



World Utilities  
Congress



27 - 29 MAY 2025 | ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

# STRATEGIC CONFERENCE BROCHURE



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“

Although progress has been made in addressing the impact of climate change, a lot more needs to be done if the global community is to achieve a successful energy transition and deliver on the commitment of tripling global renewables capacity by 2030. We want the World Utilities Congress to be a place where we can foster that spirit of collaboration and be a catalyst for progress in shaping the sector for the years ahead. ”

Jasim Thabet

Group CEO & MD





# Innovating for a new age of utilities

The World Utilities Congress will bring together government leaders, policymakers, industry leaders and innovators to advance the dialogue around transforming the global utilities sector to meet rapidly rising electricity demand with cleaner, lower carbon power supply; shaping critical sustainable water strategies; amplifying the efficiencies created by AI and technology solutions and balancing record investments in power utilities with access to affordable, reliable energy access for all. To deliver energy transition goals in the timeframe needed, collective action is required from all stakeholder groups driving transformation and unlocking the power of innovation.



# Join the Premier Platform Driving the Transformation of the Utilities Sector

The World Utilities Congress, taking place in Abu Dhabi from **27-29 May 2025**, is a premier platform for global energy leaders, policymakers, and innovators to address key challenges in the power and water utilities sector. As the industry advances toward decarbonisation and sustainability, the event fosters high-level discussions, showcases cutting-edge solutions, and drives strategic collaborations.

**The congress offers unmatched networking opportunities, connecting industry executives, policymakers, and solution providers to foster partnerships, explore investments, and shape the future of global utilities.**

## Event in Numbers

**18,000+**

Exhibition Attendees

**20,000 M<sup>2</sup>+**

Exhibition Space

**500+**

Conference Speakers

**120+**

Conference Sessions

**1,400**

Conference Delegates

**110+**

Participating Countries



# Conferences Overview

The conferences at World Utilities Congress foster the strategic insights and technical expertise needed for power and water utilities to deliver the low-carbon systems of tomorrow. Across 3 days, the conferences will convene Ministers, CEOs, academics, and industry influencers to address the critical challenges and discuss the possibilities and opportunities for a net zero utilities sector of the future.



## Strategic Conference

Cross-sector collaboration is essential to drive forward the transformation of power and water utilities. This conference will convene global policymakers and industry leaders to discuss pivotal trends and actionable strategies shaping the future of utilities, with a focus on scalable impact and efficiency.



## Technical Conference

To address the energy transition, we need the brightest minds and technical experts at the table. This conference will surface the voices of industry experts as they share knowledge and research insights and unveil the latest developments across energy, water, and utilities.



## Leadership Roundtables

Gathering stakeholders – from Ministers and policy makers to CEOs and scientists – these roundtable discussions offer an exclusive setting for collaborative problem-solving on financing, governance, and sustainability, fostering a strategic dialogue that supports transformation and progress across the sector.



## Innovation Hub

A platform for visionary thinkers and technology pioneers to present transformative solutions for the utilities sector. Through live demonstrations and interactive sessions, participants will experience firsthand the latest advancements in smart infrastructure, digital integration, and sustainable practices.



# Strategic Conference Overview

The global utilities sector is at a defining moment, facing the dual challenge of meeting rising electricity demand while accelerating the transition to a low-carbon future. The integration of renewable energy is no longer optional, it is essential to ensuring a sustainable and resilient energy system. At the same time, digital transformation and smart infrastructure are revolutionising grid management and customer engagement, while the critical interdependence between water and energy continues to shape sustainability strategies worldwide. With energy production accounting for a significant share of global freshwater use, and water security reliant on a stable power supply, the need for innovative solutions has never been greater.

To achieve net zero goals, power generation must be transformed through renewable energy sources like solar and wind. The IEA forecasts global electricity demand growth of 3.4% annually through 2026. As a result, electricity's share of final energy consumption is set to jump from 20% today to over 50% by 2050, driven by rapid electrification in end-use sectors. However, over 60% of global electricity generation still relies on unabated fossil fuels. To meet the IEA's net zero emissions target by 2050, this share must decline significantly to less than 30% by 2030. Moreover, annual investment in renewable capacity must triple from US \$570 billion in 2023 to US \$1.5 trillion every year between 2024 and 2030, according to IRENA. Today, around 48% of the planned and committed investment will focus on grid infrastructure development enabling the addition, or upgrade, of 80 million kilometers of grids and potentially tripling renewable energy capacity by 2040.





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# Themes in Focus



## **Building a more accessible, affordable and sustainable power system**

Demand for electricity is soaring. Disruptive new power-hungry data centres, the electrification of transport, heating and cooling, and the push to advance energy access in line with Sustainable Development Goal 7, is fuelling unprecedented global electricity demand growth. As we enter the age of electricity, it is critical that power systems remain affordable, secure and sustainable – requiring unprecedented levels of cooperation between policy makers, regulators, utilities, technology providers and financial institutions.



## **Putting water at the heart of energy and climate adaptation plans**

Water scarcity is a global crisis that is set to grow both in terms of severity and in people affected by it. In many parts of the world, demand for water already exceeds supply and by 2030, the gap between supply and demand is projected to reach close to 40% globally. Utilities, governments, NGOs, academia, and the private sector all have a key role to play in developing and scaling the solutions needed to close the gap and safeguard the water needed to allow people, communities and economies to thrive as our climate changes.



## **Unlocking the potential of AI and clean technologies**

AI presents a unique opportunity to transform the power sector, enhancing efficiency, optimising grids, and accelerating the transition to net zero. As such, it has increasingly become a central pillar of the sector's innovation agenda offering a pathway to a smarter, more resilient energy system. However, AI's rising electricity demands from data centres, requires urgent adaptation. Power systems must expand renewable capacity, improve grid flexibility, and enhance flexibility at a speed and scale unprecedented in recent times. Coordinated action from governments, businesses, and markets is essential to harness AI's potential while ensuring a sustainable, resilient, and equitable energy future.





## **Prioritising flexibility solutions for more resilient energy**

As power generation becomes increasingly dominated by renewables, the need for flexibility solutions grows. According to IRENA, in a 2050 net-zero energy system solar and wind account for 90% of generation, making flexibility on both the supply and demand sides central to maintaining a stable, responsive, and resilient grid. Gas, battery storage, grid interconnections, and demand response are among the tools available. Careful and strategic system planning is essential to ensure flexibility options are optimised and tailored to geographic contexts.



## **Adopting strategic capital reallocation and innovative financing models**

Driving sustainable growth in utilities hinges on innovative financing and strategic investment. Models like green bonds and public-private partnerships are vital for funding clean energy supply, resilient water systems, and grid modernisation. Global grid spending is set to reach \$811 billion by 2030 in Bloomberg NEF's net zero scenario, driven by rapid growth in clean power, electric vehicles and other low-carbon technologies. Emerging strategies may include innovative project financing and development, and climate finance mechanisms as well as the integration of digital solutions and even fintech to secure the required finance.



## **Shaping policies and partnerships for the future of utilities**

Achieving a low-carbon, interconnected energy future demands urgent action and bold innovation across the sector. Rapid demand growth is accelerating the pace of change for utilities, while decarbonisation goals and the expansion of clean energy are reshaping traditional system management. The way utility companies engage with policymakers, suppliers, customers and with each other, has transformed dramatically in the last decade. Platforms like the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA), launched under the UAE's COP28 Presidency in 2023, are an example of the need for utilities to embrace a new era of collaboration and engagement with all stakeholders as the sector navigates a transformative new era.

# Session Formats

The World Utilities Congress 2025 programme will include the following formats

## Ministerial Panels

Global ministers, policymakers, and utility leaders will share insights into how policy frameworks are enhancing energy security, advancing the energy transition, addressing geopolitical challenges, and fostering international collaboration to shape the future of utilities and energy systems.

## Global Leadership Panels

Panel discussions featuring global utility and energy leaders will bring together diverse perspectives to explore the latest strategies, policies, and technologies driving innovation, sustainability, and resilience across the energy and utilities ecosystem.

## Energy Talks

20-minute fireside chats offering exclusive insights from top utility and energy executives as they address challenges and opportunities in leading the global transition toward sustainable, low-carbon utility systems.

## Industry Dialogues

30-minute discussions on near-term challenges and opportunities that will pave the way for long-term action.

## Leadership Roundtables


At these invitation-only sessions, key decision-makers shaping the future of a responsible and sustainable utilities industry will participate in focused discussions. Aiming to convert strategies into actionable steps, these roundtables promote collaboration, drive meaningful outcomes, and transform commitments into measurable progress.

