

**MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION**

**Date: 10.5.2018**

**Venue: Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, South Asia Forum of Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) & Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL). He extended a warm welcome to all members of the Executive Committee (EC). List of participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Saliya Mathew thanked the Chairman, Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission for hosting the 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of the SAFIR. While expressing satisfaction with the progress made by SAFIR in the area of regulatory capacity building in the region, he felt that the same will also continue in future to make significant impact on infrastructure regulation.

He stated that although regulatory framework could be established in the areas of electricity and telecom, it is important to extend the same to the other infrastructure areas due to inherent problems being faced by those sectors. He felt that SAFIR could play an important role by providing suitable platform to promote infrastructure regulation in other industries such as petroleum, water, ports, railway, toll roads, etc. While expressing the need for identifying appropriate strategies in this direction, he suggested for holding regional

workshops for officials in other industries to acquire fair knowledge and awareness on regulatory frameworks.

He shared his vision for SAFIR to contribute significantly for the development of South Asian Region in promoting infrastructure regulation. He once again extended his gratitude to BERC for hosting the event.

Thereafter, the Executive Committee took the Agenda Items for discussion and decision.

**Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at Weligama, Sri Lanka**

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting and Action Taken Report as circulated were confirmed.

**Agenda 2: Outstanding membership fee from the members of SAFIR for the earlier financial years.**

The Committee noted the efforts made by SAFIR Secretariat towards eliciting response from the Members who have not been paying their Membership fee. The Committee observed that further efforts should be made by the Secretariat by establishing initial contacts and thereafter exploring the possibility of visiting the offices of Member Organizations to ensure their continued support to SAFIR.

### **Agenda 3: Commissioning of new study under SAFIR**

The Committee considered the topics proposed by the SAFIR Secretariat for commissioning studies. The Committee after detailed deliberation decided that studies on the following two topics might be commissioned.

1. Cross Border Trade in Electricity
2. Regulatory interventions for Grid discipline and Grid reliability in South Asian region

The Committee noted that the SAFIR Working Group (comprising one representative from each member country) has been mandated to work on knowledge sharing and addressing cross cutting energy / electricity regulatory issues and Capacity building in South Asia. Hence, ECM directed that the SAFIR Working Group could take up the task of working on studies on the above topics.

The Committee also directed the SAFIR Secretariat to explore the possibility of associating with multilateral funding agencies such as Asian Development Bank for financial support for conducting studies on subjects related to areas of infrastructure.

### **Agenda 4: Next meeting of SAFIR Executive Committee and Steering Committee**

The Committee decided to convene the next Executive Committee Meeting at Bhutan during the month of November, 2018 and the Steering Committee Meeting in New Delhi, India during the month of April 2019.

It was also decided that whenever any Steering Committee Meeting is held in New Delhi, India, the organizations of India represented in the Steering Committee shall make their own arrangements for stay and travel and SAFIR shall not reimburse such costs.

#### **Agenda 5: Future Plans of SAFIR**

The Committee noted that the previous 'Infrastructure Conference was conducted by SAFIR in January 2016 in association with IRADe/ USAID on “Sustainable Development of Power Sector and Enhancement of Electricity Trade in the South Asian Region: Policy, Regulatory Issues/Challenges and way forward”. It was decided that SAFIR Secretariat may explore the possibility of holding the next Infrastructure Conference in India, in association with IRADe or such other funding agency.

The Committee noted the efforts made by SAFIR Secretariat so as to hold the next SAFIR Core Course in India.

Shri P.K. Pujari, Chairperson, CERC, India thanked the officials of BEREC for their painstaking efforts in conducting the ECM and also the officials and staff

of BEREC and the SAFIR Secretariat for their arduous efforts in organizing the meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

\*\*\*

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
1	Mr. Saliya Mathew	Chairperson	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
2	Mr. Pradeep Kumar Pujari	Chairperson	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
3	Mr. Samdrup K Thinley	CEO	Bhutan Electricity Authority	Bhutan
4	Mr. Monowar Islam	Chairperson	Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
5	Mr. Sanoj Kumar Jha	Secretary	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
6	Dr. Sushanta Kumar Chatterjee	Joint Chief (Regulatory Affairs)	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India