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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Progress by innovation



Smart Energy

Critical Minerals

Clean Hydrogen

Industrial
Decarbonization

Accelerating Climate Innovation: A2D Facility Annual Event 2025

END-OF-EVENT REPORT

19-22 MAY 2025 NAIROBI, KENYA

Partners





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UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

UNIDO'S A2D FACILITY | End-of-Event Report

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote, dynamize and accelerate industrial development. Our mandate is reflected in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”, but UNIDO’s activities contribute to all the SDGs. UNIDO’s vision is a world without poverty and hunger, where industry drives low-emission economies, improves living standards, and preserves the livable environment for present and future generations, leaving no one behind.



This effort was made possible through the support of the United Kingdom’s Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).



The UNIDO team would also like to express its gratitude to all conference participants for their presence and contributions during the event.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Accelerating Climate Innovation: A2D Facility Annual Event 2025** is a global platform designed to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, match-making and networking amongst key stakeholders from the climate innovation and clean energy transition ecosystems. An open, global application-to-participate was held and 100 key stakeholders representing more than 30 countries were selected from around 800 applications received. The event featured keynote speeches, panel discussions and site visits focused on the four thematic areas of the A2D Facility: Critical minerals, Clean hydrogen, Smart energy and Industrial decarbonization. The conference successfully showcased innovative climate solutions and fostered collaboration among experts in the climate innovation ecosystem.

Event Objectives

The A2D Facility Annual Event 2025 aimed to build an internationally recognized community of key stakeholders for planning, implementing, operating and scaling demonstration projects in developing countries, and facilitate knowledge-sharing, sharing of lessons learned, and opportunities for stakeholders to network and collaborate.

The event sought to address some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities in planning, implementing and scaling innovative clean energy demonstration projects in the thematic areas-of-focus of the A2D Facility.

The following guiding questions steered the event's discussions, workshops, and knowledge-sharing sessions:

- How can the implementation of demonstration projects in developing countries be accelerated?
- What are the main challenges and how can they be overcome, particularly in critical minerals, clean hydrogen, smart energy and industrial decarbonization projects? What examples of successful projects exist?
- What is needed to facilitate scalability and replicability?
- How can gender equality, inclusion and safeguards be embedded in the implementation and operation of demonstration projects in developing countries?
- How can private finance be unlocked for demonstration projects in developing countries?
- What is the role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), UN agencies and international organizations in facilitating the implementation of innovative demonstration projects in developing countries?

Key Highlights

1. **Keynote addresses** from UNIDO representatives and other stakeholders emphasized a shared commitment to accelerating climate innovation and reinforced global and regional partnerships across critical minerals, clean hydrogen, smart energy and industrial decarbonization.
2. **UNIDO Director-General, Gerd Müller announced the publication of the [second call-for-proposals](#)** to support the implementation and operation of transformational demonstration projects in developing countries.

3. **UNIDO Director-General, Gerd Müller announced the publication of the [A2D Facility annual report \(Year 2\)](#)** outlining achievements to date, key lessons learned, and its forward-looking strategy to scale climate innovation in developing countries.
4. Engaging **panel discussions, breakout sessions and interactive labs** showcased impactful demonstration projects and facilitated knowledge exchange on scalable climate solutions.
5. **Networking receptions** provided a platform for building partnerships, fostering collaboration and strengthening regional and international ties.
6. **Site visits to the Kiru Tea Factory and Olkaria V Geothermal Station** highlighted real-world applications of climate innovation in Kenya.

Moderation by Peter Warren, Accelerate-to-Demonstrate (A2D) Facility Manager, UNIDO



Opening Remarks by Alois Mhlanga, Director Climate Innovation and Montreal Protocol, UNIDO



Opening Remarks by Lara Hirschhausen, UK Government



Opening Remarks by Tally Einav, UNIDO Representative in Kenya(A2D) Facility Manager, UNIDO



Key Takeaways

The following section summarizes the main insights from the various sessions at the conference. The conference agenda can be accessed through this link: [UNIDO A2D Facility Conference Agenda.pdf](#)

Day 1 - Tuesday 20 May

Opening Plenary

The first annual event of the A2D Facility opened with remarks from senior-level representatives of UNIDO and the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, followed by a dynamic panel discussion. The opening statements underscored the importance of demonstration projects in the context of energy transitions and that energy transitions are not only an environmental imperative but also a significant economic opportunity, requiring innovation in both technology and financing models.

As part of the opening plenary, UNIDO's Director General, Gerd Müller, announced the publication of the A2D Facility's second call for proposals and the publication of the A2D Facility's Year 2 Annual Report, which outlines key achievements, results and lessons learned.

The panel discussion with representatives from the Suez Canal Economic Zone, the Confederação Nacional da Indústria (CNI) Brazil, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) emphasized that unlocking private finance for demonstration projects depends on building investor confidence, with reliable data playing a pivotal role in de-risking and demonstrating viability. Setting the tone for the days ahead, the session highlighted a shared commitment to transforming innovative ideas into market-ready solutions through collaboration, cross-sector partnerships, and inclusive approaches for scalable impact.



Opening Plenary

**Thematic session 1.1: Smart Energy in Action: Demonstrating Pilot Innovations and Pathways to Scale**

The smart energy demonstration session showcased innovative solutions and explored feasible pathways for scaling, drawing on experiences from UK DESNZ, beneficiaries of the A2D Facility's first call for proposals, Innovate UK and CGI. Case studies, such as the Grid Resilience through Intelligent Photovoltaic Storage (GRIPS) 2 project in Nepal and Ubuntu Energy in Nigeria, both projects supported by the A2D Facility,

demonstrated real-world impacts of smart grids and battery storage in enhancing grid resilience and reducing diesel dependency. CGI and Innovate UK emphasized the importance of inclusive innovation, showcasing tools and frameworks for stakeholder collaboration, data integration, and system optimization. The session concluded with discussions on how public-private partnerships, strategic investment and local engagement are crucial for scaling smart energy solutions globally.



Thematic session 2.1: Accelerating progress towards SDG 9 on Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure through Hydrogen Innovation

The panel discussion explored opportunities for the clean hydrogen across industry, infrastructure and innovation, featuring speakers from UNIDO, the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the A2D Facility-supported Daures Green Hydrogen Village project, the Office of the President of Kenya, and GIZ Kenya. GIZ Kenya and a Senior Advisor from the Office of the Climate Envoy highlighted the specific opportunities and challenges related to clean hydrogen within the Kenyan context, particularly the potential of modular hydrogen projects. These include decentralized energy solutions for off-grid

communities and small-scale hydrogen production tailored to local industrial needs. Daures provided insights from a project implementation perspective, sharing their experience with scaling and securing funding for their low-carbon ammonia demonstration project. A key theme of the discussion was the critical challenge of unlocking private sector financing to support the commercialization of demonstration projects. From a donor perspective, UK DESNZ shared how they assess innovation landscapes to inform their investment decisions. The session also emphasized the importance of resource valorization and the need for coordinated efforts across the clean hydrogen innovation ecosystem.

Accelerating progress towards SDG 9 Panel Discussion



Thematic session 3.1: Global and Regional overview of Critical Minerals

This session offered a comprehensive overview of the critical minerals sector, featuring insights from UNIDO, the UNIDO-led Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals, CGI and the African Union. It explored the evolving market landscape, value chains, regional dynamics and financing pathways, highlighting the central role of critical minerals demonstration projects in advancing clean energy innovation in developing countries and their “lighthouse” effect and potential transformational development impacts in supporting the decarbonization of the critical mineral sector. The discussion also underscored the importance of innovation, responsible sourcing and inclusive development across global supply chains.

UNIDO presented key findings from the A2D Facility-commissioned critical minerals market assessment, offering insights into

the landscape of technologies, stakeholders, innovators, initiatives, existing projects and delivery mechanisms in developing countries. For example, the market assessment selected 30 developing countries which were rated according to their policy readiness level: 50% rated high in renewable energy targets and policies for technological innovation, research and development (R&D), and critical minerals processing and refining; 30% in policies for assembly and manufacturing; and 6.7% in policies for circular economy, recycling, and waste management. The UNIDO-led Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals outlined its efforts to advance policies, standards, and collaboration through a holistic approach that engages communities and spans the full supply chain, from extraction to recycling.

CGI introduced its Global Mapping of Critical Minerals Value Chains, which highlighted the increasing demand driven by AI-related

data centre expansion and addressed the risks of supply chain disruptions. A Mineral Resources Development Expert from the African Union Commission shared key strategies and implementation tools for advancing green mineral development across the continent.

The session concluded with a call to action and highlighted key insights from the A2D Facility's market assessment, particularly the need to strengthen technological innovation in the mid- and downstream segments, and the importance

of sustained international support for developing countries. It also underscored the role of UNIDO's Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals in advancing sustainable development and responsible practices across global mineral supply chains. Additionally, the African Union shared its perspective on leveraging Africa's mineral resources for sustainable development, with a strong focus on policy frameworks that support mineral beneficiation.



Thematic session 1.2: Smart Energy Synergies: A World Café of Collective Insight and Regional Innovation

This interactive session on smart energy convened thematically relevant participants to share their industrial experience and insights through an innovative session format: a World Café deep dive. The discussion focused on key challenges facing smart energy solutions in developing countries, particularly the importance of community engagement and unlocking private finance to support scaling efforts.

Participants explored three guiding questions: addressing pressing energy challenges in developing countries and the role of smart technologies; tailoring solutions to local contexts to ensure long-term sustainability and community engagement; and identifying strategies to mobilize private finance for scaling up smart energy demonstration projects. The discussion underscored the importance of inclusive dialogue, local adaptation, and blended finance as critical enablers of meaningful energy transitions through smart energy demonstration projects.

Smart Energy Synergies World Café



Thematic session 2.2: Catalysing Clean Hydrogen Commercialisation

As part the session, UNIDO presented the key findings from the A2D Facility-commissioned clean hydrogen market assessment, which covered 35 developing countries. The report identified over 110 projects (most focused on hydrogen production and mobility) and highlighted critical barriers including limited financing, inadequate infrastructure and underdeveloped regulatory frameworks. Regional opportunities and challenges were explored for Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The H2Global Foundation contributed by outlining approaches to support market development through international procurement, offering a microeconomic perspective that

complemented the A2D Facility's macro-level analysis. A Kenyan project was presented as a case study to illustrate practical implementation challenges and opportunities.

A central takeaway was the important need for commercialization and de-risking mechanisms, such as auction-based models. The session emphasized the potential for such models, as an example, to be replicated and scaled across the hydrogen value chain and extended to other hydrogen derivatives, including ammonia, methanol, and low-carbon fertilizers.

Overall, the discussion underscored the importance of public-private collaboration, investment de-risking, and scalable solutions to accelerate clean hydrogen demonstration projects and deployment.

