

ABSTRACT

Green hydrogen has been gaining momentum globally for its promising contribution to climate change mitigation. The Philippines is exploring the technology for its potential to address the nexus of energy security, decarbonization, and energy transition. While hydrogen activities and local hydrogen studies have emerged in recent years, there is limited discussion on the different stakeholder groups involved and how they can drive the market forward considering varying interests and priorities.

This research employed a qualitative study approach, utilizing theories on stakeholder salience, actor-network theory, and network of influence, implementing thematic analysis to identify the stakeholders involved, examining their salience attributes and perspectives, and exploring the relationships within the green hydrogen economy network to understand how to facilitate its development. Data gathered from 17 experts through semi-structured in-depth interviews revealed major themes on domestic challenges (economic, financing, infrastructural, and legal) and dynamic stakeholder relationships. Stakeholder groups were segmented into primary and secondary where the former involves those who will enable and drive its development and the latter includes stakeholders who form part of the hydrogen energy value chain. The primary stakeholders with higher salience, exhibit a more positive attitude towards green hydrogen vis-a-vis the latter as they passively anticipate green hydrogen's local commercialization. Regardless, both groups expect the triple helix, led by the government, to collaboratively build an enabling business environment for green hydrogen to be palatable for the private sector, specifically the conglomerates, as they are expected to drive it forward considering a highly liberalized and privatized power market.

The study also revealed a time horizon of ten to twenty years that might potentially be hampered by other government priorities. Recommendations include addressing foundational aspects that will reinforce the succeeding practical strategies to holistically develop the green hydrogen economy while anticipating its technological maturity.