



Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute Research Highlights

International Support

Saigon Energy Hub (SEHub)

OBJECTIVE AND SIGNIFICANCE: HNEI collaborated with Ho Chi Minh City's Institute for Regional and Urban Studies (IRUS) to design and implement the Saigon Energy Hub (SEHub), a virtual, publicly accessible, education platform offering energy-related forums to raise the community awareness of the needs, feasibility, and benefits of energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE).

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, was 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.

Initiated in July 2018, with a two-day bilingual, technical workshop, it was determined to move forward with a solar-enabled energy solution project as it represented strategic interests for both HNEI and IRUS as well as the majority of other workshop participants. Originally planned for an outdoor public park venue, due to project interruptions resulting from COVID-19, the Park project was unable to move forward.

PROJECT STATUS/RESULTS: The project was amended and replaced with SEHub to consist of several EE and RE themed workshops to be conducted at Ho Chi Minh City Union of Science and Technology Association (HCM-USTA)'s Headquarters. In 2023, the reconfigured SEHub project began with the planning, design, and outfitting of the workshop platform. IRUS outfitted two meeting spaces with video and audio devices and fixed connection equipment system to present both online and offline workshops (Figure 1).

This was followed by an implementation phase where IRUS presented eight publicly accessible workshops on various EE and RE themes through the workshop platform. This series, held from March through December 2024, spanned over 38 hours with 10 speakers and 310 participants, with participants representing a range of stakeholders including researchers, technology associations, business

owners, and policy makers. The workshop topics covered carbon credits, offshore wind power, legal framework regarding energy savings, energy management, integrated infrastructure and transit oriented development, geographic information system (GIS) as an effective urban management tool, and sea current power.

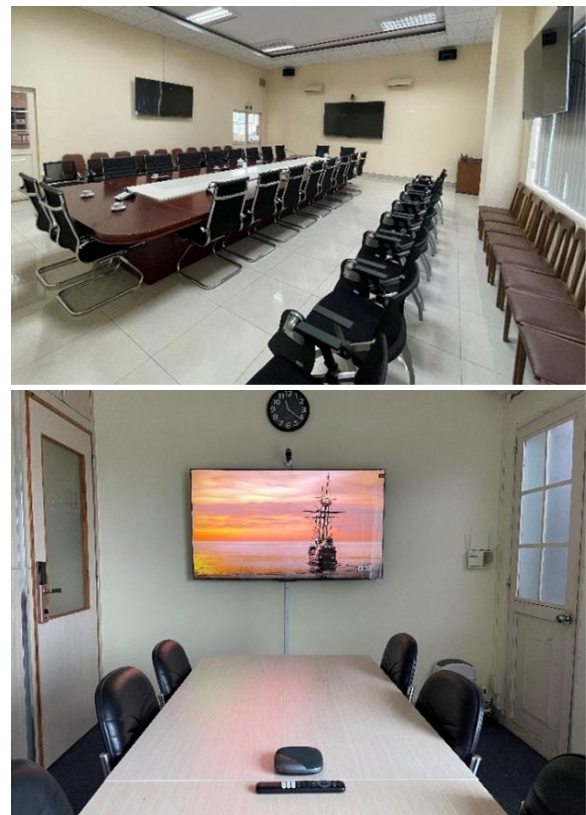


Figure 1. The two meeting workshop spaces in the HCM-USTA's building.

The SEHub project contributed to: 1) community awareness regarding RE and EE; 2) knowledge and experience dissemination among stakeholders including universities, research institutes and centers, businesses, NGOs, NPOs, and local communities; and 3) capacity building for local Vietnamese partners in the fields of RE and EE.

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