



MINUTES OF THE 16TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION

Date: 22.11.2018

Venue: Hotel Taj Tashi, Thimphu, Bhutan

The 16th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) of South Asia forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) was chaired by Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, SAFIR & Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) and attended by members of Executive Committee of SAFIR. The list of participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

Mr. Arun Kumar, Assistant Secretary, SAFIR introduced all the member participants and updated the members on the successful conduct of the previous ECM at Dhaka on 10th May, 2018.

Mr. Monowar Islam, Chairperson, BEREC, thanked all the members for having participated in the 15th ECM held at Dhaka. He also emphasized on the importance of SAFIR and its geo-political significance in South-Asia. He underlined the fact that in spite of having a huge potential, the per-capita consumption of South Asia is lowest among the developing countries. He also expressed deep concern towards the thin attendance in the meetings of SAFIR and the membership withdrawal applications received by the SAFIR secretariat.

Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson SAFIR & PUCSL also reiterated the same concerns regarding the membership withdrawal and directed SAFIR Sectt to ensure there is active participation by member countries in the ECMs.

Thereafter the Executive Committee took up the agenda items for discussion and decision.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 15th Executive Committee Meeting and Action taken report

The minutes of the 15th Executive Committee Meeting were confirmed as circulated.



Agenda 2: Outstanding Membership fee from the members of SAFIR for the previous financial years

The Committee noted the efforts made by the SAFIR secretariat to establish communications with the member countries and pursue their efforts to strengthen SAFIR. The Committee further noted that both Nepal and Pakistan, the existing members should be contacted and pursued to attend the meetings. The committee further emphasise to establish inter-ministerial level talks between the member nations for strengthening the foundation of SAFIR and to avoid the roadblocks such as visa clearances. The committee directed the SAFIR secretariat to establish contact with Afghanistan as it is part of the South Asian region.

Agenda 3: Status Update of Activities of the SAFIR Working Group

The representatives of IRADe made a presentation on status update of the Working Group and the progress of the proposed studies under the same. The highlights of the presentation include:

1. To prepare SAFIR newsletter from a regulator's point of view and to publish it quarterly or bi-annually as decided by the chair.
2. To create a web-portal for accessing the comprehensive data base for the energy sector in the member countries in line with the ASEAN and European Nations.
3. The Terms of References for the studies i.e. a) regulatory intervention on Grid stability and grid Reliability b) Cross-border electricity trade under the working group finalised and circulated to the members.
4. To conduct the capacity building and training program for officials of the Regulatory bodies of the member countries to experience the real-time challenges faced by the system operators.
5. To develop the compendium for the existing energy and electricity regulations which will also capture key laws and policies related to the sector.

The representatives also highlighted the Indian Renewable Energy development which can be case studies for the other SAFIR members to learn. The bidding documents published by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the development of solar and wind projects and



MW scale parks could be a starting point for other countries to make steps towards development of Renewable Energy in their own countries.

The complete presentation made by the representatives of IRADe is enclosed at **Annexure II**.

Mr. Monowar Islam also briefed about the India, Bhutan, and Bangladesh tripartite agreement for the 1125 MW Dorjilung Hydro Power Project. The project will further strengthen the energy infrastructure in the region as it is the first trilateral cooperation on any energy project. He also emphasised to sensitise on such agreements taking LTS (Laos, Thailand, and Singapore) inter-regional grid connectivity as example.

Agenda 4: Proposal of USAID & CLDP for conducting 2 day workshop

The Committee had in-principally approved for conducting the aforesaid workshop in collaboration with the USAID & CLDP. The committee emphasised on keeping the schedule of the workshop and the 17th ECM & 25th SCM around the same time to make it more convenient for the member organisations to attend both the events.

Agenda 5: Outstanding issues arising from planned activities of SAFIR

The Committee had in-principally approved for conducting the next Infrastructure Conference in collaboration with IRADe and directed the SAFIR secretariat to take necessary action with respect to conduct the infrastructure conference and to confirm the schedule of conference well in advance to make it convenient to attend the same.

The Committee further approved for conducting the 17th Core Course of SAFIR in the month of February, 2019 in collaboration with Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).

The Committee gave the in-principle approval for conducting the 17th ECM & 25th SCM of SAFIR in the month of April, 2019 at New Delhi, India.



Mr. Arun Kumar, Assistant Secretary, SAFIR thanked the officials of member countries for participating in the 16th ECM of SAFIR and expressed gratitude towards the official of BEA for their painstaking efforts in conducting the same.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.



Annexure – I

List of Participants

Sr.No.	Name and Designation	Organisation
1	Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson	SAFIR and PUCSL, Sri Lanka
2	Mr. Monowar Islam, Chairperson	BERC, Bangladesh
3	Mr. Samdrup Thinley, Chief Executive Officer	BEA, Bhutan
4	Mr. Pankaj Batra, Senior Advisor	IRADe, India
5	Mr. Md. Firoz Zaman, Deputy Director	BERC, Bangladesh
6	Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Technical Head	SARI/EI/IRADe, India
7	Mr. Arun Kumar, Assistant Secretary	SAFIR, India