

AGENDA

WOMEN ENERGY LEADERS (WEL) PROGRAM OPENING CONFERENCE

ADVANCING WOMEN IN ENERGY

January 17, 2024 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM ICT
January 16, 2024 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM ECT
Virtual

In partnership with the U.S. Government



WOMEN ENERGY LEADERS PROGRAM OPENING CONFERENCE & PANEL DISCUSSION GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Bringing together industry stakeholders to discuss “Advancing Women in Energy,” this opening event will introduce the Women Energy Leaders (WEL) program and include a panel of U.S. and regional women energy leaders from Southeast Asia and the Pacific sharing their professional journeys and reflections on the challenges they faced, the programs or policies that facilitated their professional development, and the role that mentors and corporate leaders played in supporting them in the workplace.

Background: WEL is a new partnership between the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) Power Sector Program (PSP) and the United States Energy Association (USEA) announced by the U.S. Department of State on December 4, 2023 during COP 28. WEL aims to advance the professional development of early- to mid-career women in the clean energy workforce in Southeast Asia and the Pacific through mentorship, technical and leadership skills training, a capstone project, and job shadows to empower women to become leaders in decarbonization and the clean energy transition. WEL follows the completion of WEL’s predecessor program, ENR and USEA’s Female Leaders in Energy (FLIE) program for women in Southeast Asia and the Pacific that took place from 2021-2023. The WEL program will build off lessons learned from FLIE and welcome a cohort of mentees and mentors to take part in the program from April 2024-April 2026.

Conference Objectives:

- Highlight the importance of women in the clean energy industry to ensure a just and equitable energy transition.
- Introduce the Women Energy Leaders (WEL) program.
- Answer questions on WEL for potential mentees/mentors interested in applying.
- Discuss challenges women face in the energy sector via a panel discussion with U.S. and regional women energy leaders.

SCHEDULE

January 17, 2024

9:00 AM ICT
9:00 PM EST

Welcome Remarks

Speaker: Andrew Palmateer, Program Director, United States Energy Association (USEA)

9:10 AM ICT
9:10 PM EST

Opening Remarks

Speaker: Speaker: Laura Lochman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy, Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR), U.S. Department of State

9:20 AM ICT
9:20 PM EST

Overview of the Women Energy Leaders (WEL) Program and Q&A for Potential Mentee/Mentor Applicants

Speaker: Nancy Li, Program Manager, USEA
Overview of the program, activities, and expectations.

Women Energy Leaders (WEL) is a two-year mentorship and professional development fellowship program for women in Southeast Asia and Pacific. Early-to-mid career women in the energy sector will be paired with a U.S. or regional senior-level mentor to explore and develop industry and job-function knowledge. Participants will complete a capstone project and the two-year program will consist of:

- *Quarterly mentorship meetings;*
- *Five technical workshops and leadership trainings;*
- *One-on-one executive coaching;*
- *Job shadows; and*
- *Closing Conference*

9:40 AM ICT
9:40 PM EST

Panel: Advancing Women in Energy

Women leaders from the energy sector will participate in a panel discussion about their professional journeys. The panelists will reflect on challenges they faced, programs or policies that facilitated their professional development, and the role that mentors/corporate leaders played in supporting them in the workplace.

Moderator: Nancy Li, Program Manager, USEA

Panelists:

- Renee Devine, New York Electric Vehicle and Demand Response Program Manager, National Grid – (United States)
- Ruth Yu-Owen, President, Upgrade Energy Philippines and Co-Founder, Connected Women – (Philippines)
- Häly Laasme, Delaware Energy Assistance Director, State of Delaware – (United States)
- Kimberly Santiago, Senior Manager, ACEN Corporation – (Philippines)
- Yvonne Fatiaki, Manager Legal, Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) – (Fiji)

10:20 AM ICT
10:20 PM EST

Moderated Questions for Panelists

Panelists will answer the audience's questions that were submitted ahead of time and questions from the audience.

10:40 AM ICT
10:40 PM EST

Summary and Path Forward

Speaker: Nancy Li, Program Manager, USEA

- *Summary of panel discussion.*
- *Application process for the WEL program.*
- *Concluding remarks.*

10:50 AM ICT
10:50 PM EST

Adjourn

SPEAKERS

Andrew Palmateer, Program Director, United States Energy Association (USEA)

Andrew W. Palmateer serves as Program Director for the U.S. Energy Association (USEA). In this capacity, he manages the U.S. – East Africa Geothermal Partnership (EAGP), the Asia EDGE Indo-Pacific Energy Market Investment and Modernization program (EMIM), and the Promoting International Consensus on Oil and Natural Gas program (Consensus Oil and Gas). EAGP is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the implementing partner, USEA. EAGP seeks to promote the development of geothermal energy resources and projects in East Africa, while facilitating the involvement of the U.S. geothermal industry in the region. EMIM is a program funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Energy Resources that seeks to promote the development of transparent, free energy markets in the Indo-Pacific to encourage investment in and development of the region's energy sector. Consensus Oil and Gas is a public-private partnership promoting cooperation between governments and industry for the development of secure, reliable and economic sources of oil and natural gas while facilitating investment in the energy industry.