Catalysing Clean Hydrogen Commercialisation Panel Discussion



Impacts session 1: Measuring Innovation and Transformational Change in Climate Action

This session examined approaches to measuring innovation and transformational change in programmes and projects focused on accelerating climate innovation, featuring contributions from UNIDO, the UK Government, the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Innovate UK. UNIDO presented the A2D Facility's current indicators as a case study example, including highlighting innovative indicators such as gender equality, environmental safeguards and monitoring catalytic impacts on the potential for transformation change. The UK Government emphasized the importance of combining qualitative and quantitative data to

ensure consistent and meaningful reporting, drawing on examples. Innovate UK addressed the challenge of tracking long-term project impacts, noting that while funding for such evaluations remains limited, tools like ex-post assessments and AI-supported data collection offer promising solutions. SNV introduced the new Climate Innovation Fund as a vehicle for supporting impact-driven initiatives and who are seeking to learn from vehicles like the A2D Facility on suitable indicators for monitoring and measuring innovation and transformational change, whilst the IFC shared how indicators can be used to assess community-level benefits, including job creation and gender equality outcomes through their work implementing green construction projects.

Measuring Innovation and Transformational Change in Climate Action Panel Discussion



Finance session 1: Innovative financing mechanisms for demonstration projects

This session explored the challenges and enablers of innovative financing mechanisms for demonstration projects of innovative climate solutions, with insights from UNIDO, the World Bank, KPMG and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) of South Africa. UNIDO introduced the Transformation Pathways Fund, a joint initiative with Finance in Motion, which aims to address financial and knowledge-related barriers to industrial climate action. The panel discussed how innovative finance can accelerate the implementation of innovative climate solutions through demonstration projects in developing countries. KPMG emphasized the potential of blended and “pull” financing models to unlock capital for

climate transitions and innovation. IDC and the World Bank shared perspectives on the persistent challenges in mobilizing climate finance in the thematic areas-of-focus for the A2D Facility, such as industrial decarbonization and critical minerals, particularly limited access to capital, and underscored the importance of partnerships and public-private investment strategies. Lessons from South Africa’s experience in scaling clean hydrogen were also highlighted.

The session included an innovative fishbowl format to maximize interventions from a range of participants and to enable a diverse range of perspectives to be shared, covering their practical insights into innovative financing mechanisms for innovation and sharing lessons learned.

Innovative Financing Mechanisms Fishbowl Discussion



Innovative Financing Mechanisms Panel Discussion



Thematic session 3.2: Challenges in Technological Innovation in Critical Minerals and Success Stories

This session explored the challenges and success stories of technological innovation in the critical minerals sector, with a particular focus on clean energy solutions in the transportation sector and lithium-ion battery recycling. Presenters from the A2D Facility-supported Oasis Group (Tanzania) project, the University of Birmingham (UK), Fortech Circular (Costa Rica) and Cwenga

Lib (South Africa) shared practical case studies, results and lessons learned from Africa and Latin America, highlighting both the opportunities and barriers to scaling demonstration projects of innovative climate solutions for the midstream and downstream parts of the critical minerals value chain.

The session underscored the vital role of recycling in reducing supply risks for critical minerals and promoting sustainable and inclusive industrial practices globally. The session presented a

number of current case study projects to keep the session focused and practical, to maximize knowledge-sharing: Oasis Group presented its A2D Facility-supported demonstration project in Tanzania: “Accelerating the Implementation of Clean, Affordable, and User-Friendly Smart Energy Solutions Using Electric Charging Batteries in the Transportation Sector”, the University of Birmingham introduced the ReLiB project, which focuses on scaling electric vehicle battery recycling technologies in the

UK, Fortech Circular shared experiences from scaling circular electronic waste and battery solutions in Latin America, and Cwenga Lib presented a project on sustainable lithium-ion battery recycling technologies in South Africa.

The session highlighted the importance of regional innovation, cross-sector collaboration and circular economy models to drive sustainable and inclusive critical mineral value chains, particularly in the midstream and downstream parts of the value chain.

Challenges in Technological Innovation in Critical Minerals and Success Stories Panel Discussion



Day 2 - Wednesday 21 May

Impacts session 2: Safeguards for Scale: De-risking the Clean Energy Transition through Environmental and Social Standards

This session explored the critical role of environmental and social safeguards in accelerating the clean energy transition whilst managing associated risks. UNIDO, the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the National Environmental Trust Fund (NETFUND), the H2Global Foundation, the A2D Facility-supported Daures Green Hydrogen

Village in Namibia, and CrossBoundary Energy shared insights on embedding safeguards into clean energy demonstration projects.

The panel highlighted how inclusive safeguards can enhance investment readiness, support the scaling of clean energy initiatives, and maximize positive impacts for both ecosystems and communities. A fireside chat delved into the catalytic role of environmental and social standards in attracting and de-risking climate finance. The discussion reinforced the importance of integrating these safeguards not as optional add-ons, but as core elements of sustainable and inclusive project design.

Speakers stressed the ethical imperative of the energy transition, noting that current models often “borrow from the future” without sufficient safeguards to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. The session

concluded with a call to reshape the narrative: to make environmental concerns meaningful and accessible to the world’s poorest, whose immediate priorities may differ, but whose inclusion is essential for a just transition.



Thematic session 4.1: On the Ground: Showcasing Joint Efforts Driving Industrial Decarbonization in Developing Economies

This session on industrial decarbonization provided thematic insights from the UK Government’s Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, A2D Facility-supported projects, and wider UNIDO projects and programmes, Innovate UK, and the Thai Cement Manufacturing Association. UNIDO presented the main findings from the A2D Facility-commissioned market assessment on industrial decarbonization. For example, the assessment identified five high potential countries—India, Mexico, Brazil, Thailand, and South Africa—out of 28 selected deep dive countries. Additionally, the market

assessment mapped around 200 industry decarbonization technologies in developing countries.

The A2D Facility-supported “Greener Tea” project in Kenya was highlighted, which demonstrates the use of biomass residues and gasification technology to generate clean heat and power for the tea industry. The session showcased collaborative innovations advancing industrial decarbonization in developing countries and underscored the critical role of demonstration projects, enabling policy environments, and strategic partnerships in accelerating sustainable and inclusive industrialisation.

Joint Efforts Driving Industrial Decarbonization Roundtable Discussion



Impacts session 3: Gender equality and social inclusion Investing in Inclusion: Gender Lens Innovation for a Just Energy Transition

This session highlighted the crucial role of gender lens investing and inclusive safeguards in promoting a just and inclusive clean energy transition. Panelists included experts from UNIDO, KPMG, Supivaa, Vital Finance, Women in Renewable Energy Kenya (WiRE), Gawirea Indonesia and Sandile Energies.

Speakers emphasized the importance of embedding inclusive practices to strengthen

project design, enhance community engagement and improve investment readiness. Drawing on diverse geographic and institutional experiences, they shared practical insights on how gender-responsive approaches can de-risk investments and support the scaling of innovative climate solutions.

The session reinforced the urgent need to align social equity and social license to operate with climate finance efforts, ensuring that energy transitions deliver equitable, impactful and transformational outcomes.



Thematic session 4.2: Mini- Industrial Decarbonization Accelerator Lab: Designing Climate Solutions in Real Time

This session used an innovative and interactive format, a mini accelerator lab, to engage participants in the co-design of demonstration projects of innovative climate solutions to address key challenges and opportunities in planning, implementing and scaling innovative industrial decarbonization projects. The interactive format fostered peer collaboration and feedback throughout.

Participants developed mini-proposals for demonstration projects, taking into account regional contexts, technology suitability,

regulatory environments, infrastructure, financing, partnerships, scalability and other critical factors. The session featured group pitches with live peer feedback, followed by presentations of real-world decarbonization case studies showcasing success factors and lessons learned.

Examples of proposed solutions included the use of high-speed motor technologies to decarbonize the cement industry in Africa, carbon capture applications in the Southeast Asian cement sector, biomass-to-energy systems using sugarcane waste in Brazil, and the creation of local industrial decarbonization zones powered by wind farms in East Africa.

Mini-Industrial Decarbonization Accelerator Lab



Finance session 2: How to participate in UNIDO Call-for-Proposals – Information Session for interested grant applicants

The session provided a comprehensive overview of UNIDO Call-for-Proposals processes, focusing on key aspects for prospective grant applicants. It covered UNIDO's procurement processes, detailed the structure and requirements of the A2D Facility Second Call-for-Proposals, and outlined eligibility and qualification criteria. All information was taken from the Call-for-Proposals Information Form, which was

published at the annual event, and the slides from the session were also published to ensure equal access to information in a transparent process. All questions from participants were recorded and responses published in a clarification note. The session emphasized strict adherence to submission protocols via the UNIDO e-Procurement portal and for participants to read the published information contained in the Call-for-Proposals Information Form in detail before submitting any clarification questions to the UNIDO Procurement team.



Closing Plenary

The closing plenary session featured remarks from senior-level representatives of UNIDO and the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero summarizing key reflections and takeaways from the annual event. This was followed by a dynamic panel discussion with speakers from UNIDO, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) of South Africa, the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation and Cubo Itaú.

The closing panel discussion reflected on how to accelerate the implementation of climate innovation, emphasising the importance of public-private collaboration, with blended and catalytic finance playing a critical role in de-

risking and scaling demonstration projects. Speakers underscored the need for strong local leadership and meaningful community engagement to ensure solutions are tailored to local contexts and integrated into policy frameworks. Demonstration projects were seen as most effective when paired with targeted technical assistance, co-financing requirements, and customised business support. Access to markets and multi-stakeholder partnerships across sectors and regions were highlighted as key enablers for ecosystem acceleration. The panel also stressed that development finance institutions must move beyond a purely financial role and act as strategic partners, helping to secure risk-sharing arrangements early in the process.

Closing Plenary Panel Discussion



Session Presentations

Day 1: <https://a2dfacility.unido.org/web/node/144>

Day 2: <https://a2dfacility.unido.org/web/node/145>

Highlight Videos

Day 1: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7331191282377113600>

Day 2: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7331686000684888067>

Day 3: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7333523727080431616>

LOGISTICS AND OPERATIONS

Call-for-Participants

Overview

The call-for-participants was announced on **4 February 2025**, and promoted through multiple channels, including the A2D Facility's website and newsletter, social media platforms, targeted online advertisements, partner networks, and various energy-related groups. Interested individuals were invited to apply via an online registration form.

Application Results

The call for participants received a total of **799 applications**, comprising **245 female (31%)** and **554 male applicants (69%)**.

