

WFEO Highlights Impactful Side Event at COP29: A Commitment to Clean Tech and a Just Transition for Small Island Developing States

Paris, France – November 29, 2024

The World Federation of Engineering Organizations, in collaboration with the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the UK Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), proudly presented a side event at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The United Nations Climate Change Conference, held on November 11 to 22, 2024, brought global leaders together to tackle pressing climate challenges under the themes of enhancing ambition and enabling action.

The event, *"Accelerating Clean Tech for Energy and Agriculture in Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Enabling Action for a Just Transition"*, underscored the organizations' commitment to fostering innovative solutions for climate resilience in some of the world's most vulnerable regions. The event featured an array of distinguished speakers and panellists, sharing insights and strategies to drive clean tech adoption and build capacity in SIDS.

Highlights from the Event

The side event explored two critical areas:

- **Clean Technology Deployment:** Identifying and implementing solutions to ensure equitable access to sustainable energy and enhanced agricultural practices in small island states.
- **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:** Empowering communities through education, skill development, and collaboration to support a just transition.

Moderated by Davide Stronati, Chair of the WFEO Climate Change and Engineering Working Group, the session featured presentations from prominent experts:

- **Professor Saifur Rahman (Former IEEE President):** Highlighted IEEE's Climate Change Collection (ICCC) as a global platform fostering resilience through knowledge sharing among 460,000+ members.
- **Dr. Aitazaz A. Farooque (EIC):** Demonstrated the application of climate-smart agriculture on Prince Edward Island, emphasizing collaboration with local farmers to create practical, community-driven solutions.
- **Marie-Line Vaiani (WFEO):** Stressed the urgent need to address the unique challenges faced by SIDS, including energy network resilience and reliance on imported fossil fuels.
- **David Smith (ICE):** Advocated for embedding decarbonization and resilience into engineering practices through standards like PAS 2080 and adaptation pathways for infrastructure.

Additional insights were provided by panellists Cheryl Senhouse of the Caribbean Climate Smart Accelerator and Micheala Chan of the Asian Development Bank, who discussed pioneering projects in climate-smart agriculture and water resilience in the Pacific.

A Collaborative Path Forward

WFEO recognizes the critical role of engineers and technical experts in addressing the climate crisis. “At COP meetings a lot is discussed and agreed on climate targets and aspirations. Nonetheless, engineering and engineers will pave the way to achieve those targets and aspirations” Davide Stronati said when concluding the event. The discussions at COP29 reinforced the importance of cross-disciplinary partnerships and community engagement to drive sustainable solutions tailored to the unique needs of SIDS. As Marie-Line Vaiani aptly noted, "Small island states contribute only 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions but bear the brunt of climate change's devastating impacts. Addressing their challenges is not only a moral imperative but a blueprint for global resilience."

WFEO remains committed to advancing sustainable engineering practices and fostering international collaboration to combat climate change. By championing clean technology and building local capacity, WFEO and its partners aim to ensure a more resilient and equitable future for all.

For further media inquiries, contact: communication@wfeo.org

Website: wfeo.org

Learn more about the WFEO Climate Change Working Group
www.wfeo.org/working-group-climate-change/

Follow us on social media

Instagram: [@wfeo.fmoi](https://www.instagram.com/wfeo.fmoi)

Twitter: [@wfeo](https://twitter.com/wfeo)