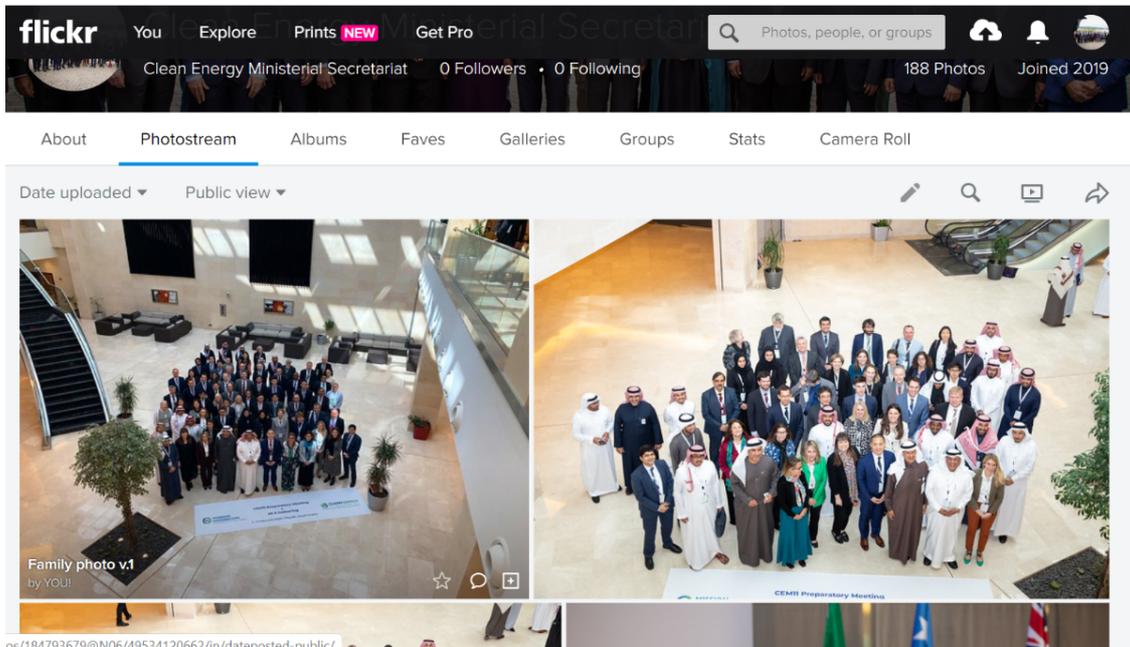


**Congratulations to NICE Future Initiative colleagues!**

The U.S. Secretary of Energy recently selected U.S. members of the Nuclear Innovation: Clean Energy Future Initiative (NICE Future) Team, including U.S. Department of Energy colleagues and representatives of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Idaho National Laboratory, for a Secretary of Energy Achievement Award recognizing significant accomplishments during the past year.

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**Don't miss – CEM FLICKR account**



## We have a Flickr account!

The Clean Energy Ministerial now has its own Flickr account, where we upload photographs from Ministerial meetings, side events and other events throughout the year.

[Click here to access our page.](#)

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[Secretariat@CEMSecretariat.org](mailto:Secretariat@CEMSecretariat.org)

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