

Bridging the Gap in Digital Infrastructure and Climate Tech – Part 1: Digital Infrastructure

Time: Dec. 1, 2023, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (GMT+4)

Venue: Blue Zone, AIIB Pavilion

Format: Hybrid

Session Context

Digital information and services have become fundamental enablers for modern economies and societies to run efficiently, as well as for solutions for climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Along with the demand for services and technologies such as streaming and artificial intelligence, data consumption is growing at an unparalleled pace. This is resulting in an ever-growing need for digital infrastructure such as fiber networks and data centers.

As the need for robust digital infrastructure increases, so does scrutiny over its climate impact. The International Energy Agency reported that in 2022, data centers consumed approximately 1 to 1.3 percent of global electricity, in addition to water use. As a result, leaders in the data center industry are intensifying their commitment to sustainability. This includes improving data center designs, enhancing cooling efficiency, or expanding the use of renewable energy.

Session Objective

- Explain the role of digital infrastructure in enabling solutions for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.
- Discuss the impact of growing data consumption and how digital infrastructure is exploring solutions to mitigate the impact on climate.
- Showcase innovative solutions in data center design that reduce that climate impact.

Speakers

Opening speech by AIIB President Jin Liqun

Sergio Perez, Senior Investment Officer – Digital Infrastructure, AIIB

Simon Benmarraze, Team Lead, Technology and Infrastructure, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Thomas Pang Thieng Hwi, CEO, Keppel Data Centers and Networks