



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OUTCOMES FROM THE 17th CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL (CEM17)

11 – 13 October 2026
RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
PREPARED BY THE CEM SECRETARIAT



INTRODUCTION

The 17th CEM Ministerial meeting (CEM17) was hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 11-13 October 2026 under the theme of ‘**Inspiring Transformations to Deliver Regional Transitions**’. CEM17 brought together Ministerial representatives, senior government representatives and international partners to reaffirm the importance of working together to advance secure, affordable and sustainable energy systems. Held during the most severe energy crisis in our history, the response of the CEM community in adapting their participation to be a part of this moment has been an amazing showcase of solidarity, resilience and dedication.

Throughout the preparations for CEM17, the CEM community mobilised itself to deliver a powerful programme for Riyadh, developing over 40 Side-Events and High-Level Dialogues. However, due to severe travel disruptions in the region, a decision had to be made to deliver a revised version of the CEM17 programme via a virtual platform (see Annex 1 for the list of sessions held). Delegates expressed their sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for convening the CEM community in this format at short notice, commending their flexibility, ongoing leadership and commitment to delivering a successful Ministerial meeting.

The virtual CEM17 programme included a series of 17 CEM community events covering a broad range of energy technologies and solutions, and a virtual CEM Ministerial Plenary meeting with the theme of, ‘**From Dialogue to Delivery: Showcasing our impact together**’. The CEM17 programme enabled the global CEM community to engage in constructive dialogue and showcase the impact of their collaboration, outputs and deliverables.

This outcomes document includes an overview of the key deliverables and announcements showcased by the CEM community during CEM17. Furthermore, some of the key messages from the CEM17 Plenary are summarised below.

Key messages from CEM17:

- **Energy security and resilience** is increasingly important in an evolving global energy landscape. Delegates highlighted that energy innovation and deployment, energy diversification and infrastructure development are all required to strengthen energy systems, support economic growth and respond to rising energy demand. The discussions also recognised that countries pursue different energy pathways, reflecting their respective national circumstances, resources and development priorities. However, members and partners also highlighted that through the CEM, they can come together to share knowledge, experiences and engage in practical, outcome-oriented international cooperation to achieve their goals.
- **International collaboration can deliver economic growth and affordable energy for all** with energy access and affordability becoming an increasing focus of the CEM. Many delegates stressed that energy transitions present an opportunity to strengthen industrial competitiveness, create jobs and support economic development. The importance of ensuring that energy transitions are inclusive and people-centred, delivering tangible benefits for communities and supporting skills development and broader participation, was also emphasised.
- **Advancing implementation and translating ambition into tangible outcomes** remains the key strength of the CEM. Delegates highlighted the importance of enabling policies, mobilising investment and creating modern and resilient energy infrastructure. The CEM community reinforced their commitment to different aspects of the CEM work programme, highlighting what had been achieved together in different CEM

workstreams over the past years, plans for future activities, and confirming their intention to participate in different CEM workstreams in the future.

- **The CEM has a distinct value in the global energy landscape as a voluntary, flexible and action-oriented platform.** Many delegates commended the CEM's ability to bring together a diverse membership and broad range of partners, including the active engagement and leadership from EMDEs. Delegates also highlighted the CEM's convening power across sectors – notably bringing energy and non-energy technical, policy and finance stakeholders together – and noted the examples of how the CEM community had adapted its activities to different regional contexts over the past year. Delegates welcomed the fact that the CEM community can work together in areas of common interest, based on their shared priorities, while also respecting different national circumstances and approaches. The CEM's ability to facilitate practical cooperation, exchange experiences, mobilise partnerships and connect policy ambition with implementation was widely recognised as a key strength.
- **Looking ahead, Phase V was identified as an important opportunity** to build on the CEM's established strengths and further enhance its effectiveness, relevance and impact. Delegates thanked the Secretariat for facilitating their engagement in the CEM and emphasised its role in maintaining the CEM's collaborative and member-driven character. Delegates also noted the importance of continuing to focus on practical implementation, tangible results and responding to evolving energy priorities. Continued engagement with international organisations, business, industry and other partners was recognised as essential to sustaining momentum and maximising the CEM's collective impact. Delegates also expressed their appreciation for the breadth of ongoing CEM activities and ability for members to engage in the areas of work that are most aligned with their own priorities.

Overall, CEM17 demonstrated the continued value of international energy cooperation and the strength of the CEM community in navigating shared challenges and exploring new opportunities. Through its successful hosting of the CEM17 Ministerial programme, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia helped to sustain this important momentum, reinforce international partnerships, and provide a constructive foundation for the CEM's next phase of cooperation and delivery.

Looking forward, the CEM is excited to announce that the next Ministerial will be co-hosted by Germany and the International Energy Agency in Paris in 2027 (exact date TBC). We look forward to working with our co-hosts to create another unique moment where the CEM Community can showcase how international collaboration can contribute concrete outcomes to advance common energy goals.

We would like to thank the CEM Community once again for their invaluable contribution in making CEM17 such a success and for demonstrating that together, the CEM community stands ready to provide collaborative solutions to support all its members energy priorities.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Germany to co-host CEM18 with the International Energy Agency in Paris

During Riyadh Energy Week, the CEM Ministerial hosting baton passed from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Germany. During the CEM17 plenary, Germany announced its intention to co-host the next Ministerial meeting in Paris in partnership with the International Energy Agency (IEA). This builds on the European leadership demonstrated by the European Commission through their hosting of the CEM Senior Officials' Meeting in June 2026. The IEA also noted that 2027 would be a timely moment to hold the Ministerial meeting in Europe especially now that both the CEM and MI Secretariat teams are now housed at the IEA.



