

Chokkanth
5/8/2013

Agenda of 12th SAFIR Core Course, Tulhiriya, Sri Lanka, 5-8 March 2013

Organized by LIRNEasia for the Secretariat of the **South Asian Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR)**

Course directors: Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay (Senior Research Fellow, Center for Policy Research, India & Member Scientific Advisory Council, LIRNEasia) and Dr Rohan Samarajiva (Chair, LIRNEasia & Former Director General of Telecommunication, Sri Lanka)

The course is designed to address the challenges facing member agencies of SAFIR, drawing from the economic principles that underlie the practice of principle as well as the specificities of South Asian politico-economic context. The focus is on actions that may be taken by the regulator, rather than an abstract discussion of regulation. Content is organized on two parallel, intertwining tracks – one focusing on the rationales for regulation and the various factors that affect regulation as currently practiced in the region and the other on strategies for securing the legitimacy of the regulator through customer engagement. The design of the compressed course is based on counterposing concepts and their application and the contrasting of country experience to yield insight.

Programme Schedule

Day 1: March 5

Time	Description of Session	Session Leader(s)
0830-0930	Inaugural session	Members of the SAFIR Executive Committee and Chair PUCSL
0930-1030	Break	
1000-1100	Electricity Sector in Sri Lanka <i>Other than Bhutan, Sri Lanka is the only electricity surplus country in the SAARC region. It has low T&D losses and some of the highest prices in the region. The last load-shedding episode was in mid-2012; this was after a decade of stable supply. This overview session will introduce participants to the factors that have led to these unusual outcomes.</i>	Damitha Kumarasinghe, DG Public Utilities Commission, Bandula Tilakasena, Additional GM, Ceylon Electricity Board, moderated by Dr Rohan Samarajiva, LIRNEasia
1100-1130	Break	
1130-1300	Why Regulate? Weaning or Protecting Consumers <i>This session will begin a series of discussions on related themes of the purpose of regulation. There are two polar narratives that are applied to utility regulation: one is the conventional narrative that comes from developed economies about protecting consumers from the bad outcomes of monopoly; the other is about regulation carving out space from the dysfunctional political context for much needed private investment and professional management. Actual situations will illustrate how this leads to different regulatory practices and the regulator's legitimacy with the different stakeholders. The session will then discuss how regulators can innovate beyond such polarizing objectives</i>	Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay, CPR; Shantanu Dixit, Prayas
1300-1400	Lunch	

Chakraborty
5/3/2013

Time	Description of Session	Session Leader(s)
1400-1530	Consultation, Transparency and Regulatory Legitimacy <i>The tradition of independent regulation is still developing in South Asia. The legislation establishing regulatory agencies were among the first to mandate transparency and consultation in our region. This session will lay out the theoretical and comparative perspectives related to procedural legitimacy. Regulatory agencies exist in a precarious space; having to manage relations with government, regulated utilities and consumers. This session will discuss strategies for managing these relations and lay the foundation for subsequent discussions on public hearings and consumer engagement.</i>	Dr Rohan Samarajiva
1530-1600	Break	
1600-1700	Relations between IPPs, "Single Buyer" and Regulator <i>How the regulator referees the relationships between single buyer distribution/transmission entities and private power producers will be discussed with Sri Lanka representatives. The moderator will draw out the generalizable lessons.</i>	Damitha Kumarasinghe, Bandula Tilakasena, Shaminga Ferdinandusz (AES/Hayleys), moderated by Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay
1700-1830	Public Hearings, Consultations and Dissemination: Practice in the Region <i>The actual practice of conducting public hearings, consultations and using the website in the different countries will be discussed. The session will also discuss the relevance and use of toolkits to benchmark regulatory practice. Course Participants will be invited to share their experiences.</i>	Damitha Kumarasinghe and Shantanu Dixit, moderated by Dr Rohan Samarajiva

Day 2: March 6

Time	Description of Session	Session Leader(s)
0900-1030	Why Regulate? Market Signals vis-à-vis Planning Models <i>A critical element of efficient energy supply management is timely action based on accurate prediction of demand. Big power plants take time to come on stream. If demand is under-predicted, shortages will occur and expensive emergency power and/or load shedding become the only options. If demand is over-predicted, the cost of power may be excessive. Planning models have problems as do market signals. This session will explore how regulators can deal with this fundamental problem.</i>	Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay; Shantanu Dixit
1030-1100	Break	
1100-1230	Staying in Touch with the Consumer: Outreach <i>For sustainable reform, regulatory agencies need to build support for their initiatives among consumers or at least avoid their hostility. The first of two interconnected presentations, this session presents new research on how regulatory agencies can contribute to improving the consumer experience, gaining valuable support for its balancing act with the government and the utilities and for advancing the regulator's broader mandates</i>	Helani Galpaya (LIRNEasia) and Raj Kiran Bilolikar (Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad)
1230	Lunch and departure for Kandy	