The applicants come from a diverse range of **79 countries**, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Congo-Kinshasa, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kosovo, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, South Africa, Sudan, Syria, Swaziland, Switzerland, Sweden, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, UAE, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Selection Criteria

UNIDO implemented a structured and transparent process to evaluate applications for participation. Each application was assessed against a defined set of criteria:

- **Potential impact of participation:** Applicants were required to explain how attending the event would benefit their work and contribute to the implementation of demonstration projects in ODA-eligible countries.
- **Relevance of work to climate innovation and energy transitions:** Applicants were required to demonstrate how their work contributes to the acceleration of climate innovation demonstration projects in ODA-eligible countries, preferably in critical minerals, clean hydrogen, smart energy, and industrial decarbonization.
- **(Optional) Active engagement at the A2D Facility Annual Event:** Prospective stakeholders could propose a form of active engagement at the annual event, such as co-leading a session with UNIDO. This was not compulsory and did not influence overall selection. Proposals for active engagements were assessed based on their relevance to the A2D Facility Annual Event 2025. Accepted proposals were selected through a competitive evaluation process.

Note: Nationals from ODA-eligible countries were eligible to receive funding to attend this event. This was a competitive process, and funded participants were selected by UNIDO based on alignment with the selection criteria.

Selected Participants

100 participants were selected to attend the A2D Facility annual event, all showing strong alignment with the Facility's core thematic areas. The participant group achieved a near-optimal gender balance, with **47 female participants (47%)** and **53 male participants (53%)**.

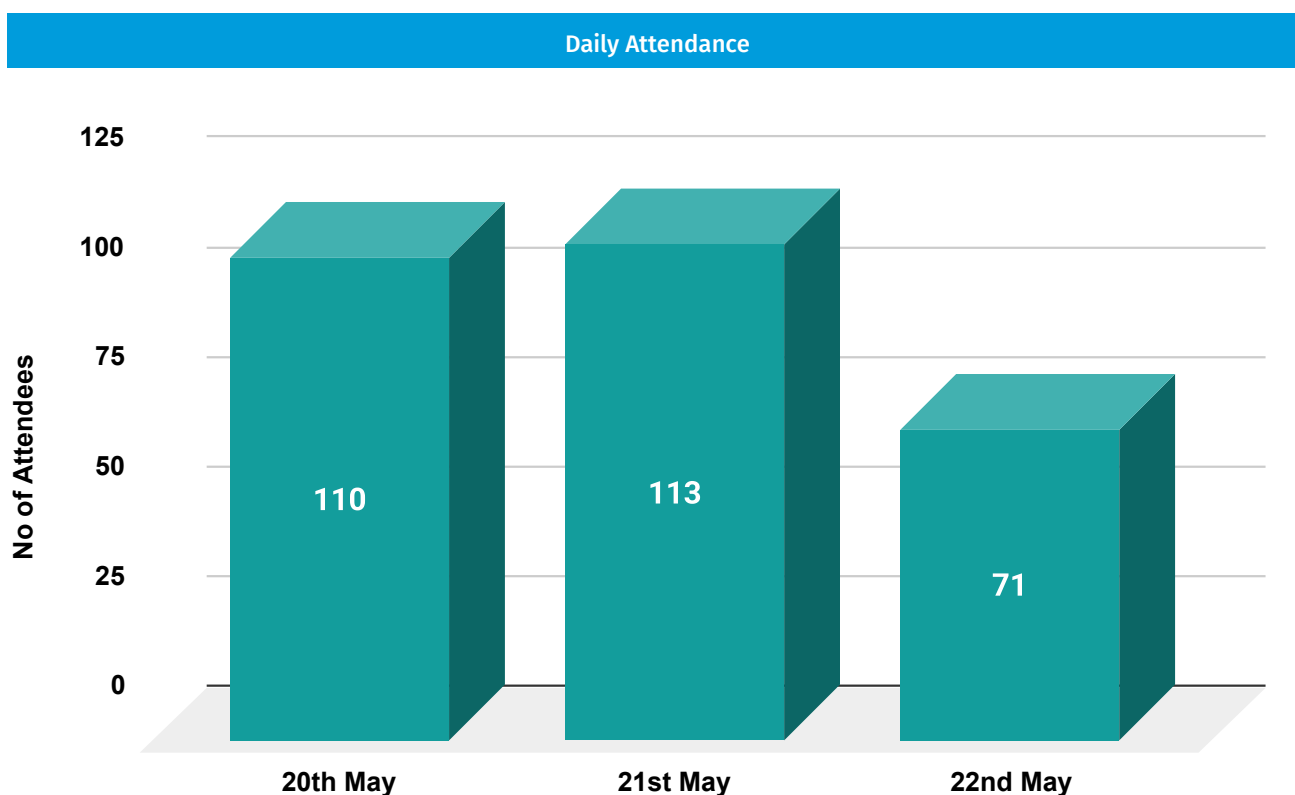
Selected participants represented a **diverse range of 31 countries across multiple continents**, reflecting the global reach of the A2D Facility. From **Africa**, participants came from Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Egypt, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Mauritania, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Mauritius. In the **Americas**, countries represented included Canada, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Participants from **Asia** came from Nepal, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Israel, while those from **Europe** represented the United Kingdom, France, Ireland, Austria, Germany, and Sweden.

Thematic alignment among selected participants was strong with **56%** citing a focus on **industrial decarbonization**, followed by **clean hydrogen (43%)**, **smart energy (42%)**, and **critical minerals (29%)**. Many participants reported multiple

areas of focus, underscoring the interconnected nature of the clean energy ecosystem and the necessity for integrated, cross-sectoral solutions. In addition to the core thematic areas, several emerging areas were highlighted, including **circular economy**, **gender-lens investing**, **green buildings**, **land management**, **AI and IoT in industry**, **multilateral financing**, and **solid waste and water management**. This thematic diversity highlights a dynamic global ecosystem of stakeholders working collaboratively to scale innovative climate solutions.

Attendee Participation

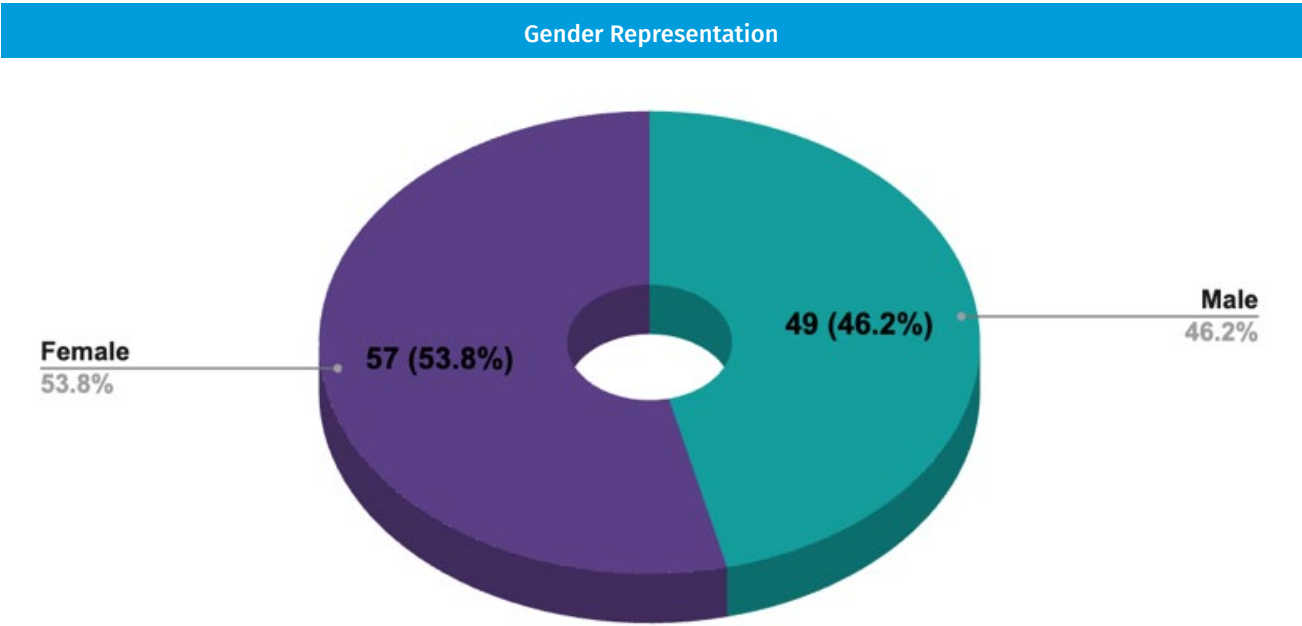
The chart below presents the number of participants in attendance on each day of the event. For May 22, the figures represent those who participated in one of the site visits.



Gender Representation

Female attendees comprised 53.8% (57) of the participants, while male attendees accounted for 46.2% (49). This distribution highlights the

deliberate efforts to promote gender balance and ensure strong representation of women at the conference.



Country Representation

The chart below illustrates the geographic distribution of conference attendees. Participants represented 29 countries, with strong participation from Kenya (24), Austria (14), the United Kingdom (12) and South Africa (10).

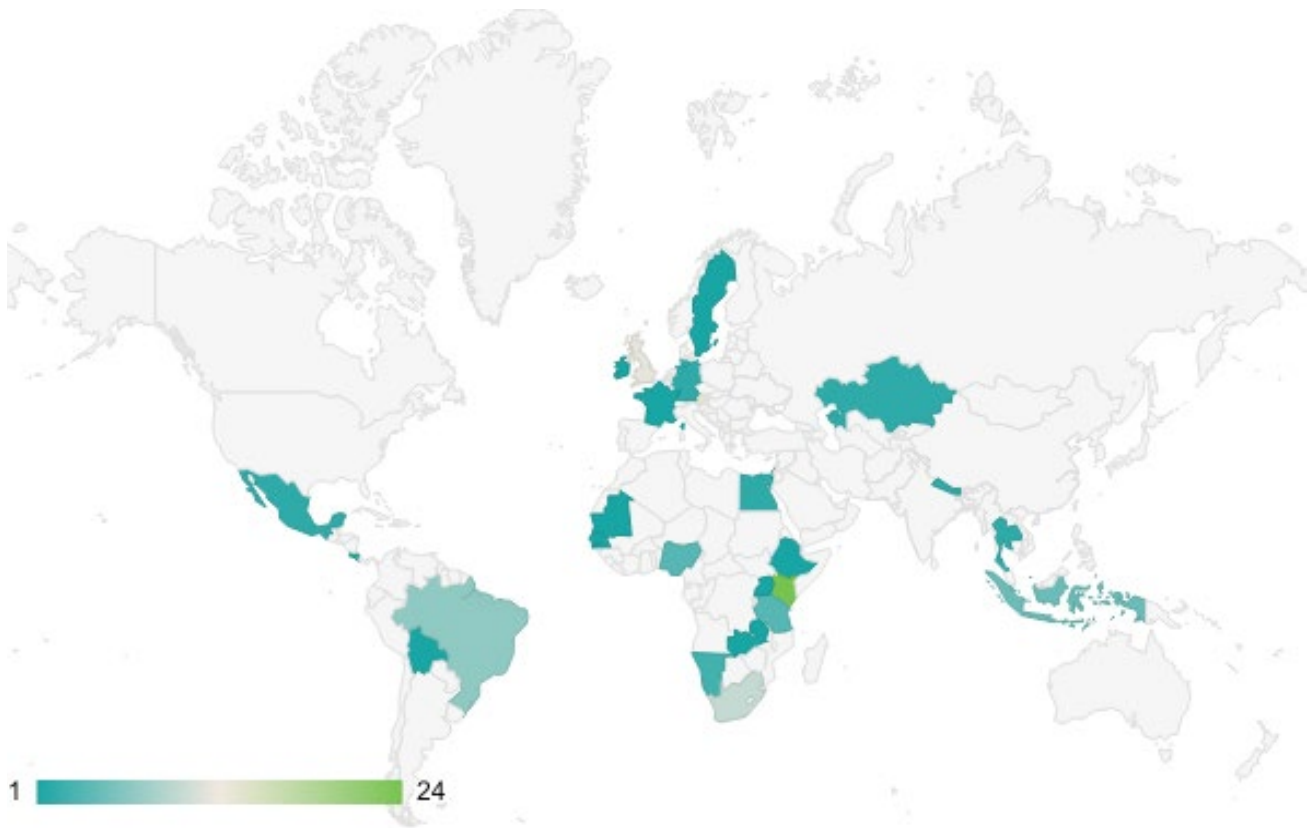
Other countries represented included Indonesia, Egypt, Nepal, Ireland, Mauritania, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Israel, Tanzania, Germany, Sweden, Namibia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, France, Thailand, Zambia, Senegal, Bolivia, Uganda, Canada, Zimbabwe, and Vietnam.