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Ends on 26th May

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Valid from 27-29 May

# Strategic Sessions at a Glance

 <b>CONFERENCE HALL A</b>		
<b>TUESDAY, 27 MAY 2025</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2025</b>	<b>THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2025</b>
<b>10:00 - 10:45</b> <b>PRIVATE VIP EXHIBITION TOUR</b>	<b>10:00 - 10:45</b> <b>MINISTERIAL PANEL</b> Securing water access across borders	<b>10:00 - 10:45</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Redefining the future of the water-energy-food nexus through technology advances
<b>11:00 - 11:30</b> <b>OPENING CEREMONY</b> (By Invitation Only)	<b>10:45 - 11:00</b> <b>ENERGY TALK</b> Global energy by 2030	<b>10:45 - 11:30</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Catalysing clean energy finance and investment to deliver energy transition at a global scale
<b>11:30 - 12:00</b> <b>MINISTERIAL PANEL</b> Looking ahead to COP30: Strengthening the role of energy in updated national plans	<b>11:00 - 11:45</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Realising the ambition: tripling global nuclear energy capacity by 2050	<b>11:30 - 12:00</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> Driving scale and responsible growth in carbon markets
<b>12:00 - 12:15</b> <b>ENERGY TALK</b> Shifting policies and energy transition: immediate and future impacts	<b>11:45 - 12:30</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Advancing the desalination agenda, towards water security	<b>12:00 - 12:45</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Revolutionising urban living: solutions for creating sustainable, low-carbon cities
<b>12:15 - 12:35</b> <b>ENERGY TALK</b> Capital strategies for energy investment: driving long-term growth	<b>12:30 - 13:15</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Is standardisation a pathway to resilient clean energy supply chains?	<b>14:00 - 14:45</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> From concept to commercialisation: achieving scale in climatetech
<b>12:35 - 12:50</b> <b>ENERGY TALK</b> Humanising the energy transition: a call for inclusive and pragmatic action	<b>14:00 - 14:30</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> Powering a customer-first utility	<b>14:45 - 15:00</b> <b>ENERGY TALK</b> Critical minerals: the key to energy transition or a pending bottleneck
<b>12:50 - 13:30</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Global power outlook: are we on track for 2030?	<b>14:30 - 15:00</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> Natural gas: evolving its role from energy transition to a low carbon energy future	<b>15:00 - 15:30</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> Navigating the energy sector's talent transition
<b>14:00 - 14:45</b> <b>MINISTERIAL PANEL</b> Shaping the future of utilities: balancing energy access and growth in emerging economies	<b>15:00 - 15:30</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> Maximising the potential of generative AI for power sector organisations	
<b>14:45 - 14:55</b> <b>ENERGY TALK</b> Decarbonising hard-to-abate industries: from commitment to impact	<b>15:30 - 16:00</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> The next frontier: revolutionising water infrastructure with smart innovation and collaboration	
<b>14:55-15:40</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Transforming water security into opportunities through sustainable, and circular management strategies	<b>16:00 - 16:30</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> Low carbon and green hydrogen: navigating challenges to open opportunities	
<b>15:40-16:10</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> From generation to demand: powering the flexibility revolution	<b>16:30 - 17:00</b> <b>INDUSTRY DIALOGUE</b> Amplifying the impact of energy efficiency, the first fuel in energy transition	
<b>16:10 - 17:00</b> <b>GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PANEL</b> Road to a new world of power interconnectivity		



# Strategic Conference

## Speakers

Global CEOs and industry thought leaders speaking at the World Utilities Congress 2025



**H.E. Suhail Bin Mohamed Al Mazrouei**  
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure  
UAE



**H.E. Dr. Abdulla Humaid Saif Al Jarwan**  
Chairman  
Department of Energy,  
UAE



**H.E. Alexandre Silveira**  
Minister of Mines and Energy  
Brazil



**H.E. Yaser bin Ebrahim Humaidan**  
Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs  
Kingdom of Bahrain



**Jasim Thabet**  
Group CEO & MD  
TAQA



**H.E. Eng Mohamed Al Hammadi**  
MD & CEO  
Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC)



**H.E. Eng Saeed Ghumran Al Remeithi**  
Group CEO  
Emsteel



**H.E. Majid Al Suwaidi**  
CEO  
Alterra



**Datuk Ir. Megat Jalaluddin Bin Megat Hassan**  
President & CEO  
Tenaga Nasional



**Benjamin Backwell**  
CEO  
Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)



**Fabrizio Fabbri**  
CEO  
Ansaldo Energia



**Loyiso Tyabashe**  
Group CEO  
South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA)



**Farid Al Awaqi**  
CEO  
TAQA Generation



**Luc Remont**  
CEO & President  
EDF Group



**Sylvie Jehanno**  
CEO  
Dalkia



**J.D. Sittou**  
CEO  
CTC Global



**Dr. Sama Bilbao y León**  
Director General  
World Nuclear Association (WNA)



**Khalid Al Marzooqi**  
CEO  
Tabreed



**Omar Al Hashmi**  
CEO  
TAQA Distribution



**Béatrice Buffon**  
Chairwoman & CEO  
EDF Renewables



**Dr. Afif Al Yafei**  
CEO  
TAQA Transmission



**Sumant Sinha**  
Founder, Chairman & CEO  
ReNew Energy



**Varun Gujral**  
CEO - GEMS APAC  
Engle



**Manuel Manjon**  
CEO, Water Business  
Acciona



**Eng. Ahmed AlShamsi**  
CEO  
TAQA Water Solutions



**Christer Viktorsson**  
Director General  
Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR), UAE



**Khalid Al Qubaisi**  
CEO  
TAQA Energy Services



**David Auriau**  
Group CEO  
Positive Zero



**Mark Blackwell**  
CEO  
Apex Investments



**Hebah Abbas**  
Chairwoman  
Kuwait Water Association



**Adri Pols**  
CEO  
Desolenator



**Helmut Von Struve**  
CEO  
Siemens Middle East



**Omnia Halawani**  
Co-CEO & Founder  
GRFN



**Noel Aoun**  
Group Chief Strategy Officer  
TAQA Group



**Jan Lozek**  
MD and Co-Founder  
Future Energy Ventures



**Dusun Kim**  
Founder & CEO  
MediSun Energy



**Adam Ridgway**  
Founder & CEO  
One moto



**Sheikh Muhammad Noman**  
Founder & CEO  
Pegasus Capital Investments



**Charles-Edouard Mellagui**  
CEO - Cable Business Unit, Duab  
Dubai Cable Company - Ducab



**Valerie Levkov**  
Global Industry Director for Energy, Metals & Mining, and Sustainable Infrastructure Advisory  
International Finance Corporation (IFC)



**Wael Gad**  
CEO  
UTEC



**Lew Evans**  
CEO  
Nexus Resilience Group



**Dr. Jan Haizmann**  
CEO  
ZETA Global



**Dr. Nader Assad Bin Taher**  
COO  
TAQA Water Solutions



**Antonio Di Cecca**  
COO  
Tabreed



**Adnan Bu Fateem**  
COO  
Mubadala Energy



**Naser Al Hajri**  
Chief Corporate Support  
Officer  
Mubadala Energy



**Mazin Khan**  
CFO  
Masdar



**Kehkashan Basu**  
Founder & President  
Green Hope Foundation



**Santiago Bañales López**  
MD  
Iberdrola Innovation  
Middle East



**Lina Osman**  
MD & Head, Sustainable  
Finance – MENAP &  
Africa  
Standard Chartered



**Niko Cornelis**  
MD - Flexible Power GCC  
Engie



**Dr. Mike Roshchin**  
Head of AI  
AIQ



**Ezzeddine Jradi**  
Chief Transformation  
& Business Excellence  
Officer  
Emicool



**Rizwan Razaq**  
SVP, Smart PV & ESS  
Business  
Huawei



**Jon Ball**  
President - eVinci  
Microreactor Business  
Westinghouse Electric  
Company



**Karim Amin**  
EVP Generation &  
Executive Board Member  
Siemens Energy



**Neil Wilmshurst**  
SVP, Chief Nuclear  
Strategy Officer & MD  
EPRI Gulf



**Eiman Al Hammadi**  
SVP, Group HC Strategy and  
Organization Effectiveness  
ADNOC



**Joel Austin**  
SVP & Chief Digital  
Officer  
Oncor Electric Delivery



**Maurizio De Stefano**  
SVP Energy International  
Minsait



**Dr. Waheed Abbasi**  
SVP, Gas Services, MENA  
Siemens Energy



**Mark John Siddon**  
Strategic Planning & Business  
Performance Director  
Tadweer Group



**Prof. Phil Hart**  
Chief Researcher, Renewable &  
Sustainable Energy Research Center  
Technology Innovation  
Institute (TII)



**Frederik Beelitz**  
Head of Advisory for Central  
Europe  
Aurora Energy Research



**Christopher Behme**  
Partner & VP  
IBM



**Bruce Smith**  
Executive Director, Strategy  
and Planning  
Emirates Water and  
Electricity Company (EWEC)



**Semih Ozkan**  
Executive Director, EMEA -  
Energy, Power, Renewables,  
Metals & Mining  
JP Morgan Chase Bank



**Dr. Eng. Adnan Ali Hassan  
Al Hosani**  
Director, Electricity & Energy  
Trade Department  
Ministry of Energy &  
Infrastructure, UAE



