

Profile of Panelists

CSO Policy Forum, Friday, 17th April 2015, 11AM-12.30PM

Room No; I2-210, World Bank, I Street Building at 1850 I Street, NW, Washington DC

1. Dr. Lawrence Jones, Vice President, Utility Innovations and Infrastructure Resilience, Alstom Grid INC

Dr. Lawrence E. Jones is the Vice President, for Utility Innovations and Infrastructure Resilience at Alstom Grid Inc and also serves on the company's global Business Development team for Smart Grids and Smart Cities.

His expertise includes renewable energy integration and the application of smarter technologies in the engineering and operations of electric power grids and other critical infrastructures. He also focuses on system resiliency, disruptive and innovative business models, and strategies for addressing challenges at the food-energy-water nexus.

An advocate for the use of smart, clean and renewable energy technologies enabled by resilient infrastructures around the world, Dr. Jones is also a strong advocate of sustainable development policies and is the co-founder and President of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Sustainable Development in Africa.

2. Gevorg Sargsyan, Global Lead, Clean Energy, World Bank

Gevorg Sargsyan has been recently appointed as the Global Lead for clean energy at the World Bank.

He is also overseeing clean energy operations supported by Climate Investment Funds, GEF, Carbon Capture and Storage Trust Fund and other climate funds.

During his 14 years of experience he has led energy and infrastructure programs in India, Russia, Sri-Lanka, Maldives, Armenia, Georgia and worked in a number of other countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Prior to joining the Bank, he worked as a manager in various private and public sector organizations.

He has been the author and co-author of a number of publications and papers in the area of clean energy and infrastructure finance. He has MS in applied math, and PhD (ABD) in economics.

3. Manish Bapna, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, World Resources Institute

Manish Bapna is the executive vice president and managing director of the World Resources Institute, a global research organization that works to address six urgent sustainability challenges: food, forests, water, climate, energy and cities. He served as WRI's acting president from 2011-2012.

Manish oversees WRI's programs, chairs WRI's management team and works to strengthen the impact of WRI research. Under his leadership, the institute has

established offices in China, India and Brazil and initiated programs on cities, water, adaptation, and the sustainable development goals.

As a recognized expert on international development with a focus on natural resources and rural poverty, Manish has been cited in front-page articles in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the International Herald Tribune and his op-eds are featured in major global and national papers. He has testified numerous times before the U.S. Congress and serves on the board of directors of Oxfam America, Open Government Partnership and Hampshire College.

4. Todd Foley, Chief Strategy Officer, American Council On Renewable Energy

Todd Foley, Chief Strategy Officer, leads strategic integration of policy development, research, external communications and interaction with Federal and state government and regulatory officials.

He has over 25 years experience in Federal and state policy, renewable energy market design and business development.

Prior to joining ACORE, he directed global and US policy, market development and communications for BP Solar. He also served in several US government positions, including the White House, US Senate, US EPA and OSHA. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), the Solar Alliance, Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) and the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Associations (TREIA).

He received his B.S. from Boston College and law degree from the Washington College of Law at American University.

5. Srinivas Krishnaswamy, Chief Executive Officer, Vasudha Foundation, India

Srinivas Krishnaswamy, an economist by training, has over a decade of experience working on the issue of economic reforms, sustainable development and environment issues.

He set up Vasudha Foundation in January 2010, with an aim to promote environment-friendly, socially just and sustainable models of development by focusing on alternative technologies and lifestyle solutions. The foundation is currently working on a wide range of projects around renewable energy, energy efficiency and policy related campaign and lobby both at the national and international level, while promoting green and alternative technologies at the grassroots level creating the crucial link between energy and poverty alleviation.