Indonesia, Netherlands, Ethiopia, and Uganda join the CEM Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative

The CEM Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative (IDDI) is pleased to welcome Indonesia, Netherlands, Ethiopia, and Uganda as its newest members. CEM IDDI is a global coalition of governments and private organisations working together to stimulate demand for low-carbon industrial materials. The Initiative's membership, which has doubled since its launch in 2021, reflects broadening economic and geographic support for demand-side policies focused on industrial decarbonisation. Together with 17 other governments, IDDI's new members will continue to develop and implement new approaches to carbon accounting, procurement, and other investment incentives for key low-emissions products such as steel and cement.

New cohort of EETI Gender Ambassadors Announced

The CEM Equality in Energy Transition Initiative (EETI) Ambassadors Program, led by the United Kingdom and Austria, brings together leaders from across the clean energy sector who champion gender equality and serve as visible role models for the next generation of women in energy. Through public speaking, mentoring and advocacy, ambassadors help attract, retain and advance diverse talent across industry, government, research and academia. The latest cohort of Gender Ambassadors includes nominations received from member countries such as Australia, the United Kingdom, Austria and Indonesia, and from partner organisations including Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and IEEE Power and Energy Society Young Professionals. Nominations for the current cohort (2025-2027) remain open, and the Initiative warmly welcomes CEM members and partners who wish to put forward ambassadors.



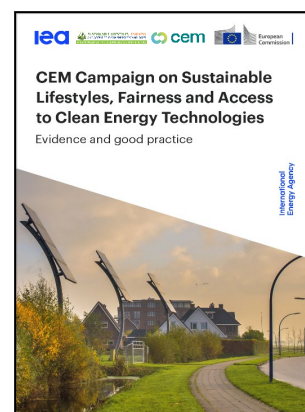
The Philippines' and Indonesia's Power Sector Action Plans to Enable Closer CEM Collaboration

At the CEM17 Ministerial Plenary, the governments of [Indonesia](#) and [the Philippines](#) formally announced and launched **CEM 21CPP Power Sector Action Plans** developed under the aegis of the National Energy Council, Indonesia and the Philippines Department of Energy respectively. These Action Plans set out a comprehensive overview of various domestic targets, programmes and policies that are spurring power sector transformations in both countries, while also highlighting key areas to further international cooperation and strategic partnerships through the larger CEM community. These country-owned and led Action Plans, by design, offer lessons to other countries (for example, the Philippines' Action Plan profiles a regulatory roadmap to support greater resilience in the power sector) as well as helps inform domestic policies (for example, Indonesia's Action Plan is also supporting the development of its national energy outlook, which will feed into policy designs and investment models). Both the Action Plans clearly outline key areas of international cooperation that the countries' energy transition require; and will be socialised in the coming months to spur partnerships and encourage closer collaboration within CEM.

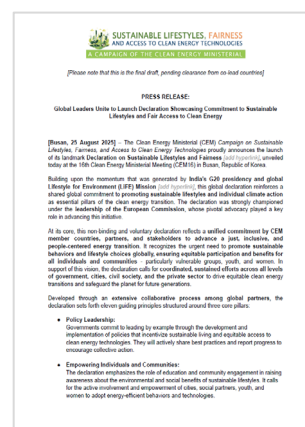


CEM Lifestyle Campaign spotlights behavioural changes and access to clean energy

The CEM Campaign on Sustainable Lifestyles, Fairness and Access to Clean Energy Technologies advanced key deliverables at CEM17 to drive tangible behavioural change and clean energy access. To equip decision-makers with actionable tools and collaborative platforms, the Campaign showcased the released of its report, [Best Practices and Insights to Expand Clean Energy Access and Adoption](#) (first presented at Senior Officials Meeting in June), alongside the establishment of a Community of Practice designed to facilitate ongoing knowledge sharing and peer learning across participating countries and partners and the inaugural of Sustainable Lifestyles Awards to recognise and celebrate breakthrough policies, community leadership and sectoral solutions that advance people-centred, equitable energy transition.



Anchoring these action-oriented efforts, the [Declaration on Sustainable Lifestyles and Fairness](#), led by the European Commission and building on India's LiFE Mission, continues to mobilise global support across three pillars: policy leadership, community empowerment and systemic transformation. To date, 24 countries and international organisations have endorsed the Declaration, including Brazil, China, the European Union, Finland, India, Norway and Spain, alongside the Clean Cooking Alliance, the Global Covenant of Mayors, the Hot or Cool Institute, SEforALL, SDG7 Youth Constituency, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Environmental Change Institute at Oxford University, Renewable Africa Initiative, Sudan MPI 4D, Zhangjiakou Energy Association, Zhangjiakou Xufeng Group, Wilya Janta, Relithia Energy, Shanxi Green Youth, People of Asia for Climate Solutions, Nico Nanobubble, and King Power.



CEM-Hubs Announces New Partnership with UNIDO

At CEM17 the Clean Energy Marine Hubs Initiative (CEM-Hubs) was proud to announce a new partnership with UNIDO. Building on Initiative's existing collaboration across the energy and maritime sectors, the new partnership with UNIDO ideally positions CEM-Hubs to fully realise synergies across industrial decarbonisation and the energy and maritime sectors. More broadly, as CEM-Hubs shifts into Phase II of its implementation, this broadening cross-sector collaboration provides a unique model for bringing the public and private sectors together to establish ports as unique centres for moving, producing, and using clean energy on a global scale.



CEM as an Implementation Platform

Implementation of the CEM Future Fuels Action Plan

The CEM has built the first government-led, multilateral community advancing all technology pathways and end-use sectors for sustainable fuels. [CEM Future Fuels](#) brings together all key technologies and offtakers, across the public and private sectors, to accelerate deployment and strengthen the impact of CEM workstreams.