Thematic Area of Focus

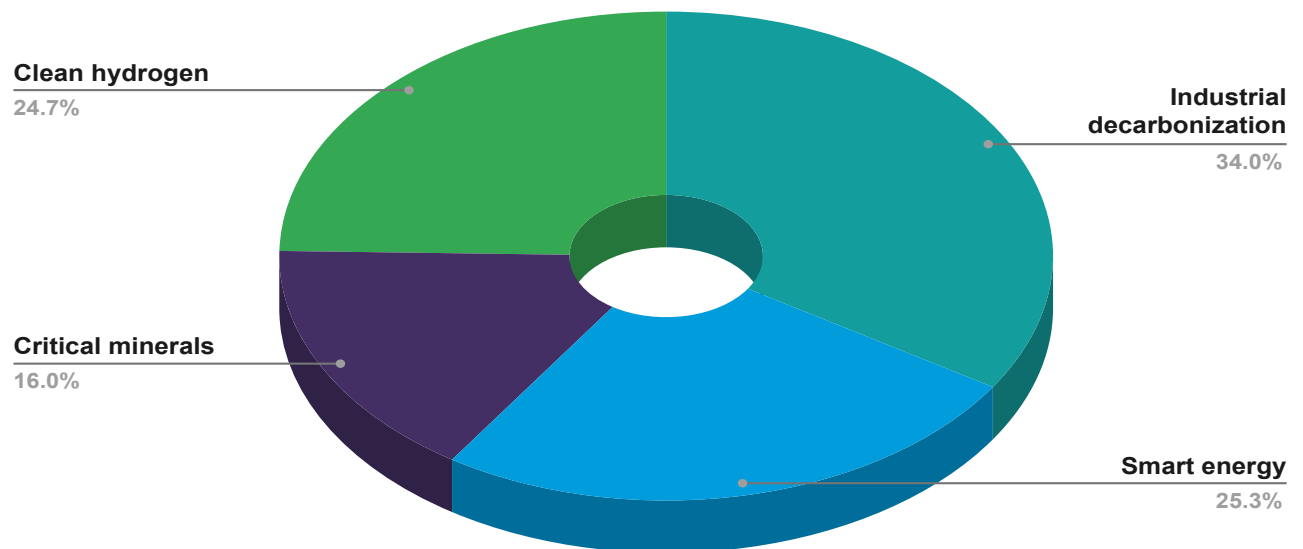
34% of attendees reported primary focus on industrial decarbonization, 25.3% on smart energy, 24.7% on clean hydrogen, and 16% on critical minerals. This reflects a diverse range of attendees aligned with the A2D Facility’s thematic areas of focus.

Other areas of focus cited included gender-lens investing, solid waste management, SaaS climate technology, sustainable water and waste management, forestry biomass conversion, circular economy, AI and IoT in industry, smart cities, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), biofuels, biotechnology, nanotechnology, innovative finance, trade facilitation, green buildings, land management, multilateral financing, and environmental and social sustainability.

Country Representation



Thematic Area

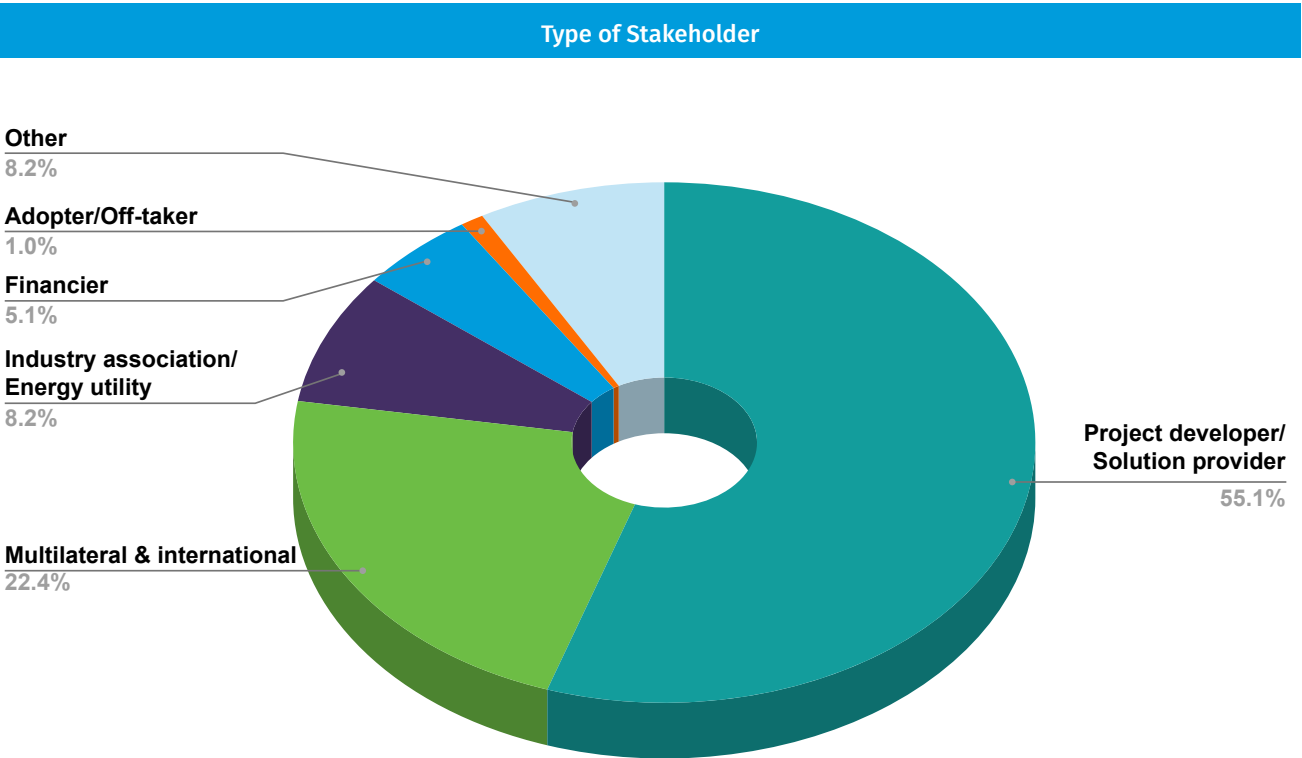


Type of Stakeholder

55.1% of attendees identified as **project developers or solution providers**, reflecting strong representation from those directly involved in implementing clean energy initiatives. **Multilateral and international organizations** accounted for **22.4%**, while **industry associations and energy utilities** made up **8.2%**. **Financiers** represented **5.1%**, and **adopters or off-takers** comprised **1%**.

Other (8.2%) stakeholders included government (UK and other), private company, sustainable business association, national entity responsible for creating the conducive environment including regulations, technical solutions, infrastructure and partnerships, law firm, advisory, and NGO.

This mix of stakeholders highlights the diverse nature of the event, bringing together key players across the clean energy ecosystem.



Plenary and Breakout Sessions

The A2D Facility annual event was hosted at the Hyatt Regency Nairobi Westlands, a modern conference facility that provided an excellent venue for networking and collaboration. The venue offered multiple versatile spaces, including spacious plenary rooms for large group sessions and intimate breakout rooms that facilitated focused discussions and working groups.

The sessions were designed with varied formats to encourage different types of engagement and interaction. This included classroom-style

setups for plenaries and presentations, theatre configurations for panel discussions, cabaret-style arrangements to promote table discussions, and innovative fishbowl setups that encouraged dynamic audience participation. This diversity in session design allowed for a balance between formal learning and collaborative exchange.

In addition to structured sessions, the event included regular networking opportunities aimed at fostering meaningful connections among participants. Coffee breaks throughout the day offered informal settings for continued conversation and relationship building.

Participants engaging in roundtable discussions



Participants engaging in breakout session



Participants engaging in fishbowl discussion



Participants interacting during the coffee break



Site Visit

As part of the annual event, a site visit was organized for 22 May, offering participants a choice between two locations: **Kiru Tea Factory** and **Olkaria V Geothermal Power Station**. The site visits were designed to give participants first-hand exposure to innovative climate technologies in Kenya.

At **Kiru Tea Factory**, participants explored how decarbonizing the tea industry can strengthen both livelihoods and local economies. The project demonstrated an innovative low carbon gasification technology at a tea factory in Kenya to enhance energy efficiency, reduce emissions and cut costs, showcasing the role of industrial decarbonization in a key export sector.

Participants at Kiru Tea Factory



At **Olkaria V Geothermal Power Station**, the focus turned to energy security through clean power. Participants witnessed how smart energy management systems and geothermal innovation are improving operational efficiency and supporting Kenya's transition to a low-carbon future.

Participants at Olkaria V Geothermal Power Station



Evening Receptions

Three evening receptions were held during the event, offering participants valuable opportunities to connect and network in an informal and social

setting. The receptions on 19 and 20 May took place at the District 6 Sports Bar, located within the Hyatt Regency. The final reception was held on Wednesday, 21 May, at the Nyama Choma Ranch at the Safari Park Hotel and Casino.

