



Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute Research Highlights

International Support

Saigon Energy Hub (SEHub) Support

OBJECTIVE AND SIGNIFICANCE: HNEI is collaborating with Ho Chi Minh City's Institute for Regional and Urban Studies (IRUS) to develop a public renewable demonstration and technology center to raise the community awareness of the needs, feasibility, and benefits of energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE). In addition to raising community awareness, the project is intended to strengthen the role of social media in the engagement of policy makers and the private sector.

This project comprises two phases: a planning, design, and construction phase for development of the workshop platform and an implementation phase where contractors present eight (8) publicly accessible energy-related workshops through the workshop platforms.

BACKGROUND: Included among the objectives of the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute's Asia Pacific Regional Energy System Assessment (APRESA) award from the Office of Naval Research, is to develop partnerships with national, regional, or local jurisdictions, private and public stakeholders, including universities and other research organizations in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance the reliability, stability, and resilience of the energy systems.

Under this agreement, HNEI is supporting Ho Chi Minh City's local non-governmental organization, IRUS to design and implement the Saigon Energy Hub (SEHub), a virtual, publicly accessible, education platform offering energy-related forums to the community.

PROJECT STATUS/RESULTS: The SEHub began in 2022 as a conceptual project with IRUS, defining project benefits and financial requirements in order to develop a project prospectus for future collaborative partners, including developers, financial entities, and the local government.

As the project implementer, IRUS consolidated a local public-private partnership to support the development of the SEHub. Originally planned for an outdoor public park venue, the project was amended to consist of several energy efficiency and renewable energy themed workshops to be conducted at new facilities located at Ho Chi Minh City Union of

Science and Technology Association's Headquarters, at 224 Dien Bien Phu Street, Vo Thi Sau Ward, District 3 in the historical center of Ho Chi Minh City. IRUS outfitted two meeting spaces with the equipment and technologies to present both online and offline workshops.



Figure 1. HCM-USTA Building, Ho Chi Minh City.

Six of the eight energy-related workshops have been conducted. The workshop topics covered carbon credits, offshore wind power, legal framework regarding energy savings, energy management, integrated infrastructure and transit oriented development, and geographic information system (GIS) as an effective urban management tool. To date, this workshop series has spanned 22 hours with 11 speakers and 260 participants (online and in-person). Participants have represented a range of stakeholders: researchers, technology associations, business owners, and policy makers

The last two workshops are planned for early 2025.

Funding Source: Office of Naval Research

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Last Updated: November 2024