**Dr. Hamad Odhabi**  
Vice Chancellor for AI &  
Operational Excellence  
Abu Dhabi University



**Salma Bin Breik**  
MD - Middle East  
Isle Utilities



**Ahmed Samir Elbermbali**  
Sustainability Director –  
Middle East, Caspian &  
Africa Region  
Bureau Veritas



**Dr. Tariq Aslam**  
Hub Digital Leader - India,  
Middle East & Africa  
ABB Energy Industries



**Alexandre Eykerman**  
MD and Energy Business  
Director  
Wartsila



**Rob McDonald**  
MD  
SSEN Transmission



**Zainub Noor**  
Director, Technology and  
Innovation  
Halliburton Labs



**Dan Murphy**  
Anchor & Correspondent  
CNBC



**John Defterios**  
Senior Fellow, Centre  
for Energy & Materials  
World Economic Forum



**Amandeep Bhangu**  
Presenter & Moderator  
Voice Media London



**Suhail Diaz**  
Director of Future Energies  
Middle East  
Wood



**Hara Sidiropoulou**  
Partner, Power & Utilities  
EY Parthenon (Strategy)



**Oxana Dankova**  
Partner, Director & Global  
Lead of Energy Networks  
Business Segment  
Boston Consulting Group  
(BCG)



**Alessandro Zampieri**  
Partner & Associate  
Director  
Boston Consulting Group  
(BCG)



**Sophie Dejonckheere**  
Partner & Associate  
Director  
Boston Consulting Group  
(BCG)



# Tuesday, 27 May 2025

 **CONFERENCE HALL A**

**Topics in Focus: Power generation, Policy, Renewables, Water, Finance & Energy Transition**

**10:00 - 10:45 Private VIP Exhibition Tour**

**11:00 – 11:30 Opening Ceremony (By invitation only)**

The World Utilities Congress 2025 Opening Ceremony will bring together global energy leaders, innovators, and policymakers to set the stage for three days of impactful discussions. It will serve as a platform for addressing the sector's dual challenge of meeting rising electricity demand while accelerating the transition to a low-carbon future. With growing demand, the critical interdependence between water security and energy production intensifies, highlighting the need for sustainable resource management and climate resilience. Achieving these goals requires collective action to drive transformation and unlock the full potential of innovation.

**11:30 - 12:00 Looking ahead to COP30: strengthening the role of energy in updated national plans**

## Ministerial Panel

COP29 was a turning point in climate action. It set ambitious finance goals and needed to deliver clean energy transitions for all economies. It set bold finance goals and aimed to deliver clean energy transitions for all economies. A target of \$300 billion each year has been set to help vulnerable nations build resilience, expand energy access, and promote sustainable development. Looking forward, leaders in the energy sector and policymakers must join forces. They need to raise the ambition of the next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) before COP30. To limit climate change impacts, NDC creators should maximise their technical ambitions. This means setting bolder targets and aligning them with national policies. Stronger NDCs can guide national climate action and speed up the global shift to clean energy technologies. What opportunities and challenges lie ahead? What role can the energy sector play in inspiring more ambitious targets?

## Attendee Insights:

Explore the implications of the 2025 NDC updates for the sector, including lessons learned from previous rounds and their role in advancing towards a low-carbon future. Gain insights into new expectations, challenges, and strategies to align with the 1.5°C target.

## MINISTERS:



**H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei**  
Minister of Energy & Infrastructure  
UAE



**H.E. Alexandre Silveira**  
Minister of Mines & Energy  
Brazil

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## 12:00 – 12:15 **Shifting policies and energy transition: immediate and future impacts**

### Energy Talk

The US has emerged as a global leader in decarbonisation, driven by generous investment incentives. However, recent political changes signal shifting policy priorities, raising concerns about reduced support for low-carbon initiatives. Potential cuts to EV incentives, slowed progress in green hydrogen and CCUS, and expanded fossil fuel generation could reshape the energy landscape. How will these changes impact investors, technology developers, and the broader energy transition?

#### Attendee insights:

Gain expert insights into how shifting US policies could reshape low-carbon investments, technology development, and energy markets. Explore strategies for navigating policy uncertainty and ensuring long-term resilience in the energy transition.

## 12:15 - 12:35 **Capital strategies for energy investment: driving long-term growth**

### Energy Talk

As global targets push to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030, securing sustainable finance has never been more critical. Recalibrating the global energy system presents both challenges and opportunities for stakeholders. Collaboration across investor types—private equity, multilateral institutions, and public funds—is essential to mobilise capital at scale. How can sustainable finance be de-risked to attract more investment and support energy transition efforts in both developed and developing markets? The UAE recognises the need for bold climate investments and sees this shift as a catalyst for economic growth. Its commitment includes bridging the financing gap through sustainable financing by UAE banks by 2030 and contributions to the International Monetary Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Trust to support climate-vulnerable nations.

#### Attendee insights:

Explore how innovative financial structures can unlock investment for climate action, expand concessional financing, and enhance private sector participation. Gain insights into the evolving role of multilateral development banks in mobilising resources for national climate commitments.

#### SPEAKER:



**H.E. Majid Al Suwaidi**  
CEO  
Alterra

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12:35 - 12:50 **Humanising the energy transition: a call for inclusive and pragmatic action**

## Energy Talk

The global energy transition narrative has long been dominated by discussions on technology and investment, but true progress requires placing people at the center of the conversation. The transition is not just about deploying renewables and scaling infrastructure—it's about wider and wiser energy use, ensuring affordability, and addressing the real-world needs of communities.

As climate change accelerates, adaptation must go hand in hand with mitigation. Achieving net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050 demands more than just policy commitments—it requires broader collaboration and inclusive leadership to drive a faster, fairer, and more impactful transition. It is also necessary to engage energy users, moving beyond a supply-centric approach to one that reflects diverse regional realities and multiple pathways to sustainability.

## Attendee insights:

Gain insights into human-centered strategies for a fair and inclusive energy transition, focusing on community needs and diverse regional approaches. The session will highlight the importance of collaboration and inclusive leadership in achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.



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12:50 - 13:30 **Global power outlook: are we on track for 2030?**

## Global Leadership Panel

The global energy landscape is evolving rapidly with ambitious climate targets and technological advancements driving the transition to a low carbon future. Yet against a backdrop of rapidly rising energy demand, a key question remains: Are we on track to meet our 2030 goals?

Members and partners of the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA), launched at COP28, recognise that accelerating the utility sector's global energy transition requires directly addressing structural, regulatory, and financial barriers.

To limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must fall by nearly 50% from 2019 levels, with the energy sector playing a pivotal role. IRENA (2024) outlines that achieving this target requires tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency, and scaling energy grids and flexibility solutions, with annual investments of USD 717 billion. Additionally, global energy storage must expand six-fold by 2030, reaching 1,500 GW.

Furthermore, what is the role for nuclear? The IEA Net Zero by 2050 roadmap indicates that nuclear energy will nearly double its share by 2050, with annual capacity additions reaching 30 GW in the 2030s. At COP28, more than 20 countries pledged to triple nuclear capacity by 2050, with banks and nuclear industry players signalling their support for the pledge more recently.

As a driving force behind modernising utilities, UNEZA leaders will explore strategies to accelerate the energy transition and help deliver on the commitment to tripling renewable capacity by 2030.

### Attendee insights:

UNEZA leaders will share insights on tackling the structural, regulatory, and financial barriers hindering the energy transition—focusing on scaling renewables, expanding energy storage, and the evolving role of nuclear in achieving net-zero by 2050.

### PANELISTS:



**Jasim Thabet**  
Group CEO & Managing  
Director  
TAQA



**H.E. Eng Mohamed Al Hammadi**  
MD & CEO  
Emirates Nuclear Energy  
Corporation (ENEC)



**Datuk Ir. Megat Jalaluddin Bin Megat Hassan**  
President & CEO  
Tenaga Nasional



**Benjamin Backwell**  
CEO  
Global Wind Energy  
Council (GWEC)



**Luc Remont**  
CEO & President  
EDF Group



**John Deferios**  
Senior Fellow, Centre for  
Energy & Materials  
World Economic Forum

### MODERATOR:

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch & Networking**

**Delegate Lunch Area, Hall 3**

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14:00 - 14:45

### Shaping the future of utilities: balancing energy access and growth in emerging economies

#### Ministerial Panel

Our climate future largely depends on whether Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs) can successfully transition to cleaner energy systems while ensuring energy access for all. The IEA's Clean Energy Transitions Programme turns targets into action, accelerating progress towards the goal of global net zero emissions through secure and people-centered clean energy transitions, focusing on major emerging and developing economies. In developing countries utilities struggle to meet growing power demands and integrate renewable energy sources into their grids, a necessity for achieving universal access to clean, reliable, and affordable electricity for all. However, these regions attract only a fifth of global clean energy investments due to higher real and perceived risks, including political instability, regulatory barriers, unreliable off-taker arrangements, foreign currency volatility, and grid integration issues. These risks drive up the cost of capital, constraining financial flows and hindering socio-economic development. Supportive policies and international collaboration are crucial to overcoming financial constraints and fostering sustainable growth. By prioritising energy security, environmental responsibility, and economic development, emerging economies can build resilient, competitive utility sectors that align with global sustainability goals.