Opening Remarks at the Evening Reception



Feedback Survey

A post-event feedback survey was conducted to assess participant satisfaction and gather insights to enhance future events. The survey covered multiple dimensions including session content, networking opportunities, logistics, and site visits. With a 77% response rate, the results indicate an overwhelmingly positive reception.

Respondents Profile

The survey reflected a well-balanced respondent profile, achieving near-optimal gender representation with 46.8% female and 53.2% male respondents. In terms of organizational

roles, 47% held executive level positions such as CEOs, directors, or CFOs, while 36% were project managers or technical experts, and the remaining 17% represented areas such as gender inclusion, communications, environmental policy, and consulting, indicating a diverse, cross-functional mix.

Thematically, participants were primarily focused on industrial decarbonization and smart energy (each 30.9%), followed by clean hydrogen (21.6%) and critical minerals (16.5%), with additional representation in areas like circular economy, land management and green agriculture. 54.5% of respondents identified themselves as project developers or solution providers, followed

by industry associations/energy utilities and multilateral organizations (both 13%), financiers (5.2%) and adopters/off-takers (3.9%).

Key Findings

- **High Satisfaction:** 94.8% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the event.
- **Relevance of Content:** 97.4% found the session topics relevant or highly relevant to their work.
- **Networking Opportunities:** 98.6% were satisfied with the networking opportunities, indicating the event was effective in fostering professional connections.
- **New Partnerships or Project Opportunities:** 80.5% reported initiating or identifying new partnerships or project opportunities.
- **Interest in the second call-for-proposals:** 66.2% expressed interest in applying for the second A2D Facility call-for-proposals, with 20.8% still considering it.
- **83.3% rated the visits as interesting and relevant,** both of which were praised for their educational value. Participants appreciated seeing practical applications of clean energy.

Areas of Improvement

Participants provided constructive feedback highlighting several areas for improvement to enhance future events. Attendees recommended clearer and more detailed advance communication on logistics and session

agendas to better support preparation. While the variety of concurrent sessions was appreciated, participants suggested scheduling adjustments and session recordings to reduce overlap and increase accessibility. There was strong interest in more interactive formats, including extended Q&A periods, short pitches from innovators, and deeper engagement with climate investors. To broaden participation, respondents called for greater involvement of private industry, more local representation, and options for virtual attendance.

Looking ahead, participants proposed dedicated matchmaking sessions and continued networking through webinars, regional follow-up events, and rotating host locations to sustain momentum and collaboration beyond the event.

Conclusion

The Accelerating Climate Innovation: A2D Facility Annual Event 2025 successfully convened a diverse community of global stakeholders committed to accelerating climate innovation in developing countries. Through engaging sessions, innovative session formats, impactful site visits, and robust networking opportunities, the event fostered knowledge exchange, collaboration, and highlighted tangible pathways to scale the implementation of demonstration projects across its thematic areas of focus. The overwhelmingly positive feedback highlighted the value of the event's dynamic design and collaborative spirit. The insights gathered through participant feedback will help shape future events, ensuring the A2D Facility continues to accelerate the commercialization of innovative climate solutions in developing countries.

ANNEXES

Feedback Survey

A feedback survey was created and distributed to all conference participants to assess their satisfaction with the event and collect insights to improve future events. The survey questions are listed below:

1. Email
2. Full Name
3. Gender
4. What is the name of your organisation?
5. What is your role within the organisation?
6. Select your area of focus
 - a. Critical minerals
 - b. Clean hydrogen
 - c. Smart energy
 - d. Industrial decarbonization
 - e. Other
7. Select the type of stakeholder you represent.
 - a. Project developer/Solution provider
 - b. Adopter/Off-taker
 - c. Financier
 - d. Industry association/Energy utility
 - e. Multilateral and international organizations
 - f. Other
8. How satisfied were you with the conference?
9. How relevant were the topics covered to your work?
10. How satisfied were you with the networking opportunities at the conference?
11. Have you identified or initiated any new partnerships or project opportunities as a result of the event?
12. How satisfied were you with the event management and logistics? (e.g. venue, communication and staff support)
13. Which session(s) did you find the most informative and relevant?
 - a. Opening Plenary
 - b. Smart Energy in Action: Demonstrating Pilot Innovations and Pathways to Scale
 - c. Accelerating progress towards SDG 9 on Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure through Hydrogen Innovation
 - d. Global and Regional overview of Critical Minerals
 - e. Smart Energy Synergies: A World Café of Collective Insight and Regional Innovation
 - f. Catalysing Clean Hydrogen Commercialisation: Insights from UNIDO and H2Global Foundation
 - g. Measuring Innovation and Transformational Change in Climate Action
 - h. Innovative financing mechanisms for demonstration projects
 - i. Challenges in Technological Innovation in Critical Minerals and Success Stories
 - j. Safeguards for Scale: De-risking the Clean Energy Transition through Environmental and Social Standards
 - k. On the Ground: Showcasing Joint Efforts Driving Industrial Decarbonization in Developing Economies

- l. Investing in Inclusion: Gender Lens Innovation for a Just Energy Transition
 - m. Mini- Industrial Decarbonization Accelerator Lab: Designing Climate Solutions in Real Time
 - n. How to participate in UNIDO Call-for-Proposals – Information Session for interested grant applicants
 - o. Closing Plenary
14. Are you interested in applying for the second call for proposals?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Maybe
15. Any other feedback you would like to share?
16. Which site visit did you attend?
- a. Kiru Tea Factory
 - b. Olkaria V Geothermal Power Station
 - c. None

17. How interesting and relevant was the site visit for you?
18. Is there any other feedback on the site visit or on the event that you would like to share with us?

Feedback Survey Results

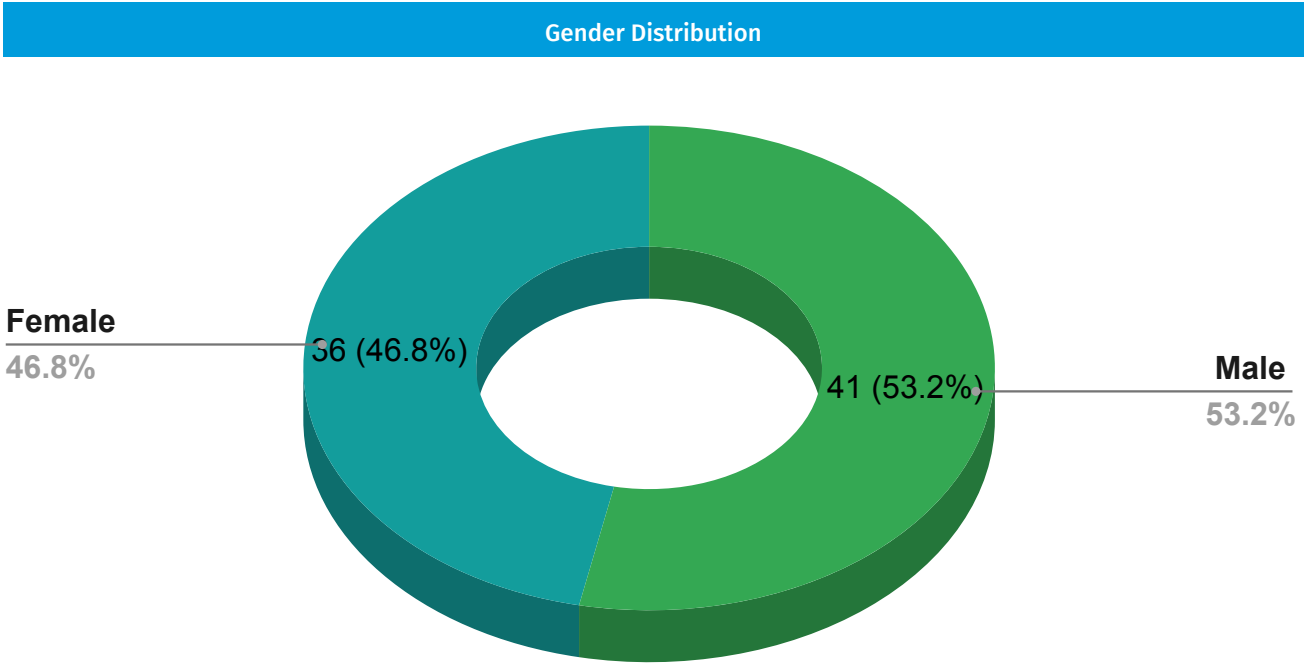
Overview

77 out of 100 conference participants responded to the survey representing a response rate of **77%**. The responses offer valuable insights into various aspects of the conference, including session content, event logistics, and site visits.

There remains room for improvement in response rates to ensure even more comprehensive feedback for future event planning.

Gender Representation

Among the respondents, **36** were **female (46.8%)** and **41** were **male (53.2%)**, reflecting a near optimal gender balance.

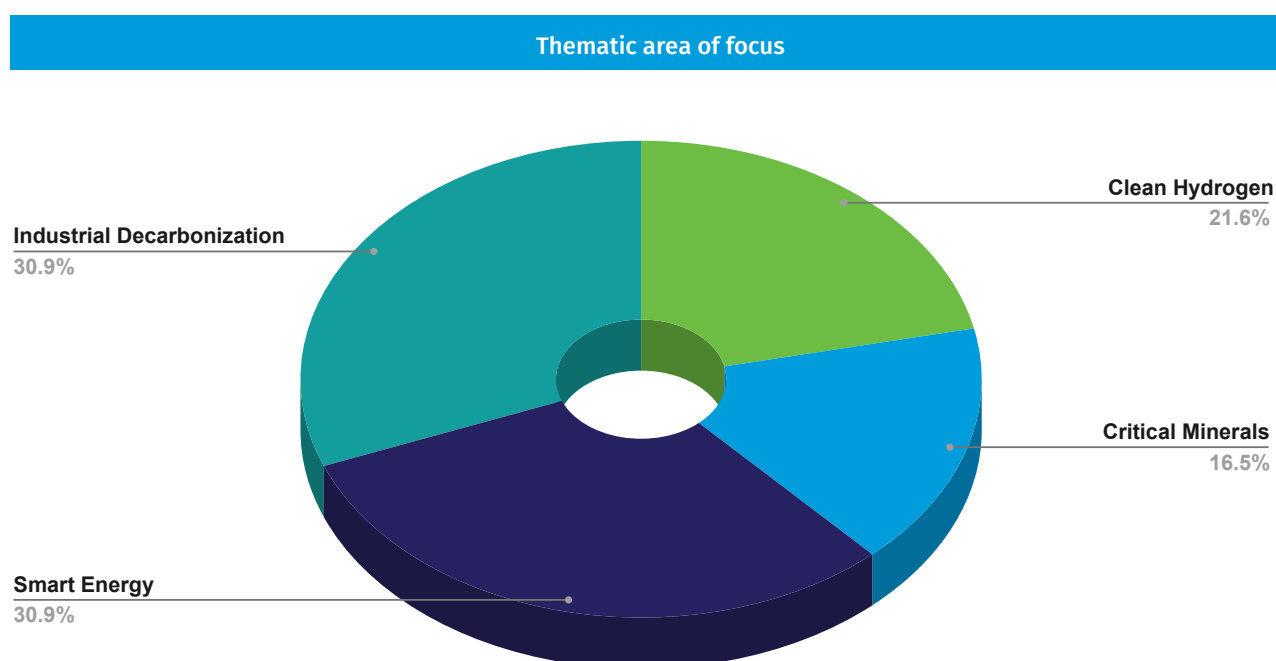


Role within the organisation

The respondents' roles reflected a cross-sectoral mix, with strong representation from senior leadership, project management, and technical experts. Executives (CEOs, CFOs, Directors) made up approximately **47%**, followed by project managers and technical experts at **36%** highlighting the hands-on involvement in implementation and scaling of demonstration projects. **17%** held roles in gender inclusion, communications, consulting and environmental & climate action working groups.