Day 3: 7th March

Time	Description of Session	Session Leader(s)
0830-0930	Why Regulate? Ownership and Regulation <i>Ownership structures differ between regulatory domains. In Sri Lanka, all distributors are government owned but there are private generation firms, In India both private and public entities exist in all the three functions of electricity and in other sectors. This session will explore the dynamics that emerge due to different ownership structures.</i>	Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay
0930-1100	Staying in Touch With the Consumer: Engagement <i>The second in a series of sessions will discuss new findings on how regulators can help improve the consumer experience in telecom and electricity and how this can improve the regulatory process. It will also present an actual ongoing case study of consumer engagement by a regulator.</i>	Damitha Kumarasinghe; Helani Galpaya and Raj Kiran Bilolika
1100-1130	Break	
1130-1300	Challenges of Cost-reflective Tariffs: Regional Experience <i>Pretty much everyone agrees that cost-reflective or at least cost-oriented tariffs are the optimal solution, but despite many public commitments in their support, their achievement has been a problem in South Asia. This panel will seek to draw out the commonalities and the differences in how policy makers and regulators have approached the problem in the two countries.</i>	Panel: Dr Tilak Siyambalapitiya (RMA Energy Consultants) and Raj Kiran Bilolika, moderated by Dr. Partha Mukhopadhyay
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1500	Regulatory Predictability <i>How can investors invest in the volatile South Asian environment? Can regulators give them the necessary predictability? Can regulators and policy makers protect investors from their own bad judgment, perhaps caused by the fact that they are "too big to fail"? This provocative session will explore the options that regulators have with reference to real-world examples from different sectors</i>	Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay
1500-1630	Public Consultations and Beyond: Improving Customer Experience <i>Across South Asia, regulators are mandated by law to conduct hearings and consultation and to act transparently. By this time, we know what the theory says and what we actually do. The objective of this session is to collectively explore how we can do better: practical recommendations on how we can make public hearings and consultations serve the overall objectives of regulation better.</i>	Interactive session: moderated by Damitha Kumarasinghe and Dr Rohan Samarajiva
1630-1700	Break	
1700-1730	Valedictory session	Dr Jayatissa Costa, Chair PUCSL

Day 4: March 8: Departures Commence

0800-1000	Course Directors will be available for individual discussion and feedback	Dr Rohan Samarajiva; Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay
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Faculty

Rajkiran V. Bilolikar is Assistant Professor in Energy Area of the Centre for Energy, Environment, Urban Governance and Infrastructure Development of the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad. He is a power sector professional with a MBA degree in Power Management from National Power Training Institute, Ministry of Power, Faridabad. He is a graduate in Electrical, Electronics and Power Engineering from Government Engineering College, Aurangabad and holds a diploma from Centre for Development of Advanced Computers, India. Bilolikar has worked in various capacities on regulatory affairs of Electricity Industry, Tariff analysis, Annual Performance analysis of Power utilities, Techno economic feasibility studies, IT application development in utilities and renewable projects in India. He headed the Energy Team in Andhra Pradesh Technical Consultancy Organization Limited, Hyderabad. He has also worked on 'High voltage distribution system' and 'Single phasing system' in Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited. He was also involved in establishing Customer Facilitation centres and call centres for electricity distribution utilities.

Shantanu Dixit, an Electrical Engineer and MBA, has been working in power sector in the area of analysis and advocacy for nearly two decades. Currently he is Coordinator of the Prayas Energy Group, Pune. He has worked on a range of power sector issues from techno-economic, legal and broader public interest perspectives. His past work includes analysis of power purchase agreements, energy efficiency / DSM, renewable energy, integrated resource plan (IRP) for the state of Maharashtra, agricultural power consumption and subsidy. Since last decade he is actively engaged in issues relating to electricity sector restructuring and regulation. He represents Prayas Energy Group in the Electricity Governance Initiative, which works with several organizations around the world to promote good governance in the electricity sector. He has been a member of several committees, including the Advisory Committee of Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, the Energy Study group for preparation of 11th Five year plan for Maharashtra and working groups formed by Planning Commission of India for development of 12th Five year plan.