Over the past year, the [CEM Future Fuels Action Plan](#) (FFAP) has been used by countries supporting the Belém 4X Pledge as the key implementation platform to turn this ambition into action. The road to CEM17 showcased the effectiveness of the CEM Future Fuel Community in:

- Building new implementation coalitions for Future Fuels as a distinct and essential priority for energy transitions globally – including in the context of [UN sustainable development goals and energy access](#).
- Leading extensive consultations to produce a comprehensive roadmap of existing frameworks and efforts on [lifecycle carbon accounting for sustainable fuels and materials](#).
- Leading the development of cross-border infrastructure, including the hard infrastructure and policy practices that can accelerate sustainable fuels in a range of key regions and deployment sectors.
- Amplifying the ambition and impact of individual CEM workstreams by creating new connections between sectors and across global supply chains, for example by launching the:
 - [Biofuture Platform Declaration on Sustainable Chemicals and Materials](#).
 - [International Hydrogen Trade Forum's Public-Private Implementation Statement](#).
- Convening public and private sector leaders across the energy and transport sectors to focus on the significant contribution of Future Fuels to broader [transport decarbonisation](#) objectives.

At CEM17, the CEM Future Fuels maintained the Action Plan's focus on demand creation, lifecycle carbon accounting, markets and infrastructure. The Future Fuels community progressed key collaborations to:

- Showcase and build on new commitments by governments and partner organisations to implement the COP30 Belém Pledge to quadruple the global use of sustainable fuels by 2035.
- Establish [ports as unique clean energy hubs](#) to move, produce, and use clean energy on a global scale. Upcoming launches include the **Hubs Blueprint** and **Ports Readiness Toolkit**.
- [Track the deployment and investment progress](#) of carbon management towards gigatonne-scale storage globally by 2030.
- Enhance the [insurability of carbon management](#), a key technology suite to enable low-carbon fuels.

Upcoming work by the CEM Future Fuels community will further facilitate deployment by:

- Working with the [World Economic Forum's Future of Clean Fuels Initiative](#) to identify and respond feedback from policymakers and investors on the main investment barriers for Future Fuels.
- Creating markets for low to negative emissions industrial fuels and materials by better connecting public and private demand. Priority knowledge products include the upcoming launch of:
 - A newly expanded **Green Public Procurement Pledge**.
 - Policy roadmaps for **low to negative emissions fuels for industrial decarbonisation**.
 - The [Industrial Deep Decarbonisation Initiative's](#) **Product Category Rules Landscape Study for Industrial Decarbonisation** and **Green Public Procurement Policies Study**.
 - Policy advice on **biochar and industrial decarbonisation**.

Members and partners look forward to working within this diverse, and expanding, coalition of leaders and technical specialists to build on this success at COP31 and beyond.

Advancing the CEM Agenda for Action on Power System Solutions

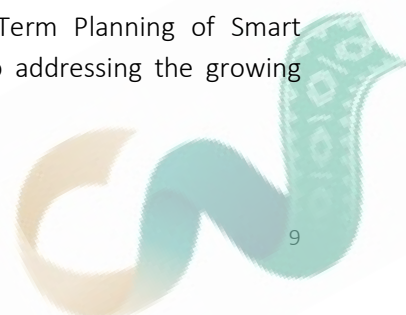
The transformation of the power sector is increasingly an investment and implementation challenge. While technologies are available and capital is being committed, investment is not translating into infrastructure deployment at the scale and pace required. Policy uncertainty, regulatory barriers, permitting delays and institutional fragmentation continue to constrain project development and bankability.

Building on the [CEM Agenda for Action on Power System Solutions](#), launched at CEM15 in Brazil, CEM is working across its power sector initiatives to strengthen enabling conditions for investment, including long-term planning, regulatory frameworks, institutional coordination, technology-specific risk mitigation and public-private collaboration.

A key deliverable for CEM17 was the [CEM-WEF Executive Brief “Powering Growth: Bridging the Investment Gap in Electricity Systems”](#) providing practical recommendations for governments to improve investment conditions and translate financial commitments into bankable infrastructure projects.

This is complemented by multiple additional deliverables from power sector initiatives, including:

- [Unlocking Global Investment in Energy Storage](#) – White Paper (CEM Supercharging Energy Storage Initiative): Identifies key regulatory, market and financial conditions needed to unlock investment and accelerate energy storage deployment at scale.
- [Policy Brief on Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination for Accelerated Grid Development \(ISGAN\)](#): Offers practical guidance to improve coordination, governance and investment planning for distribution grid modernisation.
- [Casebook on Smart Distribution Grid Planning \(ISGAN\)](#): Presents 15 case studies from ten countries showcasing innovative approaches to distribution grid planning and management.
- [ISGAN Lighthouse Knowledge Hub](#): Provides an interactive knowledge platform to support coordinated, adaptive and forward-looking distribution grid planning.
- [Policy Brief on Empowering Energy Regulators \(CEM ERAD\)](#): Provides actionable recommendations to strengthen regulatory institutions and their capacity to support clean energy transitions and investments.
- [Next-Generation Geothermal Case Study Series \(GeoFuture Initiative\)](#): Presents 13 projects across 11 countries, highlighting technological, regulatory and financing pathways to scale next-generation geothermal energy.
- [2026 Thought Leadership Report on Strategic Electrification \(21CPP and ISGAN\)](#): Highlights the role of electrification in economic growth, competitiveness and energy security, calling for a whole-system approach to power sector transformation and investments.
- [Principles of the SI-Nuclear Nexus \(NICE Future Initiative\)](#): Establishes ten principles to advance collaboration between superintelligence (SI) and nuclear energy, supporting nuclear deployment and the growing power needs of SI infrastructure.
- [International Use Cases of AI in Smart Energy Systems \(ISGAN–ETIP SNET\)](#): Examines 57 AI applications and projects, highlighting opportunities, deployment challenges and recommendations for scaling AI in electricity systems.
- The [12th ISGAN Awards of Excellence \(2026\)](#) on “Excellence in Long-Term Planning of Smart Distribution Grids under Uncertainty” highlights innovative approaches to addressing the growing complexity and uncertainties of distribution grid planning



Together, these efforts highlight CEM's role in turning investment ambition into concrete deployment through coordinated government action and public-private collaboration.