Thematic area of focus

The majority of respondents indicated their areas of work are focused on **industrial decarbonization and smart energy**, each accounting for **30.9%**. Around **21.6%** reported working in **clean hydrogen**, while **16.5%** are focused on **critical minerals**. Additionally, several respondents highlighted focus in other areas such as land management, circular economy, and green agriculture.

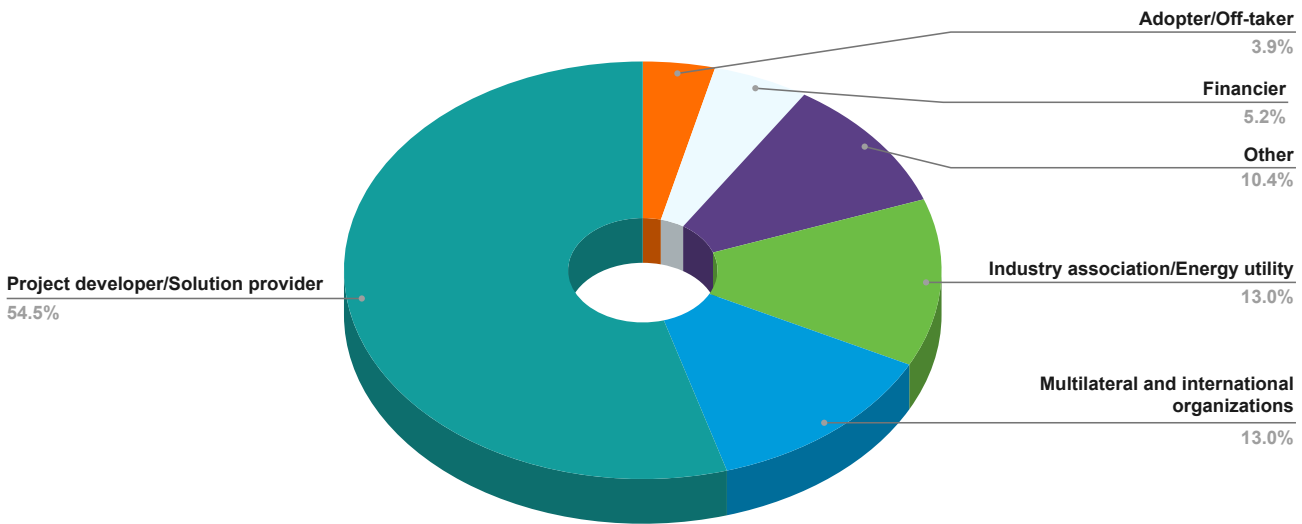


Type of Stakeholder

The majority of respondents (**54.5%**) identified as **project developers or solution providers**, indicating a strong presence of technical and implementation focused stakeholders. This was followed by **industry associations and energy utilities (13.0%)** and **multilateral and international organizations (13.0%)**, reflecting solid institutional and sectoral engagement.

Financiers made up **5.2%** of respondents, while **adopters/off-takers were the least represented at 3.9%**, presenting an opportunity to engage more end-users in future events. The remaining **10.4%** of respondents classified as **"other"** included public funder, advisor, HMG, solution provider/technology developer (with industry), government, private sector companies and A2D Facility clean hydrogen partners.

Select the type of stakeholder you represent

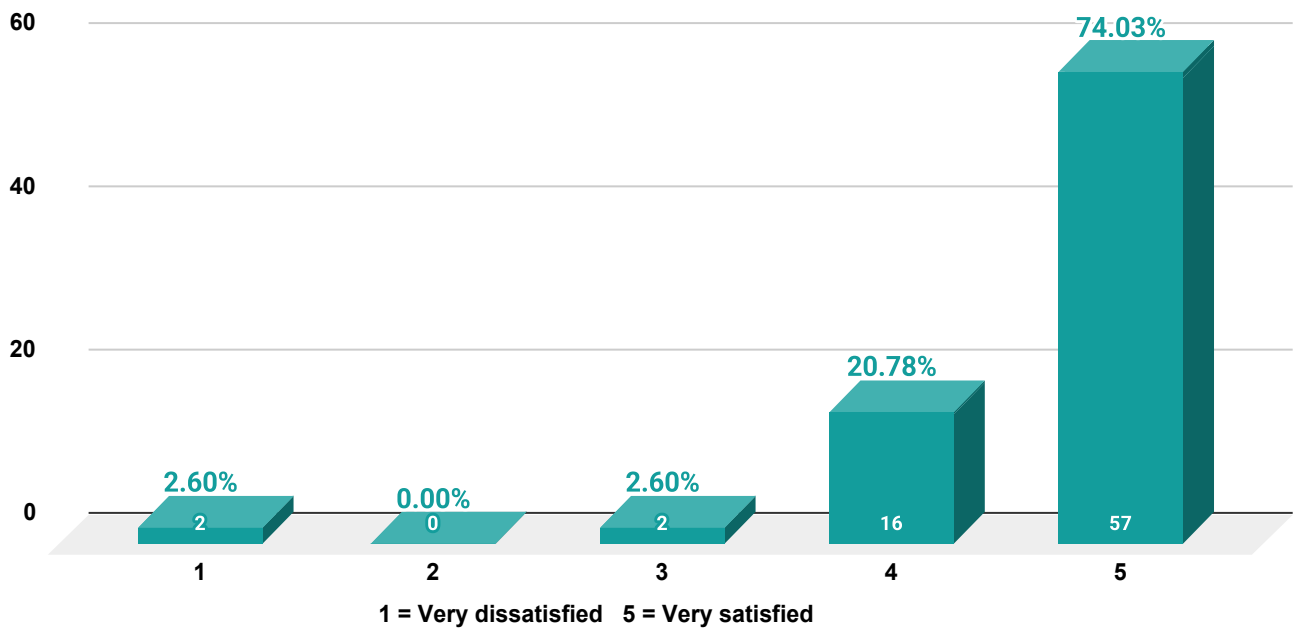


How satisfied were you with the conference?

Overall, participant satisfaction with the conference was overwhelmingly positive. A significant **94.8%** of respondents indicated they

were either **very satisfied** or **satisfied**. Only **5.2%** of participants **gave neutral or dissatisfied ratings**. These results reflect a strong level of satisfaction and positive engagement among attendees.

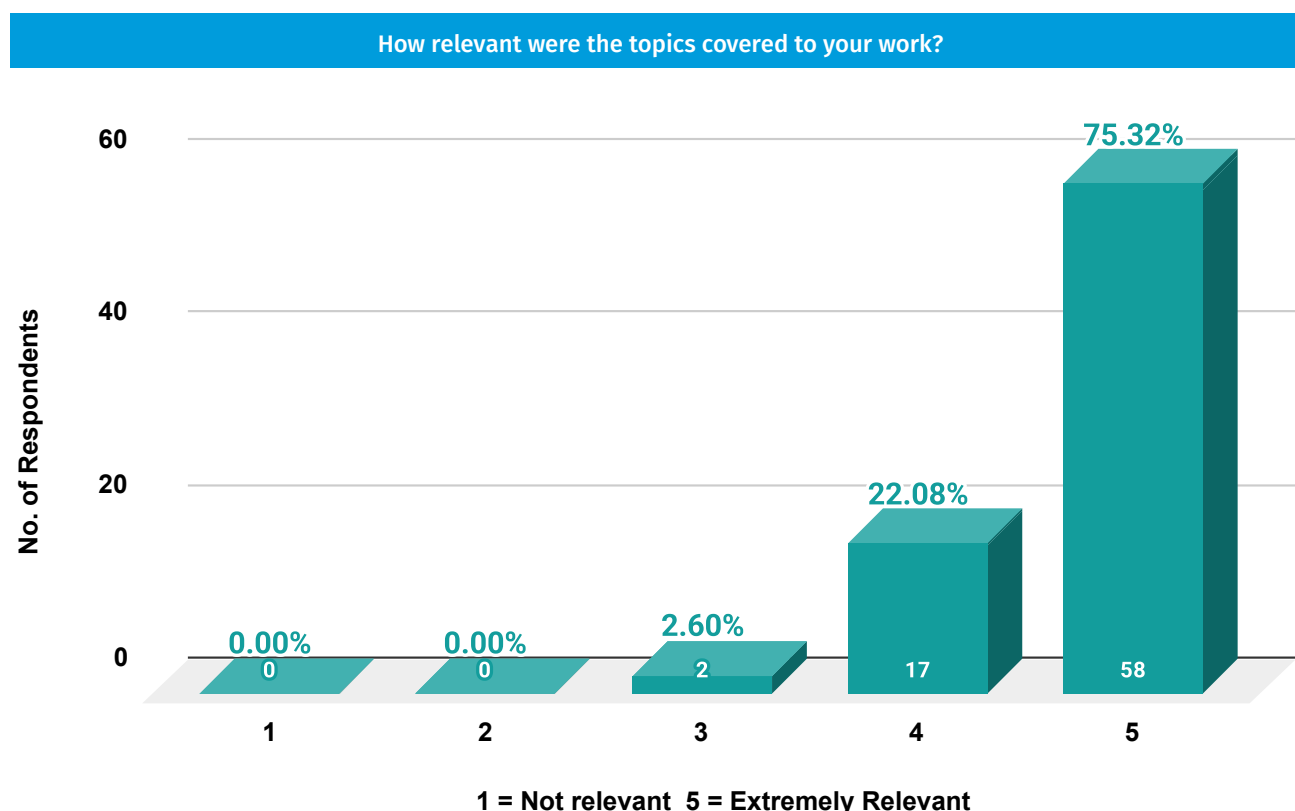
How satisfied were you with the conference?



How relevant were the topics covered to your work?

