

## **Energy Access Dual Plenary Session**

### **Outline**

Access to energy and the services that it provides is vital to sustainable economic growth, human development, and high standard of living worldwide. Basic energy services are critical for sustainable economic development for all and for fulfilling human and industry basic needs including energy for transportation, lighting, heating, cooking, mechanical power and many more. Over a billion people around the globe, especially in Asia and/or sub-Saharan Africa, and in rural areas are without these basic services and benefits derived from energy and this is not because of limited energy resources. Empirical evidence suggests that energy resources (renewable and non-renewable) abound for exploitation and conversion to useful energy. It is important, however, to note that having energy sources does not imply adequate access to energy. Thus, with collaborative effort, requisite political will, technological innovation and sustained investments, these resources has to be developed in a reliable, cost effective and environmentally friendly manner and has to be made accessible to the end users in order to fulfill basic living standard.

The purpose of the 2015 IAEE dual plenary session on energy access is to examine the core issues in energy access or lack of it and to facilitate information flow on these important energy issues among energy professionals in government, industry, and academia. The session hopes to advance knowledge, understanding, and application of economics across all aspects of energy policy issues and challenges underlying energy access and energy poverty across the globe, especially in the least developing economies. Further, the key determinants and perhaps constraints to energy access— energy availability, affordability, and sustainability--are purview. One cannot have access to what is not available, affordable and sustainable. Thus, energy experts on this panel would attempt to answer some pertinent questions including whether energy subsidies are required to make energy affordable; and why a well-articulated public policy is required to make energy available and sustainable. The panel would enunciate some of the efforts and commitments to increase energy access worldwide and in the less developed economies, specifically.