#### Attendee insights:

Explore how emerging markets can balance energy security, environmental stewardship, and economic growth to maintain competitiveness in global utilities.

14:45 - 14:55

### Decarbonising hard-to-abate industries: from commitment to impact

#### Energy Talk

The global energy industry is undergoing a radical transformation, balancing energy security with decarbonisation goals. Natural gas and LNG remain essential, providing stability and flexibility to integrate renewables and meet rising demand. Meanwhile, hydrogen and low-carbon fuels are emerging as crucial solutions for decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors. According to a 2024 report from IRENA, energy transition is progressing in most hard-to-abate sectors, yet they are still off track to meet net-zero scenarios by 2050, which is the objective of the 2015 Paris Agreement in a bid to limit global temperature increases to 1.5°C since the start of the industrial era. Achieving progress requires coordinated action on infrastructure, regulation, and equitable energy access to ensure a secure and sustainable future.

#### Attendee insights:

Gain insights into the evolving role of natural gas, LNG, and emerging low-carbon fuels in securing the energy transition and accelerating decarbonisation across hard-to-abate sectors.

#### SPEAKER:



**H.E. Eng Saeed  
Ghumran Al Remeithi**  
Group CEO  
Emsteel

#### MODERATOR:



**Amandeep Bhangu**  
Presenter & Moderator  
Voice Media London

14:55 - 15:40

## Transforming water scarcity into opportunities through sustainable, and circular management strategies

### Global Leadership Panel

Water scarcity presents both a challenge and an opportunity to redefine how we manage our most vital resource. Sustainable and circular water management strategies are paving the way for transformative solutions, focusing on water conservation, efficient resource management, and supply enhancement. Innovative practices such as water recycling and reuse are gaining traction across residential, commercial, industrial, and construction sectors. Onsite water reuse systems are significantly reducing water consumption, while businesses and large-scale construction projects are incorporating recycling solutions to meet environmental goals and reduce operational costs. In the energy sector, power plants are minimising freshwater withdrawals by adopting water reuse, enhancing climate resilience and the sustainability of energy production. Efficient resource management and these forward-thinking practices are reducing the strain on infrastructure, increasing climate resilience, and delivering long-term economic benefits.

### Attendee insights:

Industry experts will share actionable insights into how sustainable water management practices are shaping the future. Discover innovative strategies to conserve water, enhance resource efficiency, and build resilient systems that align with your sustainability goals.

### PANELISTS:



**Eng Ahmed Al Shamsi**  
CEO  
TAQA Water Solutions



**Hebah Abbas**  
Chairwoman  
Kuwait Water Association

15:40 - 16:10

## From generation to demand: powering the flexibility revolution

### Industry Dialogue

The energy sector is on the brink of a flexibility revolution, where the ability to adapt, respond, and optimise will redefine the entire power value chain—from generation to demand. Flexibility is no longer an option but a necessity. By 2050, energy storage is expected to meet over 50% of global flexibility needs, while \$21 trillion (WEF) in grid upgrades will be essential for modernising infrastructure. Demand response is shifting from a passive adjustment to an AI-driven, real-time balancing tool, empowering consumers to actively shape grid stability. Hydrogen and advanced storage technologies will lead the long-duration energy transition, while natural gas remains a key stabiliser. The future hinges on overcoming interconnection bottlenecks, accelerating digitalisation, and fostering cross-border collaboration, paving the way for a more responsive, resilient, and sustainable energy system.

### Attendee insights:

Gain a forward-looking perspective on how flexibility innovations; from AI-driven demand response to advanced storage and hydrogen are transforming the energy landscape, ensuring a smarter, more resilient, and future-ready grid.

### PANELISTS:



**Fabrizio Fabbri**  
Group CEO  
Ansaldo Energia



**Farid Al Awlaqi**  
CEO  
TAQA  
Generation



**Béatrice Buffon**  
chairwoman & CEO  
EDF Renewables

### MODERATOR:



**Sumant Sinha**  
Founder, Chairman & CEO  
ReNew Energy



**Oxana Dankova**  
Partner, Director & Global Lead of Energy  
Networks Business Segment  
Boston Consulting Group (BCG)

16:10 - 17:00 Road to a new world of power interconnectivity

## Global Leadership Panel

As the global energy landscape shifts toward a cleaner and more resilient future, power interconnectivity is becoming the backbone of this transition. Modernised, interconnected grids enable seamless cross-border energy flows, ensuring the efficient integration of renewable sources while enhancing reliability and reducing transmission losses. With global grid investments projected to reach \$2 trillion over the next decade (IEA), utilities must navigate rising costs, regulatory complexities, and infrastructure expansion to unlock the full potential of interconnection. Leveraging Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) and smart grid technologies will be critical in optimising energy flows, improving efficiency, and fortifying grid resilience. However, challenges such as transmission bottlenecks, lengthy interconnection queues, and the need for enhanced cross-border collaboration must be addressed to create a truly integrated energy system; one that delivers stability, affordability, and sustainability for the future.

## Attendee insights:

Discover how advanced grid interconnectivity is reshaping the future of energy; unlocking seamless cross-border power flows, enhancing renewable integration, and driving a resilient, efficient, and sustainable global energy network.

## PANELISTS:



**Dr. Afif Al Yafei**  
CEO  
TAQA Transmission



**Dr. Eng. Adnan Ali Hassan Al Hosani**  
Director, Electricity & Energy Trade  
Department  
Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure,  
UAE



**J.D. Sitton**  
CEO  
CTC Global



**Helmut Von Struve**  
CEO  
Siemens Middle East



**Rob McDonald**  
MD  
SSEN Transmission





## Topics in focus: Water, Nuclear, Hydrogen, AI & Technology Integration

### 10:00 – 10:45 Securing water access across borders

#### Ministerial Panel

The global water crisis is escalating, with 153 countries relying on transboundary waters, yet only 28% of these countries have effective agreements to co-manage these vital resources, according to a UNESCO and UNECE report. As climate change worsens water scarcity and competition for freshwater resources increases, cooperation among nations sharing water bodies becomes crucial. Countries sharing rivers and lakes show higher levels of cooperation, while areas like sub-Saharan Africa have made significant progress in recent years. The Water Convention, adopted in 1992, and innovative strategies such as Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) can provide essential frameworks for joint management. For government and utility leaders, investing in infrastructure and technology, such as real-time data sharing, is key to enhancing cross-border water access and ensuring the sustainable management of these critical resources.

#### Attendee insights:

Global ministers and leaders will discuss successful strategies, share valuable experiences, and engage in meaningful dialogue to enhance cross-border water security, addressing the critical challenges of water scarcity and cooperation to secure equitable access to water for all.

#### MINISTER:



**H.E. Yaser bin Ebrahim Humaidan**  
Minister of Electricity & Water  
Affairs  
Kingdom of Bahrain

#### MODERATOR:



**John Defterios**  
Senior Fellow, Centre for  
Energy & Materials  
World Economic Forum

### 10:45 – 11:00 Global energy by 2030

#### Energy Talk

The World Energy Outlook 2024 outlines a shifting energy landscape shaped by geopolitical risks, evolving market dynamics, and the rapid deployment of renewables. By 2030, low-emissions sources are expected to generate more than half of global electricity, while fossil fuel demand is projected to peak. However, the transition remains uneven, with policy and investment decisions often reinforcing existing inefficiencies. Key uncertainties include the pace of renewable adoption, growth in electric mobility and LNG demand, and the impact of AI, efficiency policies, and extreme weather on electricity demand. Driven by cost competitiveness and energy security, renewables are expanding faster than government targets, with wind and solar PV alone set to double their share to 30%. This shift presents challenges in integrating variable renewable sources while ensuring grid stability and reliability. How can we accelerate the momentum of clean energy, leverage economic drivers for growth, and address critical policy and infrastructure developments to ensure a sustainable energy future?

#### Attendee insights:

Discover how the rapid growth of renewable energy is reshaping the global power landscape and driving the shift toward a cleaner, more cost-competitive future. Gain insights into the challenges of integrating variable renewables into power grids, the economic forces fueling the transition, and the critical policy and infrastructure investments needed to ensure a secure, sustainable energy system by 2030.

11:00 – 11:45 Realising the ambition: tripling global nuclear energy capacity by 2050

Global Leadership Panel

The global push to triple nuclear energy capacity by 2050 is gaining significant momentum, with 31 countries now committed to this goal. Nuclear energy is anticipated to play a vital role in tackling climate change, currently accounting for 9% of global electricity and preventing 2.1 billion tonnes of CO2 emissions annually, according to the World Nuclear Association (WNA). However, achieving this vision will necessitate overcoming significant challenges, including securing the \$100 billion in annual investments highlighted by the International Energy Agency (IEA), streamlining regulatory frameworks, and building public trust in nuclear safety. Enhancing collaboration among governments, investing in next-generation technologies such as small modular reactors (SMRs), and fostering global knowledge networks are crucial for unlocking nuclear energy's potential as a cornerstone of a sustainable, low-carbon future.