Participants found the conference topics highly relevant to their work. An overwhelming **97.4%** rated the session topics as either **very relevant**

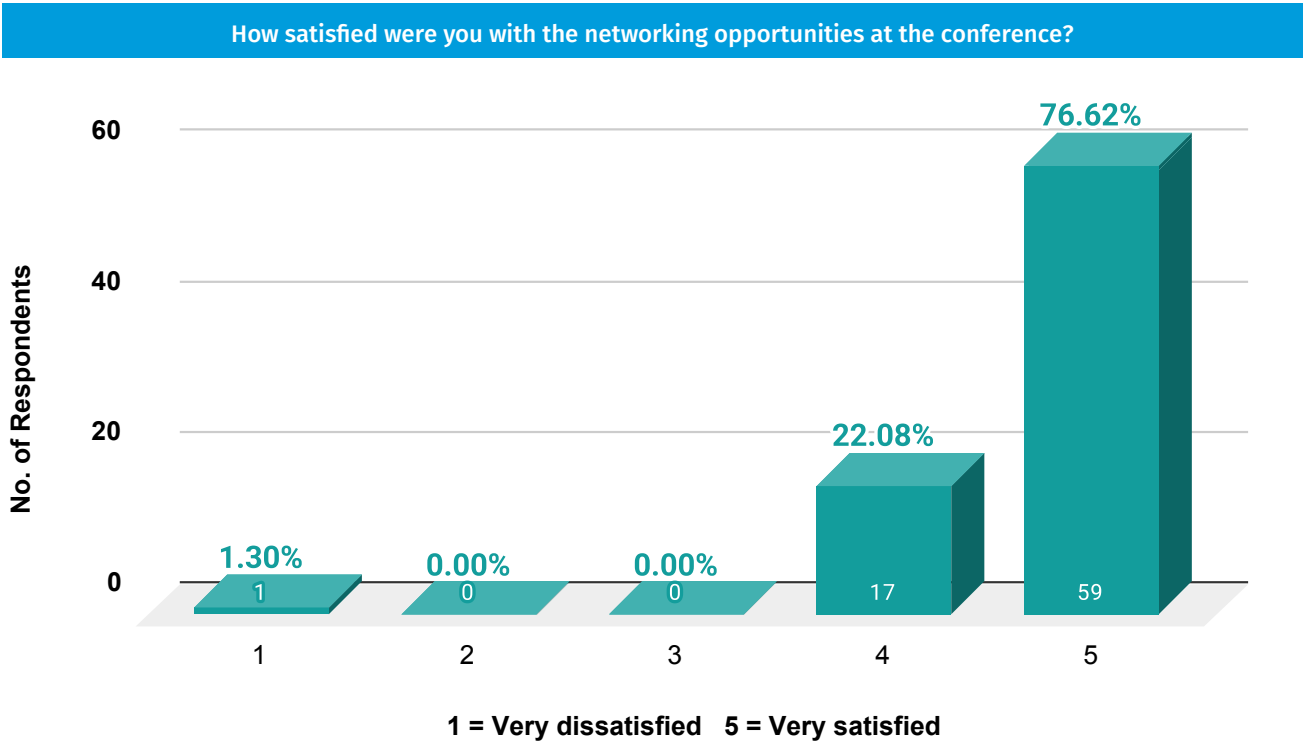
or **relevant**. Only **2.6%** of respondents gave a **neutral rating** and **none** found the topics **irrelevant**. These results indicate that the event successfully addressed topics of direct importance and interest to the majority of attendees' thematic areas.



How satisfied were you with the networking opportunities at the conference?

Participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the networking opportunities at the conference. A strong **76.6%** rated

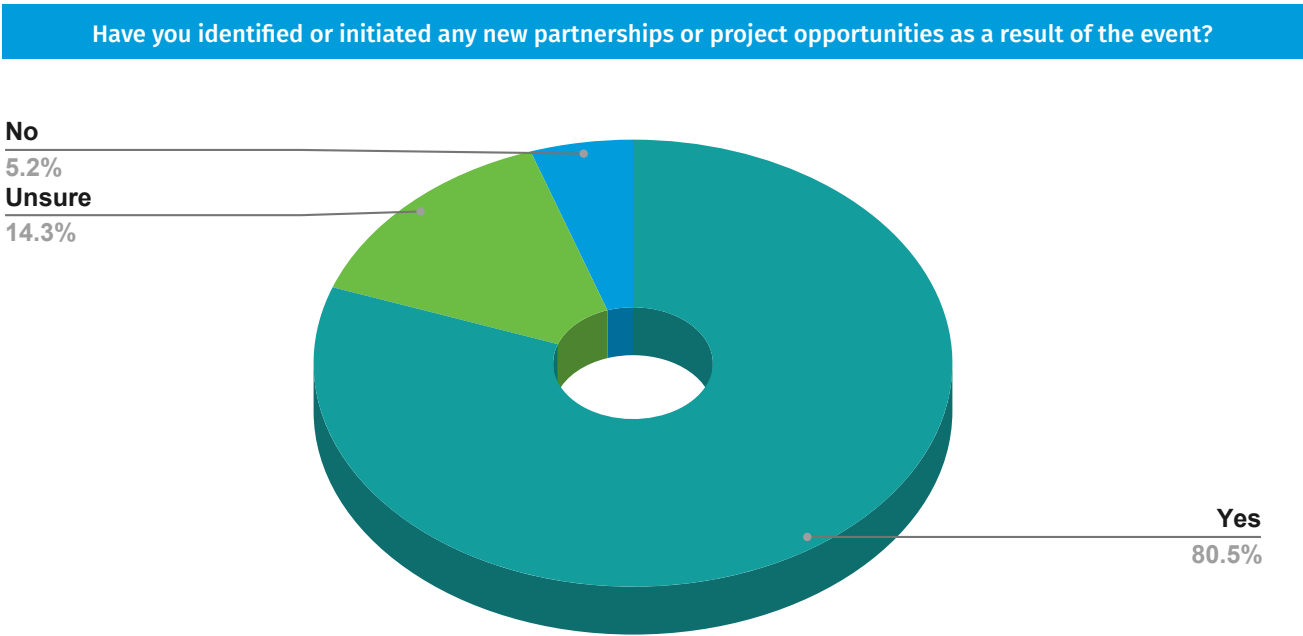
their experience as **very satisfied**, while **22%** were **satisfied**. Only one respondent gave a dissatisfied rating underscoring the event's success in fostering meaningful professional connections.



Have you identified or initiated any new partnerships or project opportunities as a result of the event?

The event proved to be a strong catalyst for collaboration, with **80.5%** of participants

indicating that they had **identified or initiated new partnerships or project opportunities** as a result of the event. **Only 5.2% reported no new partnerships**, while **14.3% were unsure**, suggesting potential for future follow up and engagement to support emerging opportunities.

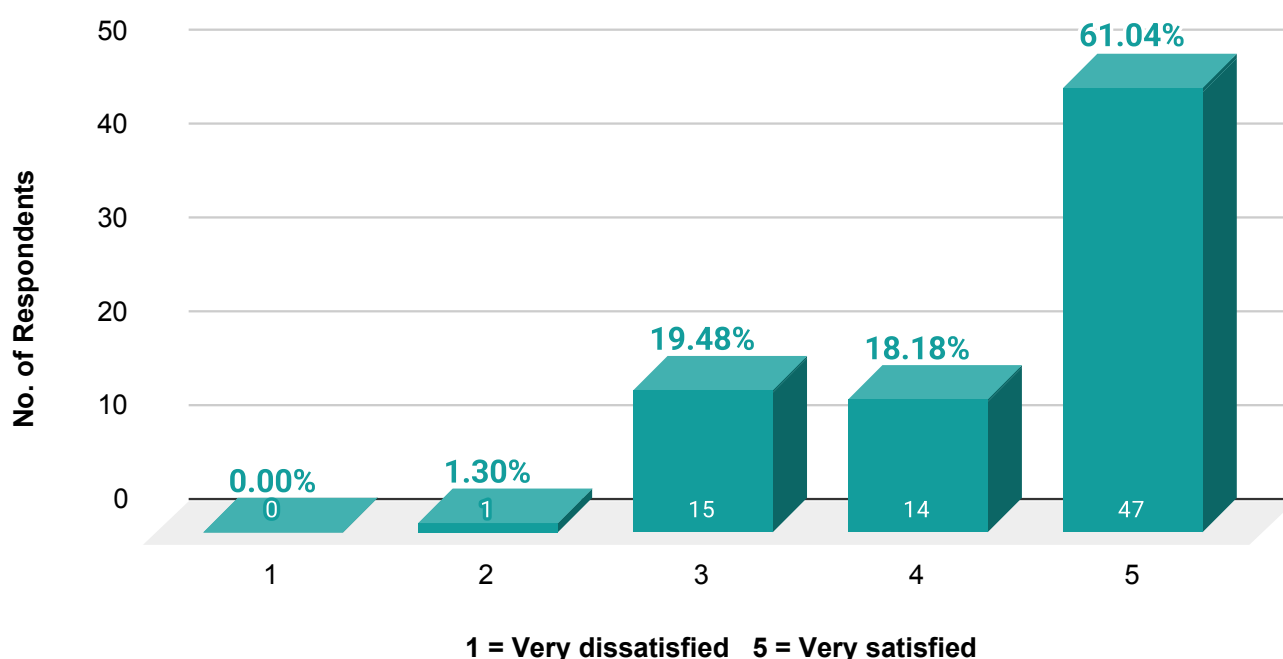


How satisfied were you with the event management and logistics? (e.g. venue, communication and staff support)

Overall, **79.2%** of participants reported being **very satisfied or satisfied** with the event management and logistics, highlighting a strong

positive experience. **19.4%** gave a neutral rating, while **only 1.3% expressed dissatisfaction**, and **no respondents were very dissatisfied**. These results reflect a generally positive reception, with room for continued improvement in logistical execution in future events.

