



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, the feasibility, and the 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 will comprise two phases: a planning, design, and construction phase for development of the workshop platform and an implementation phase where contractors shall 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 is consolidating a local public-private partnership to support the development of the SEHub. Originally planned for an outdoor public park venue, the project now consists of a number of 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 centre of Ho Chi Minh City. IRUS is completing the outfitting two meeting spaces with the equipment and technologies to present both online and offline workshops.



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

The workshop series will consist of eight (8) live and online energy-related workshops. IRUS will develop and present for approval the eight course topics, the course descriptions, length, and structure, timelines, target audience, anticipated participants, methods for outreach and marketing, and methods to deliver online and record workshops to make them publicly available in the future.

A Pre-Feasibility report was submitted by IRUS, identifying the site, the partners, projected activities, space utilization, equipment and furnishings, timeline and budget, and financing sources. In September 2023, UH and IRUS personnel met to discuss progress and the upcoming energy themed workshops. The project will continue through July 2024.

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