Attendee insights:

Explore how tripling nuclear energy capacity by 2050 can become a reality through innovative investments, streamlined regulations, and enhanced public confidence. Learn the strategies that will ensure nuclear energy plays a central role in the global transition to a sustainable energy future.

PANELISTS:



**Loyiso Tyabashe**  
Group CEO  
South African  
Nuclear Energy  
Corporation  
(Necsa)



**Dr. Sama  
Bilbaoy León**  
Director General  
World Nuclear  
Association



**Christer Viktorsson**  
Director General  
Federal Authority  
for Nuclear  
Regulation (FANR),  
UAE



**Karim Amin**  
Executive Board  
Member & EVP Gas  
Services  
Siemens Energy



**Neil Wilmshurst**  
SVP, Chief Nuclear Strategy Officer & MD of  
EPRI Gulf, Chair - U.S. Member Committee, World  
Energy Council  
EPRI Gulf



**Jon Ball**  
President - eVinci  
Microreactor  
Business  
Westinghouse  
Electric Company



**John Defterios**  
Senior Fellow, Centre for  
Energy & Materials  
World Economic Forum

MODERATOR:

11:45 - 12:30 Advancing the desalination agenda, towards water security

Global Leadership Panel

As global water demand continues to rise, with freshwater resources becoming increasingly strained, desalination technologies are playing a significant role in advancing water security, particularly in regions facing severe water scarcity, such as the Middle East. Once considered a critical solution to freshwater shortages, desalination has now become an even more essential strategy as nations explore sustainable methods to secure their water supply. The desalination market is expanding rapidly, with countries focusing on innovative alternatives to meet growing water demands. However, challenges such as high energy consumption, brine disposal, and substantial capital investments remain. Despite these hurdles, advancements in desalination technologies, such as reverse osmosis, multi-effect distillation, and emerging innovations like membrane distillation, are making processes more energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable. Furthermore, nuclear desalination is gaining traction as a low-carbon alternative to conventional methods. By integrating renewable energy sources like solar and wind into desalination projects, the reliance on fossil fuels is minimised, and carbon footprints are reduced, paving the way for sustainable, long-term water security solutions.

Attendee insights:

Discover how advanced desalination technologies, fueled by renewable energy, overcome challenges and how cross-industry collaboration is key to ensuring a sustainable water future in the face of global water scarcity.

PANELISTS:



**Manuel Manjon**  
CEO, Water Business  
Acciona



**Adri Pols**  
CEO  
Desolenator



**Dusun Kim**  
Founder and CEO  
Medisun Energy,  
Singapore

## 12:30 - 13:15 Is standardisation a pathway to resilient clean energy supply chains?

### Global Leadership Panel

IRENA estimates that to meet the 1.5°C climate target by 2030, the world needs to invest \$720 billion annually in power grids and \$1,550 billion in renewable energy. In September 2024, leading utility companies in the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA) announced plans to invest over \$116 billion each year in clean energy and grid infrastructure. This investment aims to accelerate electrification and transform power systems. By 2030, UNEZA partners plan to increase their renewable portfolios by 2.6 times and modernise grid infrastructure. It is crucial to enhance the sustainability of clean energy technologies throughout the entire lifecycle—from sourcing and manufacturing to transportation and installation. Additionally, implementing mandates for harmonised international standards for critical equipment will promote interoperability and streamline supply chains, ensuring greater efficiency and reliability in the transition to clean energy. A collaborated global effort will be needed to deliver the committed energy transition targets.

### Attendee insights:

Gain insights into strategies for overcoming barriers, fostering collaboration between utilities, OEMs, and policymakers, and ensuring that supply chains can support the rapid scale-up of clean energy technologies needed for advancing climate action.

### PANELISTS:



**Noel Aoun**  
Group Chief Strategy Officer  
TAQA Group



**Rizwan Razaq**  
CTO | Smart PV & ESS  
Business  
Huawei



**Charles-Edouard Mellagui**  
CEO - Cable Business Unit,  
Duab  
Dubai Cable Company -  
Ducab

## 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch & Networking

## Delegate Lunch Area, Hall 3

## 14:00 – 14:30 Powering a customer-first utility in a transitioning energy mix

### Industry Dialogue

As the energy transition accelerates, utilities must navigate a complex landscape—balancing the shift to renewables with the need for reliability, affordability, and customer-focused innovation. With rising prices, security concerns, and decarbonisation efforts, consumers are more engaged than ever, transforming into active participants in the energy ecosystem. Utilities is redefining customer relationships through digitalisation, demand-side management, and smarter grid solutions. According to McKinsey, with global investment in digital infrastructure for utilities projected to exceed \$300 billion by 2030, the industry is primed for a customer-driven transformation. By focussing on incentivising energy conservation and leveraging technology we can enhance resilience, sustainability and revolutionise customer experience.

### Attendee insights:

Gain insights into how utilities can modernize aging infrastructure, enhance customer engagement, and leverage digital transformation to drive efficiency and competitiveness. Discussions will highlight key investment strategies and regulatory considerations, shaping the future of the sector.

### PANELISTS:



**Omar Al Hashmi**  
CEO  
TAQA Distribution



**Joel Austin**  
SVP & Chief Digital  
Officer  
Oncor Electric Delivery



**Wael Gad**  
CEO  
UTEC



14:30 – 15:00

## Natural gas: evolving its role from energy transition to a low carbon energy future

### Industry Dialogue

Demand for natural gas is growing globally, offering a lower carbon alternative to oil and coal particularly in power generation as a balancing to intermittency of renewable energy sources. As a foundational component in a transitioning and multi-faceted global energy system, natural gas has the advantage of being a commercially scaled energy source that brings with it a lower carbon profile to nations seeking to transition away from coal. For utilities, its flexibility in complementing renewable energy sources, combined with advances like smart grids, energy storage, and mechanisms such as 'linepack', ensures grid stability and resilience. Global collaborations, such as the EU's smart grid initiatives and U.S. partnerships, are further accelerating the development of adaptable, future-ready infrastructure. However, while natural gas remains critical today in balancing the priority of energy security with climate ambitions, its long-term role in a low or no carbon energy future will be influenced by factors such as renewable energy growth, emissions agendas, policy and investment shifts, and advances in carbon management technology.

### Attendee insights:

Discover how natural gas is revolutionising utilities by ensuring grid stability and bridging the gap between renewable energy and reliable power. Gain exclusive insights into its growing demand, its crucial role in the energy transition, and how global collaborations are shaping a resilient, sustainable energy future.

### PANELISTS:



**Adnan Bu Fateem**  
COO  
Mubadala Energy



**Niko Cornelis**  
MD - Flexible Power GCC  
Engie



**Dr. Waheed Abbasi**  
SVP, Gas Services, MENA  
Siemens Energy

15:00 - 15:30

## Maximising the potential of generative AI for power sector organisations

### Industry Dialogue

The power sector is entering a transformative era, with generative AI set to revolutionise operations through its ability to rapidly process vast amounts of data, support decision making and identify patterns. Early adopters, including 16% of the top 25 utilities, are harnessing this technology to tackle challenges in grid management, resource planning, cost optimisation, and sustainability by optimising power distribution, improving electricity demand forecasting, and enhancing operational efficiency through predictive maintenance and automation. However, organisations must assess where generative AI can best integrate with their digital strategies, decide whether to adopt off-the-shelf solutions or invest in customised solutions, and address challenges such as data bias, privacy, safety, and governance to ensure responsible and secure implementation, maximising the benefits generative AI can bring.

### Attendee insights:

This session will examine how utilities can align AI integration with their digital strategies, whether by adopting existing tools or exploring innovative solutions. Attendees will also gain insights into tackling key challenges such as data bias, privacy, safety, and governance, ensuring responsible and secure implementation of AI technologies.

### PANELISTS:



**Noel Aoun**  
Group Chief Strategy  
Officer  
TAQA Group



**Dr. Mike Roshchin**  
Head of AI  
AIQ



**Maurizio De Stefano**  
SVP Energy  
International  
Minsait



**Dr. Tariq Aslam**  
Hub Digital Leader  
- India, Middle East  
& Africa  
ABB Energy  
Industries

15:30 - 16:00

## The next frontier: revolutionising water infrastructure with smart innovation and collaboration

### Industry Dialogue

Technological innovations are key to modernising water infrastructure. Global water threats, like droughts, pollution, and climate change, are intensifying and by 2030, freshwater demand may outstrip supply by 40% (World Economic Forum). Emerging technologies, such as IoT and AI, can reduce losses, optimise distribution and enable early leak detection and real-time monitoring. Collaboration among utilities, tech providers, and governments is essential to scale solutions and integrate new water management technologies to address the growing challenges of water scarcity and increasing demand. The increasing demand for water infrastructure repair technologies underscores the urgent need for investment in modernising and future-proofing water systems to meet these challenges.