How satisfied were you with the event management and logistics? (e.g. venue, communication and staff support)

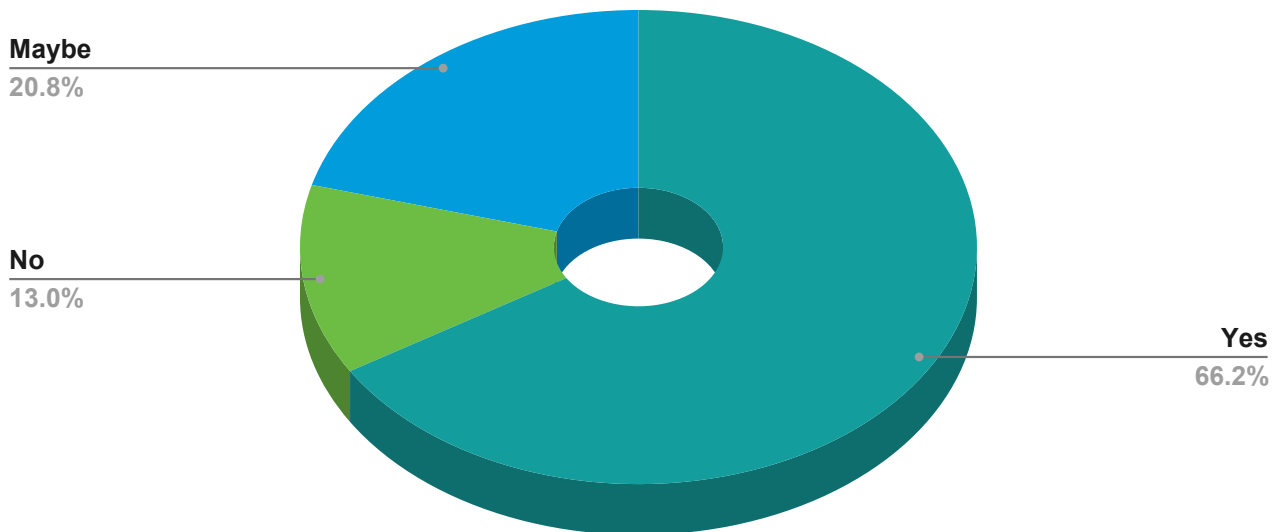


Are you interested in applying for the second call for proposals?

A strong majority of participants (**66.2%**) expressed clear interest in applying for the A2D Facility's second call-for-proposals, reflecting enthusiasm for the support and opportunities offered. Additionally, **20.8% responded with**

maybe, indicating that while they are not yet fully committed, they are considering applying. **Only 13% indicated they were not interested** in applying at this time. This mix of responses highlights a promising level of interest, with many participants actively exploring the possibility of application.

Are you interested in applying for the second call for proposals?



Any other feedback you would like to share?

Overall Positive Reception

- The event was widely praised as well-organized, inspiring, and informative, with many participants describing it as a “great event,” “excellent,” and “very insightful.”
- Attendees appreciated the diversity of speakers and nationalities, the opportunities for networking, and the inclusion of site visits.
- The event format encouraged learning and connection, with some participants highlighting the accelerator lab and interactive sessions as particularly effective.
- The venue and event coordination received considerable praise, with participants expressing appreciation for the seamless organization and the dedication of UNIDO and the organizing team (Event Designers Ltd.) in creating such a valuable experience.

Areas for Improvement

Logistics and Communication

- Participants provided valuable insights for future event planning, including suggestions for enhanced advance communication regarding logistics and session details. Some attendees expressed interest in receiving more detailed session agendas in advance to better prepare for their participation.
- Feedback indicated opportunities to streamline communication processes, particularly around scheduling and timing notifications.

Session Scheduling and Content

- Attendees appreciated the variety of concurrent sessions offered. However they noted the challenge of choosing between sessions and suggested potential scheduling adjustments to maximize participation across sessions of interest.
- A few recommended recording sessions to accommodate diverse schedules and ensure broader access to content.

- Some participants requested additional sessions on lessons learned, best practices, and showcases of successful past A2D Facility projects.
- Suggestions were made for short pitches from innovators and more engagement with climate investors.
- Participants expressed strong interest in extended Q&A periods during panels, reflecting their high level of engagement with the content and speakers.
- Participants expressed strong interest in maintaining the valuable connections established during the event through continued community engagement. Suggestions included webinars, regional follow-up meetings, and rotating event locations across regions such as South America, Europe, and Asia.

Site Visit Survey

In order to collect targeted insights on the site visits, a dedicated feedback survey was disseminated to participants via email following the event.

24 participants submitted feedback on the site visit, representing a **33.8% response rate** among all site visit attendees.

Which site visit did you attend?

Out of the total participants, **40 (33.6%) attended the Kiru Tea Factory visit**, while **31 (26.1%)** joined the **Olkaria V Geothermal Power Station** visit. The remaining **48 participants (40.3%) did not attend either site visit**. The **attendance rate of 59.7%** reflects strong interest in practical, hands-on learning experiences, where participants actively engage with real world climate innovation projects.

There was strong interest in the Kiru Tea Factory visit; however, participation was capped at 40 attendees in accordance with the factory's maximum capacity limits.

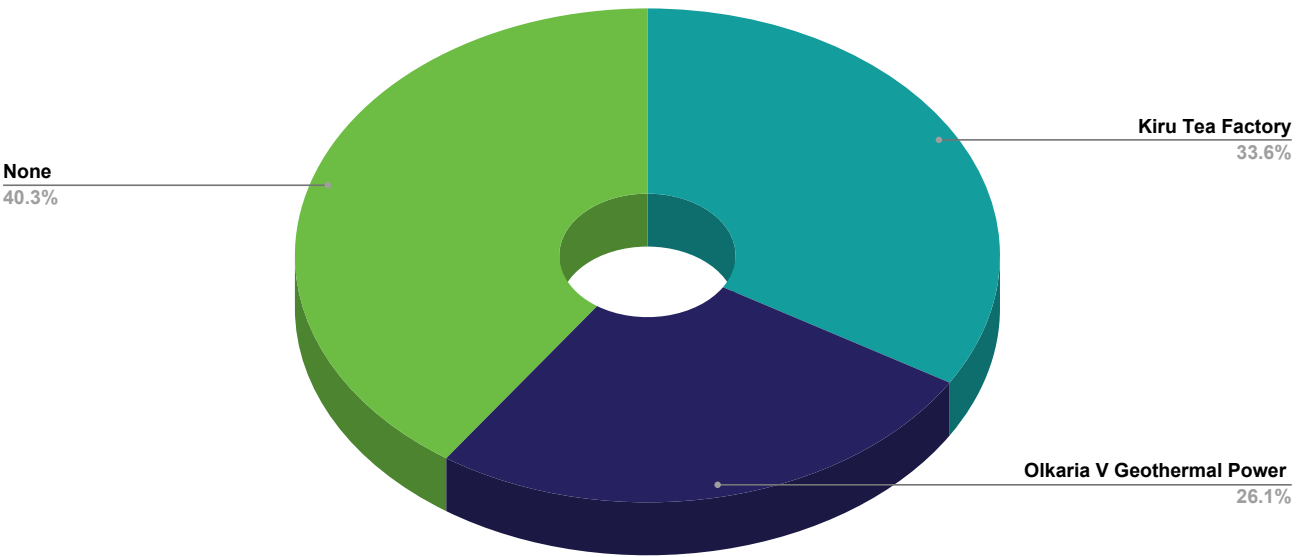
Engagement and Participation

- Some participants suggested increasing private industry participation, noting corporations as great partners.
- Calls for more local participants and the option for online attendance to broaden accessibility.

Future Event Suggestions

- Dedicated matchmaking sessions to connect attendees for potential project collaborations and scale-up initiatives.
- Inclusion of monitoring and evaluation of demonstration projects as a session topic.
- To support post event networking, one participant suggested sharing contact information for conference attendees.

Which site visit did you attend?

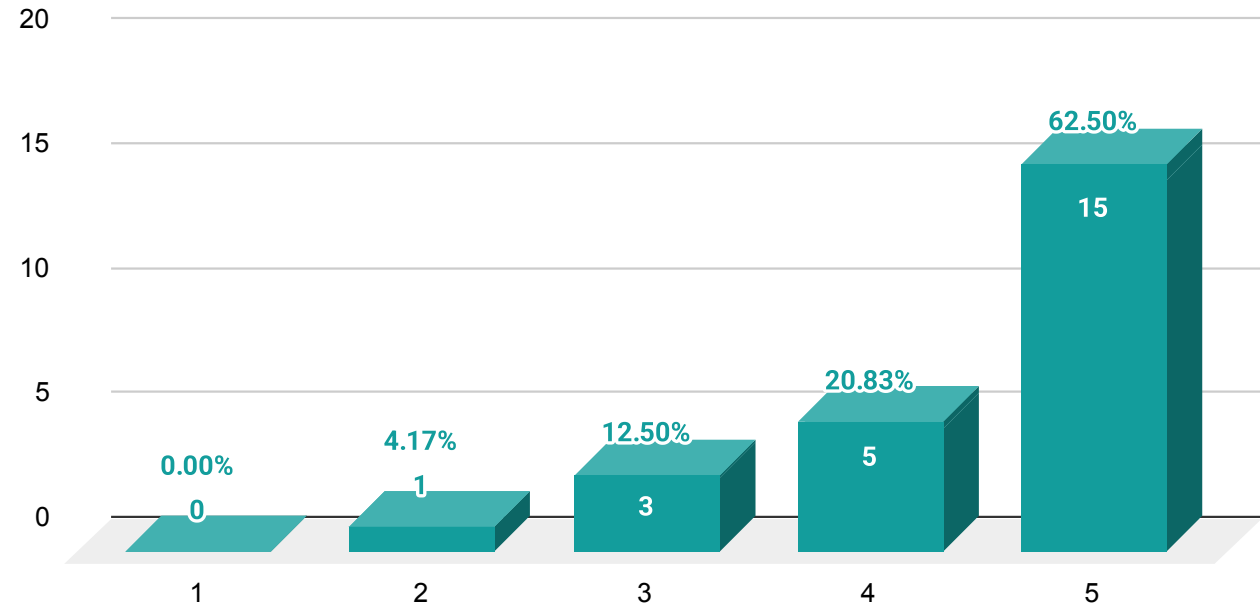


How interesting and relevant was the site visit for you?

Overall, **83.3%** of participants rated the site visit as either **very interesting and relevant** or **interesting and relevant**, while **12.5%** gave a

neutral rating. Only one respondent rated it as not interesting and relevant. These results indicate strong positive engagement with the site visits, underscoring their value as practical and informative learning experiences.

How interesting and relevant was the site visit for you?



1= Not interesting and relevant 5= Very interesting and relevant

Is there any other feedback on the site visit or on the event that you would like to share with us?

Kiru Tea Factory

- The site visit was described as insightful, well-organized, and educational.
- Participants appreciated seeing firsthand how sustainability, innovation, and social inclusion are integrated into local industry operations.
- The visit highlighted both technical production processes and the social and environmental impacts, particularly supporting smallholder farmers and women workers.
- It was viewed as a practical extension of the A2D Facility Annual Event's themes, demonstrating community driven solutions and clean energy practices.
- The experience deepened participants' understanding of the tea production process and enhanced their appreciation

for Kenyan tea and its contribution to local livelihoods.

- Several participants also appreciated the warm hospitality of the hosts.

Olkaria V Geothermal Power Station

- The visit was regarded as an informative and valuable learning experience.
- Participants noted that the visit helped increase their knowledge of gender equality and social inclusion.
- Participants provided constructive feedback to optimize the site visit experience. One participant suggested adding a portable speaker system, as some parts of the tour were difficult to hear, which would help ensure all attendees can clearly follow the discussions throughout the visit.
- Another participant observed that the extensive Q&A session caused some delay in the tour, suggesting that it be scheduled after the tour.



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