

Stratbase ADR Institute Roundtable Discussion
**Powering the Future: Accelerating Grid Modernization for
Energy Security and Sustainable Development**

13 November 2023 (Monday) | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PHT)

Don Jose Yulo Caserom, Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center Manila

As a developing country, the energy sector plays a crucial role in meeting the power and electricity needs of the growing population and increasing economic activities. Notably, the Philippines has historically relied heavily on fossil fuels, particularly coal, accounting for about 58% of the country's energy mix in recent years. However, recognizing the urgency to address climate change, global warming, and their associated risks, the country has grown in demand for clean and sustainable energy sources.

While significant progress has been made in expanding renewable energy access, there are still challenges to the energy transition that the country faces. Funding for renewables, especially for medium-sized developers, remains challenging. Electric cooperatives and distribution utilities face challenges in shifting power sources or integrating their renewable power due to existing long-term contracts and bottlenecks. Moreover, the current grid infrastructure is not adequately equipped to accommodate the increased penetration of variable renewable energy sources.

Despite these challenges, the Philippines is still making significant progress, particularly in the mainstreaming of renewable energy (RE) technologies, driven by the private sector's investments and the national government's push for a sustainable and low-carbon energy transition.

By increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix, the Philippines can achieve a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient energy system. This would allow the sector to significantly contribute to the national goal of reducing greenhouse emissions by 75%. Moreover, integrating a distributed and decentralized renewable energy system can provide cost-effective and sustainable electricity solutions, particularly in remote and underserved communities. This system, when integrated with energy storage technologies, can provide fast backup power during calamities, enhancing the resilience of the energy supply.

In this context, the Stratbase ADR Institute, and its partner, the Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST), are organizing a roundtable discussion, carrying the theme, **"Powering the Future: Accelerating Grid Modernization for Energy Security and Sustainable Development"** on **13 November 2023, Monday**, from **9:00 AM to 11:00 AM (PHT)**. This event will be held in a **hybrid format** at the **Don Jose Yulo Caserom of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center, Makati City**, and via **Zoom**.

This event aims to bring together key stakeholders from the public, private, and civil organizations to highlight the need for grid modernization in the Philippines by integrating renewable energy technologies. The event will emphasize the relevance of renewable energy in achieving energy security and resiliency, fostering economic development, and contributing to the national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

PROGRAM

8:00 AM – 8:55 AM Registration

8:55 AM – 9:00 AM Introduction

9:00 AM – 9:05 AM **Introduction and Opening Remarks**

Prof. Victor Andres “Dindo” Manhit

President, Stratbase ADR Institute

9:05 AM – 9:15 AM **Keynote Address**

Hon. Sharon Garin

Undersecretary, Department of Energy

Panel 1: Philippine Renewable Energy Situation

9:15 AM – 9:25 AM **Realizing Philippine Sustainable Energy Agenda: Optimization of Available Renewable Energy Resources**

Hon. Mylene Capongcol

*Assistant Secretary, National Renewable Energy Program,
Department of Energy (DOE)*

9:25 AM – 9:35 AM **Modernizing Philippine Energy Grid System: Presentation of the September 2023 Survey Results on Renewable Energy**

Dr. Ronald Holmes (CONFIRMED)

President, Pulse Asia Research, Inc.

9:35 AM – 9:45 AM **Stratbase ADR Institute Paper: “Reforming NGCP Operations: Towards a Secure, Sustainable, and Equitable Energy Future for the Philippines”**

Atty. James Mark “Terry” Ridon (CONFIRMED)

*Convenor, Infrawatch PH;
Non-Resident Fellow, Stratbase ADR Institute*

9:45 AM – 9:55 AM **Ensuring Philippines’ Effective Transition Towards Variable Renewable Energy Utilization**

Dr. Majah-Leah Ravago

*Associate Professor, Department of Economics,
Ateneo de Manila University*

Panel 2: Moving Forward with Renewable Energy

Moderator:

Ms. Nazrin Camille Castro (CONFIRMED)

Manager, Climate Reality Project (CRP) Philippines

9:55 AM - 10:55 AM **Panelists:**

Atty. Jose "Jay" Layug, Jr. (CONFIRMED)

President, Developers of Renewable Energy for AdvanceMent, Inc. (DREAM)

Mr. Raymond Ravelo

*First Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer,
Head, Strategic Business Development,
Manila Electric Company (Meralco)*

Atty. Chistopher "Kit" Belmonte

Co-Convenor, CitizenWatch Philippines

Atty. Pedro "Pete" Maniego, Jr. (CONFIRMED)

Senior Policy Advisor, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC)

10:55 AM - 11:00 AM **Closing Remarks**

Engr. Felix Jose Vitangcol

*Secretary-General, Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship
(PBEST)*

Host:

Ms. Mary Joyce Ilas

Communications and Advocacy Lead, Stratbase ADR Institute