#### Attendee insights:

Understand from industry leaders how to enhance the resilience and efficiency of water infrastructure, leverage emerging technologies, and the vital role of collaboration between governments, and private sectors.

#### PANELIST:



**Dr. Nader Assad Bin Taher**  
COO  
TAQA Water Solutions

#### MODERATOR:



**Hubert Sobora**  
Principal  
Boston Consulting Group (BCG)

16:00 – 16:30

## Low carbon and green hydrogen: navigating challenges to open opportunities

### Industry Dialogue

Hydrogen is increasingly seen as a low-carbon solution for balancing supply and demand in renewable energy systems through energy storage and grid stabilization. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), reaching 50 million tons of green hydrogen production by 2030 is crucial for meeting global net zero goals. However, the low-carbon and green hydrogen markets are still in their early stages and scaling them up requires solving significant challenges including high production costs, infrastructure requirements, storage complexities, and developing a reliable supply chain. Utilities face challenges like high production costs, the need for significant infrastructure investments, and technological hurdles. As costs decrease and technologies mature, low-carbon and green hydrogen is expected to play an increasingly important role in the utility sector's transition to a cleaner energy future.

#### Attendee insights:

Discuss actionable insights and real-world strategies that are overcoming the challenges of scaling green hydrogen, revolutionising the utilities sector, driving decarbonisation, and creating pathways toward sustainable energy systems.

#### PANELISTS:



**Dr. Jan Haizmann**  
CEO  
ZETA Global



**Frederik Beelitz**  
Head of Advisory for  
Central Europe  
Aurora Energy Research

#### MODERATOR:



**Alessandro Zampieri**  
Partner & Associate Director  
Boston Consulting Group (BCG)

**16:30 - 17:00** Amplifying the impact of energy efficiency, the first fuel in energy transition

## Industry Dialogue

Energy efficiency is key for sustainable development. It provides environmental and economic benefits while helping to reduce CO2 emissions quickly and affordably. Fatih Birol from the IEA calls energy efficiency the “first fuel” in clean energy transitions. It is the fastest and cheapest way to cut emissions, improve energy security, and support a fair energy transition. To meet climate goals, we must double the global pace of energy efficiency this decade. The UAE has made this a priority through its National Demand Side Management (DSM) Programme. This aligns with sustainability goals to optimise resources, lower consumption, and promote economic growth. Together, efficiency, electrification, behavioural change, and digitalisation will lower global energy intensity and speed up the energy transition.

## Attendee insights:

Attendees will gain insights into the critical role of energy efficiency in sustainable development. Explore how initiatives like the UAE's National Demand Side Management (DSM) Programme are driving progress in energy optimisation, resource reduction, and economic growth, while supporting the global energy transition.

## PANELISTS:



**Sylvie Jehanno**  
CEO  
Dalkia



**David Auriau**  
Group CEO  
Positive Zero



**Khalid Al Marzooqi**  
CEO  
National Central Cooling  
Company PJSC  
(Tabreed)



**Khalid Al Qubaisi**  
CEO  
TAQA Energy Services

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Topics in focus: Finance, Digital Transformation, Carbon Markets, Talent Development

10:00 - 10:45 Redefining the future of the water-energy-food nexus through technology advances

Global Leadership Panel

The growing demands on water, energy, and food systems are reshaping how utilities approach resource management. By 2050, the global population is expected to require a 60% increase in food production, while energy consumption is expected to rise by 80%, and water demand, in developing countries, is expected to climb by 55% by 2025. Agriculture, which consumes over 70% of global freshwater, is a major driver of these pressures. By integrating renewable energy, utilities can improve grid resilience, sustainability and efficiency, optimising resource use across the water-energy-food nexus. Smart grid solutions enable real-time monitoring and predictive management, allowing utilities to balance energy supply and demand while minimising waste. Furthermore, data-driven insights support decisions that help utilities to optimise water and energy distribution, reduce carbon footprints, and establish a sustainable approach to managing interconnected resource needs for a growing global population.

Attendee insights:

Gain insights into how smart grids, renewable energy, and real-time data empower utilities to optimise resource management, reduce carbon footprints, and build a sustainable future amidst growing global demands.

PANELISTS:



Lew Evans  
CEO  
Nexus Resilience Group



Santiago Bañales López  
MD  
Iberdrola Innovation  
Middle East



Prof. Phil Hart  
Chief Researcher, Renewable  
& Sustainable Energy  
Research Center  
Technology Innovation  
Institute (TII)



Christopher Behme  
Partner & VP  
IBM



Salma Bin Breik  
MD - Middle East  
Isle Utilities



Zainub Noor  
Director, Technology and  
Innovation  
Halliburton Labs



# Thursday, 29 May 2025

📍 CONFERENCE HALL A

10:45 – 11:30

## Catalysing clean energy finance and investment to deliver energy transition at a global scale

### Global Leadership Panel

Global clean energy investment has nearly doubled in the past decade. Yet, it still falls short of what's needed to meet climate targets. According to IRENA, we need \$35-44 trillion in clean energy finance by 2030 to achieve global decarbonisation. Green bonds, blended finance, and risk mitigation are essential to attract this investment. Effective policy frameworks, like carbon pricing and clean energy mandates, will also mobilise crucial funds. Continued R&D is vital to reduce costs for technologies like direct air capture and long-duration energy storage. An equitable energy transition is necessary for global decarbonisation. The IEA's roadmap states that developing economies need \$80-100 billion annually in concessional funding for clean energy. Today, only about 1% of this funding reaches these nations; the rest goes to developed countries. Governments, financial institutions, and the private sector must coordinate efforts to meet decarbonisation goals, drawing on the GCC's sustainable finance frameworks as models for broader energy transition efforts.

### Attendee insights:

Gain insights into accelerating both private and public sector investments to close the climate adaptation financing gap, particularly in the Global South. Key discussions will focus on innovative risk allocation strategies, de-risking mechanisms, and how the GCC's sustainable finance frameworks can serve as models for broader energy transition efforts.

### PANELISTS:



**Mark Blackwell**  
CEO  
Apex Investments



**Sheikh Muhammad Noman**  
Founder & CEO  
Pegasus Capital Investments



**Mazin Khan**  
CFO  
Masdar



**Lina Osman**  
MD & Head, Sustainable  
Finance – MENAP & Africa  
Standard Chartered



**Semih Ozkan**  
Executive Director, EMEA -  
Energy, Power, Renewables,  
Metals & Mining  
JP Morgan Chase Bank



**Sophie Dejonckheere**  
Partner & Associate Director  
Boston Consulting Group (BCG)

### MODERATOR:

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11:30 - 12:00 Driving scale and responsible growth in carbon markets

Industry Dialogue

Carbon markets have the potential to make a positive and effective contribution to global climate action. However, to achieve their full potential, they must develop and grow while maintaining high standards of integrity and credibility. Establishing robust standards and principles, such as carbon principles and transparency and oversight, will be critical to building global market confidence. It will also be key to developing enhanced market infrastructure to handle large-scale trade volume and integrate technology to increase market efficiency and accountability. Market fragmentation must also be addressed to clear a pathway for unified market mechanisms, including harmonised registry data, a centralised registry, pricing transparency and core carbon reference contracts. As legal and regulatory frameworks are developed to define carbon credits and create clear guidelines and incentives for market participation, governments in the Middle East and Africa are advocating for more coordinated policies to expand the voluntary market. Scaling carbon markets responsibly would have the dual impact of effectively advancing emissions reductions and mobilising critical climate action financing.

Attendee insights:

Attendees will gain insights into how carbon markets can support net zero goals and the energy transition. Speakers will address the challenges of fragmentation, lack of standardisation, and transparency.

PANELISTS:



Varun Gujral  
CEO - GEMS APAC  
Engie



Ahmed Samir Elbermbali  
Sustainability Director –  
Middle East, Caspian &  
Africa Region  
Bureau Veritas

MODERATOR:



Hara Sidiropoulou  
Partner, Power & Utilities  
EY Parthenon (Strategy)





# Thursday, 29 May 2025

📍 CONFERENCE HALL A

**12:00 - 12:45**    **Revolutionising urban living: Solutions for creating sustainable, low-carbon cities**

## Global Leadership Panel

Urban populations are soaring globally, placing immense pressure on infrastructure, energy, transportation, and waste systems. As urbanisation continues to accelerate, solutions are urgently needed to accommodate exponential growth. The integration of smart mobility, modernised energy grids and storage, and renewable energy sources, complemented by data analytics platforms, offers a powerful pathway to resilient, low-carbon cities with reduced emissions, and optimised energy use and urban mobility. By enhancing grid resilience, cities can unlock unparalleled resource efficiency while minimising waste. AI-powered transportation systems will not only ease congestion but also improve air quality and reduce fossil fuel reliance. Meanwhile, innovations in waste management, integrated with digital technologies, will optimise recycling processes and ensure that urban areas manage resources more sustainably. Together, these innovations will create a sustainable, connected, and forward-thinking urban environment.