Helani Galpaya is LIRNEasia's Chief Executive Officer. Helani leads LIRNEasia's 2012-2014 IDRC funded research on improving customer life cycle management practices in the delivery of electricity and e-government services using ICTs. She recently completed an assessment of how the poor in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka use telecenters to access government services. For UNCTAD and GTZ she authored a report on how government procurement practices can be used to promote a country's ICT sector and for the World Bank/InfoDev Broadband Toolkit, a report on broadband strategies in Sri Lanka. She has been an invited speaker at various international forums on topics ranging from m-Government to ICT indicators to communicating research to policy makers. Prior to LIRNEasia, Helani worked at the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka, implementing the World-Bank funded e-Sri Lanka initiative. Prior to her return to Sri Lanka, she worked in the United States at Booz & Co., Marengo Research, Citibank, and Merrill Lynch. Helani holds a Masters in Technology and Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor's in Computer Science from Mount Holyoke College, USA.

Damitha Kumarasinghe graduated from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, specializing in Electrical Engineering. He earned a Master's Degree in Engineering (M.E.) from the University of New South Wales, Australia, on Electricity Industry Regulation and Restructuring. Further he has a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Colombo. His expertise is in restructuring of infrastructure industries and developing regulatory and legislative frameworks for infrastructure industries and he has been actively involved in developing the regulatory frameworks for the Sri Lanka infrastructure industries during last decade. Presently he is the Director General of the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka. Prior to joining the Commission, he has worked in the private sector and also as a Consultant to the Ministry of Economic Reforms, Science and Technology. He is an invited speaker at international forums on topics ranging from infrastructure regulation, cross border electricity trade, consumer empowerment, and renewable energy. He is also a on the board of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, Sri Lanka Handicraft Board (Laksala) and Condominium Management Authority of Sri Lanka.

Partha Mukhopadhyay, PhD, is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research and a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of LIRNEasia. His last assignment was with the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC), where he was involved in nurturing policy and regulatory frameworks for the flow of private capital into infrastructure projects. Prior to this, he was with Export-Import Bank of India, as the first Director of their Eximius Learning Centre in Bangalore, and before that, with the World Bank, in the Trade Policy Division in Washington. He has been a member of the Expert Committee on ICT for Indian Railways, Government of India and of the Working Group on Roads, National Transport Development Policy Committee and has recently worked with the Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources and the Committee for Consultations on the Situation in Andhra Pradesh. He has also been on the faculty of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad; XLRI, Jamshedpur and is currently on the faculty of the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. His current research interests are in infrastructure, urban development and the development paths of India and China. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from New York University and an M.A. and M.Phil. from the Delhi School of Economics.

Rohan Samarajiva, PhD, is founding Chair of LIRNEasia, an ICT policy and regulation think tank active across emerging Asian and Pacific economies. He was Team Leader at the Sri Lanka Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology (2002-04) responsible for infrastructure reforms, including participation in the design of the USD 83 million e-Sri Lanka Initiative. He was Director General of Telecommunications in Sri Lanka (1998-99), a founder director of the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka (2003-05), Honorary Professor at the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka (2003-04), Visiting Professor of Economics of Infrastructures at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands (2000-03) and Associate Professor of Communication and Public Policy at the Ohio State University in the US (1987-2000). Dr. Samarajiva was also Policy Advisor to the Ministry of Post and Telecom in Bangladesh (2007-09).

Tilak Siyambalapitiya, PhD, graduated from University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, in Electrical Engineering in 1982. He holds a PhD in Electric Power Engineering from University of Cambridge, UK. He initially worked in the Energy Efficiency Task Force of the Ministry of Energy in Sri Lanka. Thereafter for ten years, he worked in the power generation planning divisions of Ceylon Electricity Board in Sri Lanka and in Saudi Arabia. Since 1999, he works as an international energy consultant based in Sri Lanka, and he is a Director of RMA (Pvt) Ltd. He is currently a visiting lecturer at University of Moratuwa. He was the President of Sri Lanka Energy Managers Association from 2004 to 2006. He is a Corporate Member of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka.

Bandula Sirimevan Tilakasena BSc (Eng) Hons. LLB, FIE (Sri Lanka), MIET, MIEEE, graduated from the University of Sri Lanka in 1978. He presently holds the position of Additional General Manager for Corporate Strategy in Ceylon Electricity Board. He served as Chief Engineer of several hydro power plants in Sri Lanka, and has been involved in construction, operation and maintenance of large hydro power plants. He has been in charge of Independent Power procurement for CEB, and directed IPP Project formulation, competitive bidding; negotiation of Power Purchase Agreements for thermal power; financing aspects of independent power projects and procurement of renewable power from small power producers. Furthermore, he had been in-charge of Demand Side Management and Corporate and Regulatory Affairs of the Transmission Division of Ceylon Electricity Board. He served as the Project Director of Trincomalee Coal Power Project, before assuming duties of his present post.