Empowering Society Task Force Announcement

Canada and the European Commission, with the support of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), the European Youth Energy Network (EYEN), and Student Energy, announced the launch of a Task Force on Empowering Society, with the intention of evolving it into a full Action Agenda at CEM18. Empowering Society will strengthen the integration of people-centred strategies into CEM's broader energy dialogue, enabling countries and organisations in delivering energy transitions that are sustainable, equitable, and responsive to local contexts while supporting the development of the workforce of the future. The Task Force will build on and elevate the extensive body of existing work on people-centred transitions, especially that led by the CEM Empowering People Initiative, CEM Equality in Energy Transitions Initiative and CEM Campaign on Sustainable Lifestyles, Fairness and Access to Clean Energy Technologies, while focusing on priority themes identified by members to accelerate the adoption of people-centred approaches throughout clean energy transitions. Welcoming broader global participation, Canada invited interested partner countries, workstreams and organisations to join and contribute to the Task Force's ongoing activities.



Strengthening EMDE engagement in CEM

CEM17 marked a milestone in the enhanced EMDE engagement that recent Ministerial meetings and CEM members' strategic guidance have been encouraging, namely, to support emerging markets and developing countries to more effectively leverage the CEM platform in support of their national energy transition priorities. During the CEM17 Ministerial Plenary Session, significant efforts across EMDEs in this past year were shared by various Heads of Delegations, including for example, the enhanced CEM engagement and support to South Africa during its G20 Presidency which concluded in December 2025, as well as the ongoing Philippine Chairship of ASEAN in 2026.

The road to CEM17: Southeast Asia Focus

Building on the theme “Inspiring Transformations to Deliver Regional Transitions”, the CEM community inspired itself from CEM16 in South Korea which saw high-level presence and participation from South-East Asian countries such as Malaysia, The Philippines and Thailand for the first time, in addition to Indonesia which remains a long-standing CEM member. This success led to a steady rise in participation from governments and partner organisation in the Southeast Asia region, including at CEM workstream meetings, technical webinars, and programmatic initiatives such as ambassadorship programmes, award nominations, and informational sessions (noted below). Two focus areas were prioritised by EMDEs as the starting point for CEM engagements in Southeast Asia region: power sector transformations and inclusivity. Concerted efforts in both these thematic areas have led to several first-ever milestones, many of which were delivered at CEM17, or were key in developing CEM17 deliverables:

- Launch of the Philippines’ Power Sector Action Plan (led by the Department of Energy)
- Launch of Indonesia's Power Sector Action Plan (led by the National Energy Council/DEN)
- Development of CEM-EETI Southeast Asia Toolbox on Advancing Skilling and Livelihoods for Clean Energy Transition
- Development of CEM-EPI Toolkit on Gender Equality and Inclusivity in Southeast Asia's Energy Workforce
- Delivery of a dedicated day long CEM Workshop on Driving Gender Equality and Inclusion in Energy Employment as part of the 2026 ASEAN Energy Gender Week (in partnership with ACE, under The Philippines’ ASEAN Chairship)
- Convening a three-part CEM-EPI Webinar Series on Enhancing Livelihoods and Creating Workforce Readiness for Clean Energy and Sustainable Transformations in Southeast Asia
- Featuring CEM global and regional efforts at Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (hosted by UNESCAP)
- Participation from Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand in EETI Executive Committee meeting
- Participation and recognition of Southeast Asia partners in Sustainable Lifestyles Awards

These outputs were facilitated and curated to reflect the dynamism and significant opportunities in the region and encourage international cooperation in support of domestic implementation. This body of work and the resulting relationships have helped in establishing trust in the region towards CEM as a multilateral platform to further their priorities as member and partner countries. It is significant to note early impact, as reflected through increasing participation and engagement from SEA countries across CEM workstreams including power

sector, gender, workforce, sustainable lifestyles initiatives as listed above, as well as geothermal, energy efficiency, long-term scenarios and nuclear.

Looking ahead: Enhance power sector transformation work in EMDEs

CEM17 hosts at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognized 'Inspiring Transformations to Deliver Regional Transitions' as the priority theme for this year's Ministerial meeting. Taking cue from this overarching ambition, efforts to support greater EMDE capacity will be coalesced around two key regions in the coming months.

Southeast Asia: Efforts in Southeast Asia will continue to be advanced beyond CEM17, to enhance trust and capacities in Southeast Asia so that governments may be able to effectively engage with the CEM platform for advancing their regional and/or domestic priorities. This builds on the momentum, and relationships that have been established through efforts noted above and is in response to priorities that Indonesia as a CEM member, and the Philippines as ASEAN Presidency, noted during CEM17. Over the next months, the CEM Community will continue to deepen collaborative efforts in the region, leveraging CEM power sector workstreams including ISGAN, ERAD, 21CPP, LTES and others. This will be curated to showcase the breadth of cooperation opportunities, particularly towards solar power and workforce skilling, and facilitate knowledge exchange through CEM workstreams.

Africa/South Africa: Similar efforts as undertaken in Southeast Asia are being considered in South Africa to help advance its engagement with CEM's power sector work. This engagement will be tailored such that it also becomes an opportunity for CEM to widen its locus of engagement and multilateral impact in Africa more widely.

These efforts will continue to be facilitated by the CEM Secretariat in close cooperation with leading partners in the region and globally; and especially with thanks to the growing and stronger partnerships with our philanthropy base of ClimateWorks Foundation, Tara Climate Foundation and Pooled Fund on Investment.