Laura Lochmann, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy, Bureau of Energy Resources, U.S. Department of State

Laura Lochman started December 13, 2021 as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy in the Bureau of Energy Resources. She was previously Director of the Office of Canadian Affairs, and from January-September 2021, served as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs for Canada, Haiti, and the Caribbean. Laura Lochman is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with over 30 years of experience in policy analysis and implementation. She has served in various overseas assignments with the Department of State, including as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy to the Kingdom of Denmark; Economic Counselor in Bogota, Colombia; Consul General in Calgary, Canada; Deputy Economic Counselor and Chief of the Trade and Investment Unit at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow; and Deputy Economic Counselor and Environment, Science and Technology Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid. Earlier, she served in Caracas, Venezuela and Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In Washington, Laura previously served in the State Department's Office of Cuban Affairs, the Bureau of South Asian Affairs, and in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Laura was detailed for one year from the State Department to a non-governmental organization, the Nature Conservancy, as a policy advisor. She also spent two years as the State Department's Deputy Director of the Office of Central European Affairs.

Laura graduated with a B.A. in International Studies and French from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She also studied at the Université de Montpellier, France. Laura holds a black belt in karate, and her foreign languages include French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian.

Nancy Li, Program Manager, USEA

Nancy Li serves as Program Manager for the U.S. Energy Association implementing the Women Energy Leaders (WEL) program. The WEL project is a cooperative partnership between USEA and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) Power Sector Program (PSP). WEL aims to advance the professional development of early- to mid-career women in the clean energy workforce in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Previously, Nancy implemented the Female Leaders in Energy (FLIE) program at USEA, WEL's predecessor program.

Ruth Yu-Owen, President, Upgrade Energy Philippines and Co-Founder, Connected Women

Ruth is a passionate women's empowerment advocate with a focus on creating opportunities for women in the online workforce and the future of work. She is the Co-Founder of Connected Women, a social

impact tech startup that provides socially responsible AI & digital task outsourcing and job creation through inclusive innovation.

Connected Women aims to increase household income and create livelihood opportunities for Filipino women through technology upskilling and reskilling, ensuring that no woman is left behind. In her "day job", Ruth has almost 20 years of experience in the field of renewable energy, developing wind power, hydropower and solar projects. She is the President of the Upgrade Energy Philippines.

She is Chairperson on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and Vice President for Internal Affairs for the Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance (PE2)

Renee Devine, New York Electric Vehicle and Demand Response Program Manager, National Grid

Renee Devine is the Manager of National Grid's New York Electric Vehicles (EV) and Demand Response (DR) Program Implementation team in the New York service territory. As part of the Charge-up NY beneficial electrification program, National Grid has launched the second largest EV infrastructure make-ready program in the nation to support NY's clean transportation initiatives as part of New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Prior to this role, Renee led National Grid's NY Energy Efficiency Large Commercial and Industrial electric and gas savings implementation programs.

From 2008- 2014, Renee was the Senior Manager for Siemens Power Academy in North America supporting curriculum and training development for power system and distribution engineers from around the world. From 2001- 2008 she held roles the Project Management Office (PMO) delivering IT project implementation for settlements, day-ahead, real-time marketed bids, and SCADA delivery, credit and market participants at the New York State Independent System Operator (NYSIO).

Renee earned her Master's Degree from University at Albany (SUNY) with concentrations in MIS and Strategic Marketing as well as her BSBA. Prior to completing her academic studies, Renee worked in technical education and program delivery for Monroe Community College and Morrisville Ag & Technical College where she delivered grant-based and apprenticeship training programs for the skilled trades

Häly Laasme, Delaware Energy Assistance Director, State of Delaware

Häly Laasme is currently the State of Delaware's Energy Assistance Director. In June 2022, she also started as a Bloomberg Fellow at John Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, focusing on Environmental Challenges. She serves on the Governance Board of NEUAC and previously served on the Board of Directors of NEADA from 2016 to 2023 as well as on the Executive Committee of the Energy Services Coalition from 2020 to 2022. In 2021, she was among the Top 500 Global Sustainability Thought Leaders and she became a referee for the peer-reviewed Energy Journal administered by the IAEE. She advocates for increasing transparency in methodologies used for energy access indicators, energy access to be included in the human rights framework, and increasing global collaboration in energy justice. If the schedule allows, she enjoys participating in the World Women's Forum for Economy and Society that advocates for transforming the power of women's voices and perspectives into forward-thinking economic and policy initiatives for societal change.

Kimberly Santiago, Senior Manager, ACEN Corporation

Kimberly Santiago currently serves as a Senior Manager at ACEN Corporation where she manages the solar farm utility scale portfolio. Previously she served as Vice President of Operations with Upgrade Energy Philippines, where she spent 8 years working on solar rooftop development, design, and construction. Kim created her mark in the women in energy space when she was recently shortlisted for the Women of the Future Awards 2023 under the Construction and Infrastructure category alongside other women leaders in the Southeast Asia region. Additionally, Kim participated as a mentee

in the first cohort of the Female Leaders in Energy program implemented by USEA from 2021 to 2023. Kim received her degree in Materials Engineering from the University of the Philippines and has been in the energy industry for over 10 years.

Yvonne Fatiaki, Manager Legal, Energy Fiji Limited (EFL)

Yvonne Fatiaki is currently the Manager of the Legal department at Energy Fiji Limited, where she has worked for the past nine years. In her current role, she reports directly to the CEO of EFL to advise on energy projects, construction, personnel, commercial law, and land acquisition. Additionally, Yvonne works closely with many government agencies to establish joint agreement terms for power developments – and with other Pacific Island Countries (PICs) as needed. She serves a key role in liaising with the Judiciary agency, the Solicitor-General's Office, and the Attorney-General's Office. Yvonne received her degree (LLB) and postgraduate at Bond University in Queensland, Australia. She was admitted to the Supreme Court of Qld in 2002 and the High Court of Fiji in 2002. She has been practicing as both a Barrister and Solicitor in Fiji since 2002. Her law specialization includes energy, construction, commercial law, property, banking & insurance, and criminal & civil law.