

Energising Justice

Empowering Vulnerable Communities
in Urban and Rural Transitions

December 3, 2025 15:30-16:30 JST

Seminar Room (I213) Inamori Foundation Memorial Building,
CSEAS, Kyoto University

ABSTRACT

This seminar examines the critical relationship between energy justice and the vulnerabilities of marginalised populations in Hong Kong and the Philippines. In Hong Kong, rising energy costs disproportionately impact these communities, exacerbating mental health and economic challenges. Qualitative interviews reveal that residents frequently prioritise energy payments over essential needs, necessitating tailored support for older adults, refugees, and ethnic minorities in urban settings. Simultaneously, the transition to renewable energy in the Philippines presents unique challenges for vulnerable groups, particularly rural farmers and those residing in informal urban communities. Using energy justice frameworks, the seminar highlights how reliable access to electricity and regional disparities influence perceptions of renewable energy adoption. This research emphasises the need for localised, participatory strategies that amplify the voices of marginalised communities in energy policymaking, ensuring equitable access to sustainable resources. The seminar offers actionable strategies for fostering a just and inclusive energy future across East Asia and beyond.

CHAIR Julie de los Reyes

CSEAS and Hakubi Center for Advanced Research, Kyoto University

SPEAKER



Laurence L. Delina

Laurence L. Delina is an Associate Professor of Environment and Sustainability at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. His research focuses on addressing the adaptation and resilience of vulnerable populations to climate extremes, as well as accelerating just energy transitions. Laurence has published over fifty peer-reviewed articles and authored four books. He serves as a senior associate editor for several academic journals, including *Energy Research & Social Science* and *PLOS Climate*. Previously, he was a Rachel Carson Fellow and a Visiting Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School. Laurence received his PhD from the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