### Attendee insights:

Discover how integrating renewable energy, smart mobility, and waste management solutions can transform urban living into a more sustainable, efficient, and resilient future. Explore actionable strategies for building low-carbon, resource-optimised cities.

### PANELISTS:



**Omnia Halawani**  
Co-CEO & Founder  
GRFN



**Ezzeddine Jradi**  
Chief Transformation &  
Business Excellence Officer  
Emicool



**Adam Ridgway**  
Founder & CEO  
One moto



**Kehkashan Basu**  
Founder & President  
Green Hope Foundation



**Antonio Di Cecca**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Tabreed, UAE



**Mark John Siddorn**  
SVP - Strategic Planning and  
Business Performance  
Tadweer Group

**13:00 – 14:00**    **Lunch & Networking**

**Delegate Lunch Area, Hall 3**



## 14:00 - 14:45 From concept to commercialisation: achieving scale for critical climate tech

### Global Leadership Panel

Innovation and technology hold the key to speeding up decarbonisation and energy transition, taking us towards a more sustainable future. According to McKinsey, existing climate technologies can mitigate up to 90% of projected 2050 man-made emissions, with 10% of this potential coming from commercially mature solutions. Climate technologies are vital for achieving a sustainable future, but they need multiple early-stage deployments to achieve commercial adoption. They also rely on project development expertise, community support, and proven commercial demand. Many technologies required for climate adaptation and mitigation, such as AI-driven solutions, face funding shortages that hinder their scalability. In the United States, the Inflation Reduction Act has encouraged wide-scale investment in the low-carbon energy economy, enabling clean technology investments to grow by 225% to \$303 billion since its enactment. Bridging the gap will require a combination of innovative financing mechanisms, enhanced regional collaboration, better regulatory frameworks, and other strategic actions.

#### Attendee insights:

Gain insights into how climate technologies can help mitigate emissions, the challenges of early-stage deployments, the strategies needed to overcome funding shortages, and scale AI-driven solutions for a low carbon future.

#### PANELISTS:



**Jan Lozek**  
MD & Co-Founder  
Future Energy Ventures



**Alexandre Eykerman**  
MD & Energy Business  
Director  
Wartsila Middle East



**Suhail Diaz**  
Director of Future  
Energies Middle East  
Wood

#### MODERATOR:

## 14:45 - 15:00 Critical minerals: the key to energy transition or a pending bottleneck

### Energy Talk

By 2040, the demand for minerals in clean energy technologies could quadruple if the Paris Agreement goals are met. According to the IEA, in a net zero scenario, this demand could increase sixfold. Yet, today's mineral supply and investment plans are insufficient for the energy sector's transformation, risking delays or higher costs. The concentration of production and complex supply chains make them more vulnerable to disruptions, trade restrictions, or geopolitical issues in key producing countries. As critical minerals become more important in a decarbonising energy system energy leaders and policymakers must work together to respond to evolving market dynamics and competition as well as rising demand to ensure critical minerals remain a vital enabler for the transition to clean energy or rather than becoming a bottleneck.

#### Attendee insights:

Explore strategies to scale up supply chains for critical minerals, tackling shortages to prevent transition delays and competition for control over value chains. Insights will also focus on cutting resource intensity in mining, ensuring ethical sourcing, and promoting global collaboration to secure sustainable supply chains for an energy system that is decarbonising.

#### PANELIST:



**Valerie Levkov**  
Global Industry Director for Energy, Metals &  
Mining, and Sustainable Infrastructure Advisory  
International Finance Corporation (IFC)

15:00 - 15:30 Navigating the energy sector's talent transition

## Industry Dialogue

As the energy transition accelerates, workforce dynamics are evolving to meet the needs of a clean energy economy. The International Renewable Energy Agency projects energy sector employment could reach 139 million by 2030, with 16 million workers moving into clean energy roles. Sixty percent of these new positions will require post-school training and reskilling, highlighting the importance of investing in strategic workforce development. The younger generation has considerable potential to contribute to the energy transition, both through participation in decision-making and by joining the skilled workforce in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean mobility sectors. Young people are increasingly playing a vital role in achieving energy goals and tackling climate change and energy transition. Utility-scale solar and wind are experiencing record investments and capacity additions, making up nearly 90% of new builds in 2024. However, energy companies are facing growing competition for talent, particularly in green skills, from sectors such as technology. To succeed, the sector must address critical skills gaps and redefine the employee value proposition.

## Attendee insights:

This session will explore leadership strategies for inspiring workforce engagement across demographics, fostering innovation, and scaling the "green" energy workforce to support ambitious climate goals.

## PANELISTS:



**Naser Al Hajri**  
Chief Corporate  
Support Officer  
Mubadala Energy



**Eiman Al Hammadi**  
SVP, Group HC Strategy and  
Organization Effectiveness  
ADNOC



**Dr. Hamad Odhabi**  
Vice Chancellor for AI &  
Operational Excellence  
Abu Dhabi University





# Conference Pass Packages

ALL ACCESS DELEGATE PASS		
Standard rate valid until: 26/05/2025	Onsite rate valid until: 29/05/2025	<b>Gain access to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Ceremony</li> <li>• Strategic Conference Stage</li> <li>• Technical Conference Stages</li> <li>• Gala Dinner</li> <li>• Innovation Theatres</li> <li>• Delegate Coffee Breaks</li> <li>• Delegate Lunch</li> <li>• Water Bottles</li> <li>• Exhibition Halls</li> </ul>
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# Technical Conference

Energy transition and digital transformation are the key drivers in the water and power sector, shaping the future of the industry, highlighting a clear direction for success, and opening doors to new industry players.

The Technical Conference offers utilities industry professionals unprecedented access to the latest industry knowledge and research findings, technical expertise, new project developments, state-of-the-art technologies, and industry best practices.

Spanning the entire power and water value chain, the World Utilities Congress 2025 Technical Conference has been created after a thorough two-stage review by the Technical Committee, comprising 57 industry specialists. The conference features 110 industry experts speaking at 27 sessions across three days and covers power generation, transmission and distribution, water management, water sewage, district cooling, and customer engagement.

Do not miss this unrivalled opportunity to meet face-to-face with your existing and new clients, learn the latest technology trends and developments, and identify new market opportunities within the power and water industry.



**20**

Technical  
Categories



**27**

Technical  
Sessions



**43**

Countries  
Represented



**110**

Technical  
Speakers

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# Technical Categories

## CATEGORY 1



Power generation

## CATEGORY 2



Energy storage and management

## CATEGORY 3



Grid modernisation and smart grids

## CATEGORY 4



Low carbon, alternative fuels, and renewable energy

## CATEGORY 5



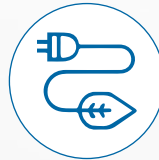
Hydrogen

## CATEGORY 6



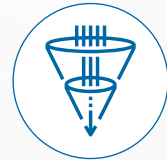
Nuclear energy

## CATEGORY 7



Energy transition, decarbonisation and environmental sustainability

## CATEGORY 8



Water supply and treatment

## CATEGORY 9



Water infrastructure and sustainability

## CATEGORY 10



District energy systems

## CATEGORY 11



Gas: processing, operations and technology

## CATEGORY 12



Energy markets, strategies and finance

## CATEGORY 13



Project management in utilities

## CATEGORY 14



Logistics and supply chain in utilities

## CATEGORY 15



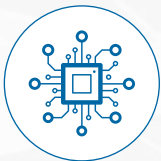
Critical minerals and rare earth

## CATEGORY 16



Future mobility and smart communities

## CATEGORY 17



Digital transformation and emerging technologies

## CATEGORY 18



Operational excellence and asset maintenance

## CATEGORY 19



Health, safety, and risk management

## CATEGORY 20



ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) in utilities



# The Utilities Club

## Connecting the industry's elite

The Utilities Club is an exclusive, invitation-only members club for senior decision-makers across the utilities sector, bringing together ministers, dignitaries, C-level executives, and industry leaders.

Designed as a hub for influential voices shaping the future of utilities, the club offers a space for members to connect, exchange insights, and engage in impactful dialogue.

The Utilities Club enhances the event experience for members, with premium amenities and a sophisticated environment for networking at the highest level. The Club provides tailored spaces for private meetings and discussions, including dedicated Ministerial meeting suites, allowing members to deepen partnerships and explore new opportunities in a private setting.



**Strategic Networking**



**Private Meetings**



**VIP Audience**



**Exclusive Setting**

APPLY TO BECOME A UTILITIES CLUB MEMBER ✉ [club@worldutilitiescongress.com](mailto:club@worldutilitiescongress.com)

# Leadership Roundtables

## Shaping the future of utilities

In an exclusive and intimate setting, the Leadership Roundtables are a defining feature of the World Utilities Congress, bringing together the most influential leaders from across the global utilities sector to shape the industry's future. These high-level discussions convene policymakers, ministers, executives, and thought leaders to address the most pressing challenges and opportunities in power and water utilities.

