

**Capacity Building Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy (CBWS/EECP)
(EWG_205_2024A)
18 November 2025
Seoul, Republic of Korea**

Background

APERC developed the *Capacity Building Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy (CBWS/EECP) (EWG_205_2024A)* project for APEC funding. It's a one-day in-person workshop intended to be held annually in the margins of an EGEEC meeting, with a different theme and different objectives each workshop. CBWS/EECP succeeded the Peer Review on Energy (PREE) project which started in 2008. Until 2024, PREE completed 13 phases with 11 original PREEs and seven follow-up PREEs. Peer reviews indicated a strong need for policy capacity building, hence, going forward, APERC developed a project that will benefit a wider number of APEC members.

Given the vast heterogeneity across APEC economies—from advanced industrial economies to emerging markets—a singular policy approach is neither feasible nor desirable. Instead, the APEC energy transition demands adaptable, multi-pathway strategies that reflect government priorities while aligning with international climate commitments, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and net-zero targets.

The Workshop

On 18 November 2025, the kick-off workshop was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea with the theme “*Members’ Journey with MEPS*”. Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) are among the most effective, enforceable, and scalable policy instruments available to advance energy efficiency across sectors. As mandatory thresholds for the energy performance of appliances, equipment, and industrial products, MEPS offer a cost-effective means of reducing energy consumption, particularly in APEC economies where demand is rising and reliance on energy imports remains high. By setting baseline efficiency requirements, MEPS directly support climate objectives— while delivering tangible economic benefits: they lower electricity bills for consumers and businesses, defer costly investments in energy infrastructure, and stimulate innovation among manufacturers.

Moreover, aligning MEPS with international standards is critical to ensuring consistency, reducing technical barriers to trade, and creating a level playing field for businesses. This alignment also expands markets for high-efficiency technologies and supports the growth of local industries. In this way, MEPS serve not only as a powerful tool for reducing emissions, but also as a strategic lever for advancing sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Recognizing these advantages, the workshop seeks to enhance the institutional and technical capacity of APEC economies to design, implement, and refine MEPS frameworks. The workshop focus was on MEPS for appliances and equipment including lighting and air conditioners. The workshop was designed in response to increasing demand among policymakers for policy models that are practical, evidence-based, and responsive to evolving energy and climate imperatives. Anchored by the theme “*Members’ Journey with MEPS*,” the workshop aims to:

- 1) Identify common implementation challenges and contextual constraints across APEC economies.
- 2) Facilitate peer learning through structured exchanges of lessons learned, case studies, and policy experiences.
- 3) Generate actionable recommendations for enhancing MEPS design, success and enforcement.

The workshop will culminate in a *Workshop Summary Report*, a comprehensive and policy-relevant output that will capture expert commentary, member contributions, and synthesized insights. It will

serve not only as a reference for participating economies but also as a foundational input for future APEC initiatives on energy efficiency.

The Journey

The participants were welcomed by Korea Energy Agency **Director General, Mr Youngsun You**, while **Mr Mitsuhiro Takada, APERC's Vice President** delivered the Opening Remarks. Both speakers underscored the APEC region's critical role in achieving global decarbonization targets and the importance of strengthening institutional and technical capacity to accelerate the adoption of energy efficiency policies.



Mr Youngsun You



Mr Mitsuhiro Takada

Ms Elvira Torres Gelindon, APERC's Research Fellow introduced the workshop objectives, emphasizing the need for practical policy models tailored to diverse national contexts. **Ms Yasmin Fouladi**, APERC's Researcher then provided an overview of APEC's progress in energy intensity reduction, highlighting ongoing challenges and the role of MEPS in bridging the gap between economic growth and emissions reduction. **Dr Bongjoo Shin**, Program Director of Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning provided the host economy case study showcasing Korea's longstanding experience with MEPS implementation.



Ms Elvira Gelindon

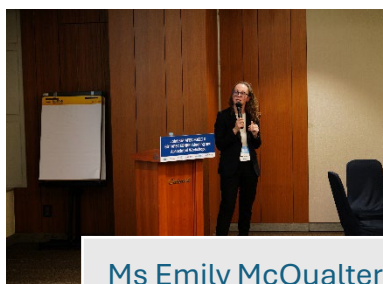


Ms Yasmin Fouladi

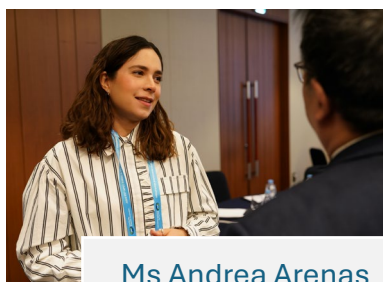


Dr Bongjoo Shin

The project Consultants, **Ms Andrea Arenas** and **Ms Emily McQualter** facilitated the workshop including the break-out session. The invited experts provided insightful presentations while Japan; Mexico; The Philippines and Chinese Taipei provided their respective economies experiences in the member sharing. The participants were able to identify common challenges and barriers in MEPS policy implementation and corresponding recommendations during the breakout session.



Ms Emily McQualter



Ms Andrea Arenas

The workshop concluded with the **EGEEC Chair Dr Liu Meng** Closing Remarks, emphasizing that the workshop is not just a journey on MEPS but also a journey in the overall energy efficiency. He highlighted the need for the members' increased energy efficiency policies in the region due to the big gap between economies.



Dr Liu Meng

The Action

- Panel discussions and breakout session



The experts and participants