Awards

2026 ISGAN Awards of Excellence: Recognising Innovation in Smart Distribution Grid Planning

Through its annual Awards of Excellence, ISGAN recognises outstanding smart grid projects that demonstrate innovation, practical impact, and potential for replication, while fostering international knowledge exchange and accelerating the clean energy transition. The 12th ISGAN Awards of Excellence (2026) focused on “**Excellence in Long-Term Planning of Smart Distribution Grids under Uncertainty**”, highlighting innovative approaches to addressing the growing complexity and uncertainties of distribution grid planning. Projects were evaluated by an independent international jury against five key criteria: Planning Excellence under Uncertainty; Impact on Decisions, Coordination, and Implementation; System Value, Affordability, and Efficient Use of Existing Infrastructure; Innovation; and Replicability and Transferability.



2026 ISGAN Awards of Excellence – Award-Winning Projects

WINNER | Australia

- **Organisation:** Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- **Project:** Dynamic Operating Envelope Integration via an Interoperable Utility-Distributed Energy Resource Communication Standard

RUNNER-UP | Switzerland

- **Organisation:** BKW Energie AG
- **Project:** Dynamic & System-Wide Voltage Control for Distribution Grids

HONOURABLE MENTION | Denmark

- **Organisation:** University of Southern Denmark
- **Project:** Uncertainty-Aware Cable Renewal Planning for Smart Distribution Grids: A Danish DSO Decision-Support Framework

HONOURABLE MENTION | Sweden

- **Organisation:** Region Skåne
- **Project:** The Skåne Power Commission

Further details of the award-winning projects are available on the [ISGAN website](#).

The ISGAN Awards Ceremony, originally scheduled to take place at CEM17, will instead be held during the 32nd ISGAN Executive Committee Meeting in Singapore.



Hydrogen Awards

The IEA Hydrogen TCP Awards of Excellence recognise outstanding achievements in the development and deployment of clean hydrogen technologies. In collaboration with the CEM Hydrogen Initiative, the Awards promote innovation in hydrogen technologies. This year, under the theme *"From Supply to Demand: Driving Hydrogen Solutions"*, organisers received 18 outstanding project submissions representing 12 countries.

Organisers are pleased to announce this year's winning projects:

- First Winner: **H2GLASS** (Europe)

H2GLASS is an EU-funded innovation project exploring how hydrogen can help decarbonise one of Europe's most energy-intensive industries: glass manufacturing, bringing hydrogen closer to the heart of industrial production.

- Second Winner: Energienpark Bad Lauchstädt (Germany)

This project is a large-scale real-world laboratory demonstrating how the entire hydrogen value chain can work as one integrated system, from renewable power generation and hydrogen production to transport, storage, and industrial use.

Further details of the award-winning projects are available [here](#).

EETI Awards

In partnership with Natural Resources Canada and Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE), the Equality in Energy Transition Initiative (EETI) biannual Awards recognise organisations and individuals who have shown outstanding leadership in advancing gender equality, diversity and inclusion in the clean energy sector. They celebrate efforts that open pathways for women and underrepresented groups, and that help build a more equitable clean energy workforce. As in previous years, EETI used the momentum of CEM17 to solicit nominations for the 2026 Awards. With the changes to the CEM17 format, winners will be potentially featured at the next EETI in-person Executive Committee Meeting in November hosted by Germany in Berlin.

Organizational Award:

- Winner: Student Energy (Canada)
- Runner Up: PT TBS Energi Utama Tbk (Indonesia)

Emerging Leader Award:

- Winner: Sara Alkhoori (UAE)
- Runner Up: Omaira Jajbhay (South Africa)

Woman of Distinction Award:

- Winner: Ina Colombo-Youla (France)
- Runner Up: Tracy Primeau (Canada)

Carbon Management Awards

The CEM CCUS Initiative and MI CDR, under their joint Gigatonne by 2030 Campaign, launched the inaugural Carbon Management Project Awards. Open to CCUS and CDR projects from all CEM and MI countries, the awards showcased real-life progress for industrial-scale projects that have recently entered operation or are in mature stages of construction.

This year's Award winners were:

- Longship, Norway
- Polaris and Atlas, Canada
- BECCS Stockholm, Sweden
- China Huaneng Longdong, China
- Deep Sky Climate Alpha, Canada

By showcasing and sharing knowledge from leading examples of real-world deployment, the Awards hope to inspire more large-scale projects to take investment decisions and help grow the global carbon management pipeline towards gigatonne-scale.

Sustainable Lifestyles Awards

The CEM Campaign on Sustainable Lifestyles, Fairness and Access to Clean Energy Technologies, together with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), launched the inaugural Sustainable Lifestyles Awards. These Awards build on the Declaration on Sustainable Lifestyles and Fairness launched at CEM16 in Busan and recognise tangible leadership and collaboration across the Declaration's three pillars: Policy, People and Sector. By highlighting replicable, scalable actions, the Awards aim to inspire broader adoption within and beyond the CEM community. In the run up to CEM17, the Campaign sought nominations for the 2026 Awards, and the winners (featured below) will be recognized at a virtual ceremony on 29 October 2026. Link to join: [here](#)



Winners of Category 1 – Policy

- Zhangjiakou Renewable Energy Full-Coverage Initiative for Rural Revitalization, submitted by Zhangjiakou Renewable Energy Demonstration Zone
- San Lucido: A place where people want to live, submitted by Municipality of San Lucido (ITALY)

Category 2 – People

- Indonesia's Youth to Accelerate Sustainable Lifestyles, submitted by Society of Renewable Energy (SRE) Indonesia
- The Solar Stream - Student Energy Guided Projects, submitted by Student Energy

Category 3 – Sector

- Bangkok E-Bus Programme, submitted by Energy Absolute PCL
- eCooking for Livelihoods: Productive-Use Electric Cooking Transition for India's Micro-Food Enterprises, submitted by Finovista.



