



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **South Asia Forum meets on Infrastructure Regulation**

**10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010**

**Ms. Purna K. Subedi, Deputy Speaker of Constitution Assembly, Nepal inaugurated the South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) meeting today, the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal. SAFIR is a regional forum representing infrastructure regulators of the South Asian region. It provides platform for sharing of experience and best practices in infrastructure sectors in South Asia. The Steering Committee of SAFIR meets annually by rotation in the Member countries. This year the Nepal had the honour of hosting the SAFIR meeting. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka are the members of SAFIR.**

**Inaugurating the SAFIR meeting, Ms. Purna K. Subedi appreciated the need for organizations like SAFIR for professional guidance to respective Governments on infrastructure issues. Economic development of any country is intrinsically linked to infrastructure development. For a country like Nepal which has unique problems, Deputy Speaker urged, considered thoughts suggesting way forward for overcoming the problems would be welcome. Other dignitaries present in the inaugural session included Mr. Deep Basnet, Secretary, Ministry of Physical Works & Planning, Nepal, Mr. B.K. Man Singh, Chairman, Water Supply Tariff Fixation Commission, Nepal & Chairman, SAFIR and Dr. Pramod Deo, Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India.**

**In its business session, SAFIR deliberated on various proposals for capacity building, new research studies and also chartered out an action plan for the next year for enhanced cooperation on infrastructure related issues. SAFIR also elected new Chairman for the next year. Dr. Pramod Deo, the Central Regulator of India was elected as the Chairman of SAFIR for the next year.**

**The focus of the SAFIR workshop was on green energy. The need for encouragement of green energy was appreciated for the sake of energy security. Fossil fuels are depleting posing challenge to energy security. There is an urgent need in this region to focus on encouragement of green energy.**

**The position paper on Green Energy prepared by SAFIR Secretariat was presented and discussed and it was decided to commission further detailed study in collaboration with multi lateral agencies. The detailed study will suggest the measures required for each country to overcome the issues and barriers that face the renewable energy sector, keeping in the view the socio-economic and political conditions of each such country.**

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