At the core of the event, these roundtables foster open, impactful, and action-driven dialogue aimed at advancing the transition to resilient and sustainable utilities. With a focus on collaboration, the conversations are enriched by diverse expertise, generating tangible strategies and solutions to enhance global energy and water security. This **invitation-only** platform enables decision-makers to forge partnerships, explore pioneering innovations, and steer collective progress toward a sustainable and efficient future.



### Focused Discussions



### Collaborative Solutions



### Global Expertise



### Diverse Perspectives

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# Climate Tech Theatre

The global renewable power generation market demand is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.9% from 2020 to 2027. This surge is driven by an escalating worldwide energy crisis and the urgent need for sustainable energy solutions, as conventional fossil fuels are increasingly replaced by cleaner alternatives such as wind and solar power.

The Paris Agreement has significantly bolstered this transition, prompting countries to commit to enhancing their adoption of renewable energy. As a result, renewable sources are becoming more efficient and cost-effective while playing a crucial role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimising environmental impacts.

The Climate Tech Theatre will bring together industry leaders to explore forward-looking strategies for accelerating climate-smart solutions, integrating renewables into energy systems, and enhancing grid resilience. By focusing on cutting-edge technologies, decarbonisation pathways, and evolving regulatory landscapes, it will empower stakeholders to drive climate innovation, shape sustainable practices, and lead the shift towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient future.



## Themes in Focus

- Nextgen renewable energy
- Smart transmission
- Modernising distribution networks
- ESG & sustainable energy future
- Engaging the climate-conscious consumer
- Integrated water & energy systems
- Regulating the clean energy transition
- Sustainable safety practices

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INNOVATION HUB



[worldutilitiescongress.com/climate-tech](https://worldutilitiescongress.com/climate-tech)

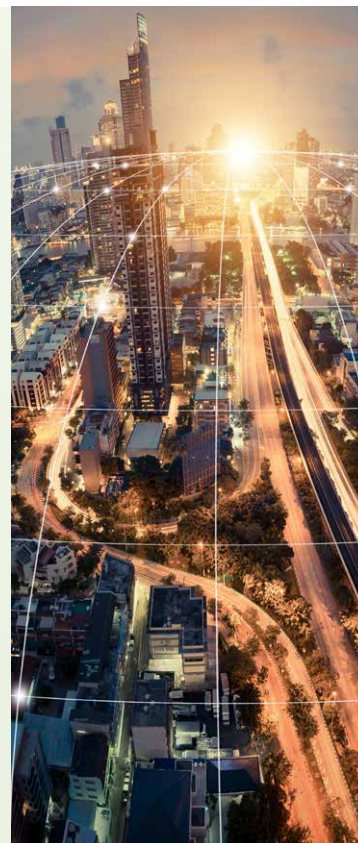


# Cleantech Theatre

Over the last decade, the utilities sector in the Middle East has emerged as a key player in cleantech innovation, driven by national sustainability visions and significant investments. New industry leaders are shaping the region's energy resilience and competitiveness, yet challenges remain in scaling and operationalising clean technologies, particularly those from emerging players. With rising transition costs, infrastructure investment gaps, and global competition from markets like the US and China, the sector must prioritise deploying clean technologies at scale to advance climate action and energy security.

Globally, utilities are committing substantial resources to clean energy, with UNEZA partners, launched at COP28 under IRENA and UN Climate Change leadership, aiming to invest over \$116 billion annually in clean power and grid infrastructure. This renewed focus on cleantech reflects the urgency of addressing climate crises. Electrification is transforming key industries, including utilities, transportation, and energy, creating significant opportunities for ESG-driven innovations and investments.

The Cleantech theatre will bring together leaders to showcase the sector's critical role in advancing sustainable energy practices and driving decarbonisation efforts.



## Themes in Focus

Energy & Energy Storage Technologies

Investments & Partnerships

Circular Economy

Energy Efficient Utilities

Sustainable Water Management

Mobility

AI-Enabled Utilities

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# The Exhibition

The exhibition connects industry leaders, innovators, and solution providers, presenting cutting-edge technologies that address evolving utility sector demands.

Exhibitors gain direct access to a qualified global audience, fostering valuable connections with key decision-makers. The event highlights solutions that enhance operational resilience, sustainability, and the seamless integration of new technologies into utilities.

## Exhibition Sectors



**Generation**



**Transmission**



**Distribution**



**Water**



**Services**



**Mobility**



**Technology**



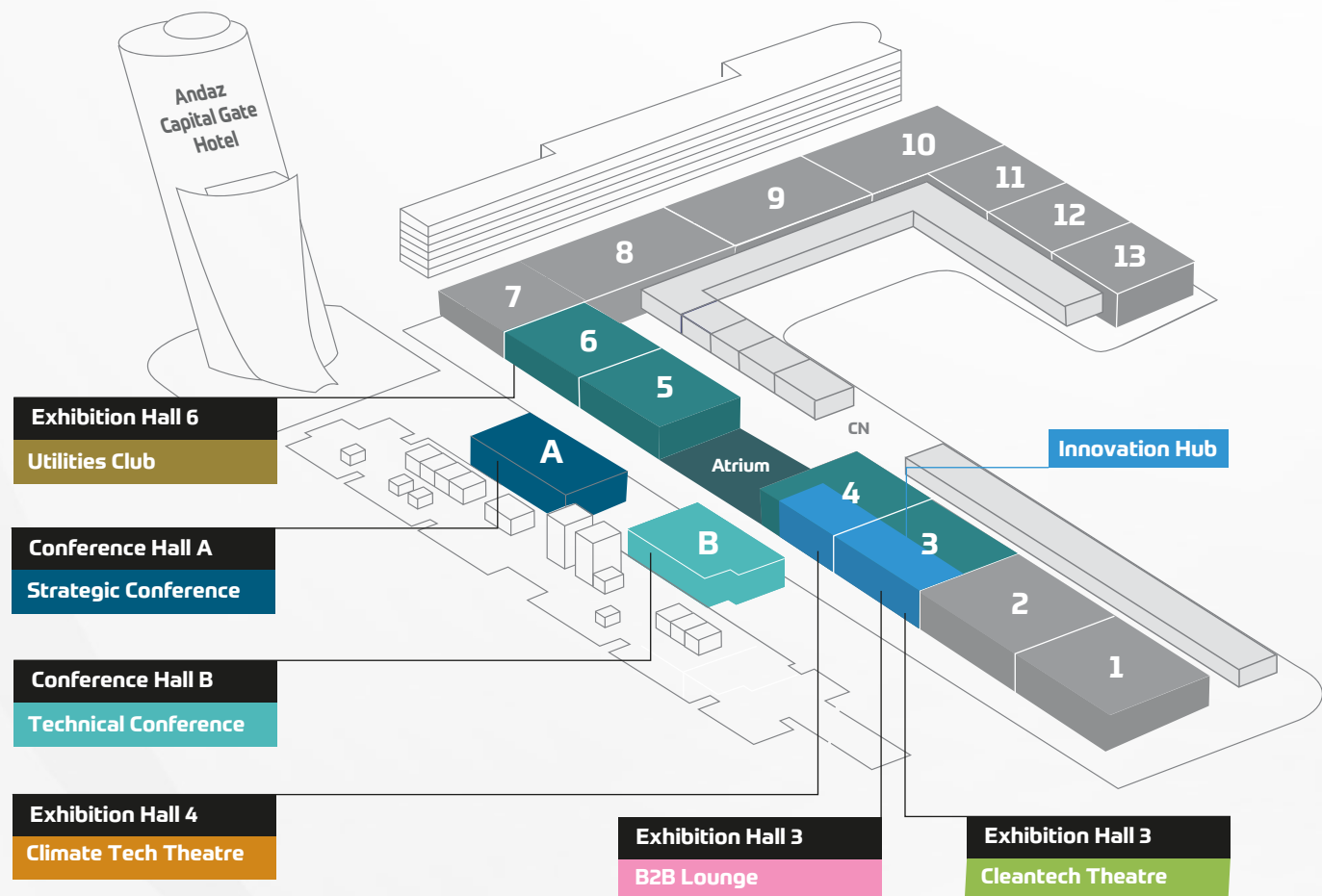
**Investments**

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THE EXHIBITION**

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# Venue Map



ADNEC CENTRE ABU DHABI, UAE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Exhibition Halls<br>Halls 3-6 and Atrium  |  Climate Tech Theatre<br>Exhibition Hall 4 |
|  Strategic Conference<br>Conference Hall A |  Utilities Club<br>Exhibition Hall 6       |
|  Technical Conference<br>Conference Hall B |  Innovation Hub<br>Halls 3-4               |
|  Cleantech Theatre<br>Exhibition Hall 3    |  B2B Lounge<br>Exhibition Hall 3           |



World Utilities  
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27 - 29 MAY 2025

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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