CEM Fueling Lives Clean Cooking Awards Launched

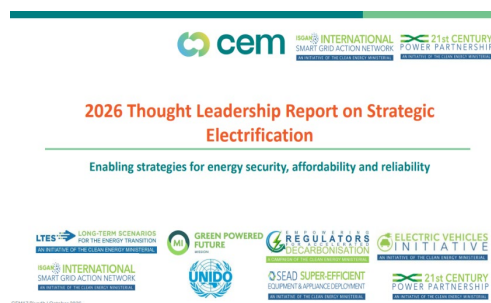
The CEM Fueling Lives Initiative launched its new awards program “Excellence in Scaling Clean Cooking: Models That Last.” The program is designed to highlight successful delivery models and encourage replication and adaptation of proven approaches in diverse markets and regions. The program is open to all practitioners and programs who have demonstrated impact in scaling clean cooking access in the last year, with nominations due May 2027. Selected award winners will be recognized at CEM18, be invited to present during its clean cooking segment, and be featured on the CEM website.



Knowledge Products

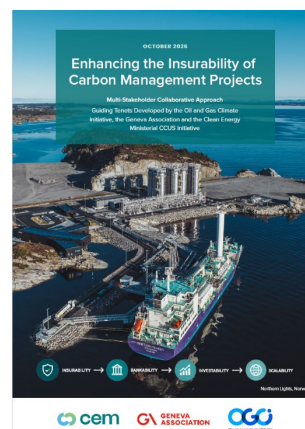
2026 Thought Leadership Report on Strategic Electrification

Launched during a virtual session at CEM17, the **2026 Thought Leadership Report on Strategic Electrification Report**, developed by 21st Century Power Partnership (21CPP) and International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN), with contributions from across CEM workstreams, highlights the growing role of electrification in driving economic growth, competitiveness and energy security. As electricity demand rises across transport, buildings, industry and digital infrastructure, the report emphasizes the need for a whole-system approach to electrification, ensuring that power grids, markets, regulations, investment, supply chains and institutions evolve together to deliver reliable, affordable, efficient and resilient power systems.



Key Insurance Principles for Carbon Management

The CEM CCUS Initiative launched a new report on [Enhancing the Insurability of Carbon Management Projects](#). Produced in close collaboration with the Geneva Association and the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative, the report is intended to assist senior decision makers at strategic and operational levels responsible for development of decarbonization and carbon capture projects. Based on extensive consultations across governments and industry, particularly with the insurance sector, the report demonstrates how carbon management value chain projects can be designed, governed and financially assured in ways – enhancing insurability and enabling responsible and faster scale-up for industrial decarbonisation. Many of the principles outlined in the report are also relevant to other emerging technologies for decarbonization and related infrastructure systems. The CEM CCUS Initiative sincerely thanks all members and partners who contributed to this collaboration.



Toolkit on Clean Energy Workforce Readiness for Southeast Asia

CEM17 served as a vital opportunity to recognize the critical value of a people-centered transition. Under the CEM Empowering People Initiative and with the support of the Tara Climate Foundation, a *Toolkit on Clean Energy Workforce Readiness for Southeast Asia* was developed. It is designed for Southeast Asian governments and their implementation partners, and examines how the region can build a skilled, inclusive workforce that keeps pace with rapid clean energy growth while ensuring no one is left behind. The toolkit draws on a CEM webinar series held between December 2025 and May 2026, bilateral consultations with regional experts and decision makers, and a literature review. It identifies key challenges, including a persistent skills mismatch, the underrepresentation of women and youth, and fragmented coordination across the workforce ecosystem. To address these, it sets out practical recommendations under three pillars: Data-informed Policy, Workforce Ecosystems, and Just Transitions. These are illustrated with implementation examples from across Southeast Asia and supported by a curated set of vetted resources. The toolkit will be featured across key international fora, including COP31 in November, as well as dedicated regional and national events in Southeast Asia.



Toolbox for Gender Inclusivity in Southeast Asia

Under the CEM Equality in Energy Transitions Initiative and with the support of the Tara Climate Foundation, a toolbox, *Gender Equality and Inclusivity in Southeast Asia's Energy Workforce* was developed, and was recognized by member countries, particularly Indonesia, at the CEM17 Plenary meeting. The toolbox is dedicated to supporting and facilitating greater gender inclusivity as part of Southeast Asia's ongoing clean energy transition. Building on ASEAN's work on gender and energy, including the ASEAN RE-Gender Roadmap and APAEC 2026–2030, the toolbox draws on insights from the workshop *Driving Gender Equality and Inclusion in Energy Employment*, held during ASEAN Energy Gender Week 2026 in Manila under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship, as well as regional research and partner consultations. It maps barriers across the career pipeline, from education and recruitment through to retention and leadership. It then sets out strategic actions for five stakeholder groups: governments and regulators; companies and employers; educational and training institutions; regional, multilateral and development organisations; and professional networks, NGOs and grassroots initiatives. Each group's actions follow a common four-phase framework, so readers can start from where they are and trace each barrier to the measures that address it. This toolbox will be profiled across key international fora, including COP31 in November, as well as dedicated regional and national events in Southeast Asia.



Carbon Management in CEM & MI Countries

At CEM17, the Clean Energy Ministerial CCUS Initiative and Mission Innovation Carbon Dioxide Removal Mission published their annual stocktake of CCUS and CDR policy programmes across 15 key member countries. As this year's stocktake highlights, policy continues to advance, resulting in the operational project count for large-scale carbon management reaching new heights. A big thank you to members and partner organisations such as the Global CCS Institute, IEAGHG, State of Carbon Dioxide Removal, Carbon Gap, OGCI (Oil and Gas Climate Initiative) GCCA – Global Cement and Concrete Association, and the Geneva Association.



CEM Fueling Lives: Lessons for Scaling Clean Cooking Access Case Study Report

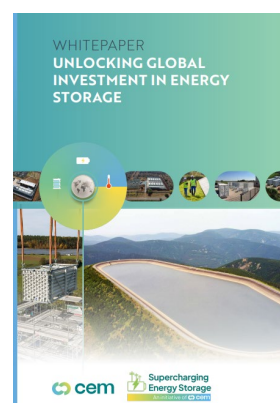
The CEM Fueling Lives Initiative launched the inaugural edition of Fueling Lives: Lessons Scaling Clean Cooking Access case study report at CEM17. The report looks at six successful clean cooking programs covering a range of different financing models, technological solutions, and geographic areas. Each case study was developed by contributors to address the key question: what does it take to make clean cooking fuels affordable, reliable, and sustained at scale? Proven, replicable strategies are identified and distilled from the case studies across three action areas: (1) policy and regulation; (2) supply chain and delivery, and (3) financing.



Unlocking global investment in energy storage – White Paper

At CEM17, the Supercharging Energy Storage (SES) initiative launched a whitepaper on energy storage bankability exploring how energy storage can become a financially viable asset class at the scale required for the global energy transition. Supporting the Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge target of 1,500 GW of energy storage by 2030, the report examines key barriers to investment, including uncertain revenues, evolving market frameworks and limited operational track records. Drawing on interviews with public institutions, financial institutions, project developers, think tanks, industry associations, and technology providers, it highlights the importance of predictable revenues, supportive regulation and effective risk allocation to unlock investment and accelerate energy storage deployment.

A summary with key insights can be downloaded [here](#).



International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN) - Lighthouse Project Outcomes

For CEM17, the **International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN)** delivered three complementary knowledge products under its Lighthouse Project to support forward-looking, adaptive and coordinated distribution grid planning:

The **Policy Brief on *Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination for Accelerated Grid Development*** explores how stronger collaboration and coordination can accelerate distribution grid modernisation and reduce avoidable uncertainty that holds back investment. Drawing on international experience, it examines how governance and regulation influence planning, and how shared information and coordinated processes help actors align interdependent decisions across sectors and levels of governance. It offers practical guidance for policymakers and regulators to connect grid development with wider energy systems and societal needs, supporting timely investment in more resilient electricity systems for the clean energy transition.

ISGAN Policy Brief
On Long-Term Planning and Implementation of
Smart Distribution Grids



**Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination
for Accelerated Grid Development**

Distribution grids are a critical enabler of the energy transition. They have unprecedented pressures from increasing renewable energy deployment, accelerating electrification of heating, transport and industry, and growing demands for data centres. At the same time, grid development must support broader societal priorities, including affordability, resilience, resource decarbonisation, and energy objectives. Distribution grid development, and how it affects these objectives, increasingly depends on the coordinated decisions of grid operators and system, regulatory, financial and regional authorities, and other stakeholders. At the same time, decisions across sectors, energy systems, and governance levels are becoming more interconnected, making long-term grid development increasingly dependent on coordinated action. Managing this growing complexity under conditions of uncertainty requires more than economic regulation of network conditions, technical solutions and infrastructure investments. It requires stronger collaboration to build shared understanding and trust, and better coordination to align planning, investment, and action. As the momentum builds towards net-zero emissions and sustainable development, this brief provides high-level guidance for policy-makers and regulators on the planning, investment and governance of distribution grids, and the role of policy-makers and regulators in building momentum for cross-sectoral, high-level, and coordinated action.

Building on ISGAN's previous work on reducing uncertainty in long-term distribution grid planning and implementation, this policy brief identifies key systemic challenges and priority areas for policy action to strengthen system planning, governance, investment planning, and action, as well as understanding and coordination across sectors, markets, and governance levels.

ISGAN
International Smart Grid Action Network

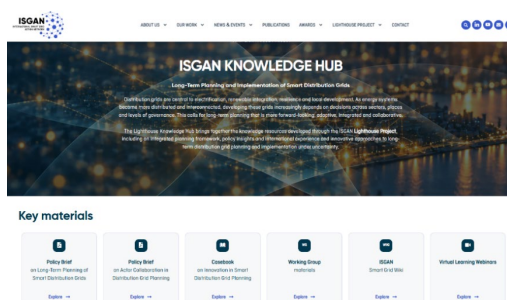
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The **Casebook on *Smart Distribution Grid Planning*** brings together 15 cases from ten countries, showcasing innovations and pilot projects in smart distribution grid planning. It covers communication and coordination platforms, network planning tools, asset management, flexibility needs and markets, distributed energy resource management, and energy communities. Through comparative analysis, it explores different approaches and their relevance across national contexts. The publication supports international knowledge exchange and provides practical insights for grid operators, policymakers and other planning actors, including those in emerging economies and countries expanding electricity access and use.

Finally, the **ISGAN Lighthouse Knowledge Hub** is an interactive online resource for forward-looking, adaptive and coordinated distribution grid planning. At its centre is an integrated planning Framework connecting five planning phases, three enabling conditions and the actor ecosystem whose interdependent decisions shape planning outcomes. Supporting content explores the changing planning context and examines actor collaboration as a key leverage point for more effective planning and implementation processes. Bringing together knowledge resources from the ISGAN Lighthouse Project, the Hub helps policymakers, grid operators and other stakeholders connect technical planning with governance, collaboration and wider energy transition needs.



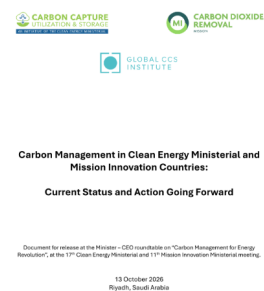
Gigatonne by 2030 Progress Report – Carbon Management Status and Action Going Forward

CEM and MI member countries are leading the way in the global deployment of carbon management solutions. This was the finding of a landmark CEM17 report produced by the CEM/MI Gigatonne by 2030 Campaign in close collaboration with the Global CCS Institute and State of Carbon Dioxide Removal.

The Report found that CEM and MI member countries of the Campaign account for more than:

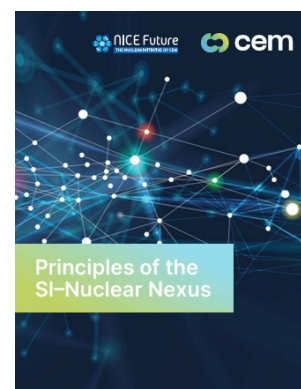
- 90% of all large-scale projects in operation
- 90% of all large-scale projects under construction
- 80% of all novel CDR projects in operation.

As of late 2026, the capacity of carbon management projects operating under construction, or in planning across CEM and MI countries is nearing 500MtCO₂ per annum. This is significant progress towards reaching gigatonne-scale annual storage globally. Nevertheless, more needs to be done to reach the 2030 target. To speed up deployment, the report sets out 12 immediate recommendations for action that focus on the policy, regulatory, and investment drivers of new projects.



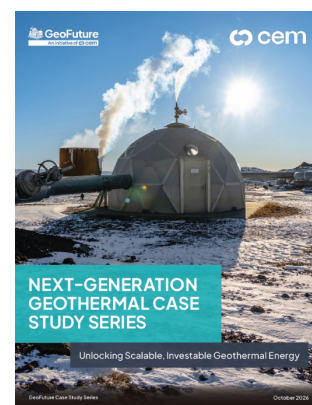
Super Intelligence (SI)-Nuclear Nexus Principles Launched

CEM NICE Future Initiative launched *Principles of the SI-Nuclear Nexus* at CEM 17, a set of 10 principles identifying critical collaboration points at the intersection of SI and nuclear energy. As SI rapidly reshapes the energy sector, nuclear energy is uniquely positioned to provide the energy needed to meet demand. At the same time, SI tools are enabling nuclear operators, designers, and regulators to expand access to nuclear technologies. However, the opportunities for nuclear and SI cannot fully be realized by governments acting alone. These principles detail the challenge, actions needed, and expected impacts. These 10 principles - spanning power, licensing, reactor design, supply chain, safety, workforce, and more - establish a common framework for SI to drive nuclear deployment and nuclear energy to power SI infrastructure at scale and speed. The NICE Future Initiative looks forward to collaborating with partners to implement these principles.



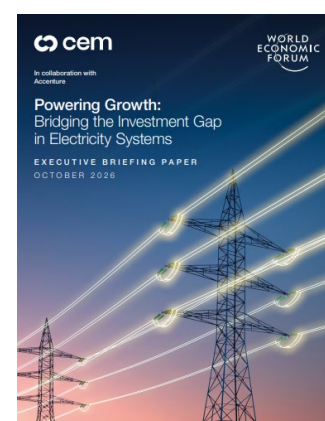
Next-Generation Geothermal Case Study Series

The CEM GeoFuture Initiative launched its inaugural *Next-Generation Geothermal Case Study Series* at CEM17. Featuring 13 projects across four technology types and 11 countries, the report examines pathways from early-stage exploration to commercial deployment. It highlights practical lessons in three key areas: (1) resource assessment, innovation, and technical de-risking; (2) enabling policy and regulatory frameworks; and (3) financing and public-private risk sharing, providing actionable insights to accelerate scalable, investable geothermal development globally.



CEM-WEF Briefing | Powering Growth: Bridging the Investment Gap in Electricity Systems

Developed jointly by the Clean Energy Ministerial and World Economic Forum and launched at CEM17, this executive briefing examines why growing capital, proven technologies and policy ambition are not consistently translating into delivered power infrastructure. It identifies the enabling conditions needed to close this “conversion gap”, focusing on predictable regulation and market design, bankability and effective risk allocation. Drawing on CEM initiatives and the WEF’s Future of Power Systems work, the briefing highlights concrete initiatives and real-world examples that can strengthen investment conditions, mobilize private capital and accelerate infrastructure delivery. It calls for coordinated action across governments, regulators, investors and industry to build secure, competitive and resilient power systems.



Annex 1 – CEM17 Online Sessions

CEM17 | ONLINE PROGRAMME

17th Clean Energy Ministerial • All times Riyadh local time (UTC+03:00)

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

12:30–13:30	From Supply Chains to Value Chains: Building Resilient Solar Ecosystems
14:30–15:30	Solarising Africa – A Trilateral Cooperation Model for Accelerating Solar Deployment
14:30–15:30	Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination for Accelerated Grid Development
15:45–16:45	Healthy Solar Supply Chains: From Framework to Action

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER

09:00–10:00	The State of Clean Hydrogen: Projects & Regulations and the Evolving Global Clean Hydrogen Economy
09:00–10:00	From Innovation to Investment: What Makes Energy Storage Bankable?
10:15–11:15	National And International Contributions to Renewable Energy And Energy Efficiency, Showcasing Saudi Arabia's Efforts
10:15–11:15	Gigatonne by 2030 – Carbon Management Project Awards Ceremony
11:30–12:30	Scaling CCUS in Hard-to-Abate Sectors
11:30–12:30	Strategic Electrification: Launch of the Power System Thought Leadership Report
11:30–12:30	Powering the Future with Next-Generation Geothermal: Pathways to Scale Deployment

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

13:30–14:15	CEM17/MI-11 High-Level Welcoming
14:15–15:15	Innovation Pipeline & Technology Maturation
14:30–15:30	Atomic SI: Navigating the SI-Nuclear Convergence
15:15–16:15	Supporting Implementation of End-Use Energy Efficiency
15:45–16:45	Fueling Lives Roundtable: Igniting Action for Clean Cooking
15:45–16:45	The Belém 4X Pledge on Sustainable Fuels: enhancing the role of sustainable fuels at global level in secure, affordable and sust...
17:00–18:00	Implementing the first-of-a-kind Clean Energy Marine Hubs (CEM-Hubs)

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER

11:45–13:15 CEM Ministerial Session