

MINUTES OF THE
TWENTY THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION (SAFIR)

Venue : **“Mantra Hall”**
 Park Hotel
 New Delhi, India

Dates : **12th May, 2017**

The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan, Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)/ SAFIR extended a warm welcome to all members of SAFIR in the twenty third meeting of Steering Committee (SC). He introduced Shri Md. Abdul Aziz Khan, Member of Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission to the SC. The SC thereafter took the following agenda items for consideration.

Agenda Item No. 1:

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 22nd Steering Committee Meeting and Action Taken Report

The Steering Committee endorsed the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January, 2016 at New Delhi, India. The Committee also discussed and noted the Action Taken Report.

Agenda Item No. 2:

Approval and adoption of the Audited Accounts of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2015-2016 and Budget for the F.Y. 2017 -2018.

SAFIR Secretariat explained the salient features of the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year 2015-16 (as per **Annexure-I** of the said Agenda). Chairperson, WBERC enquired on the treatment of Income Tax refund for the A.Y. 2014-15 (Rs.85,370/-) and A.Y. 2015-16 (Rs.4,82,800/-) to which it was clarified that SAFIR is still contesting for exemption under the "Principle of Mutuality" with the Income Tax Authorities, and it is not certain whether SAFIR would get the exemption or not. Therefore, the aforesaid amounts are shown under Current Liabilities. After discussion, the Annual Accounts of SAFIR for the financial year 2015-16 were considered and adopted.

The budget for FY 2017-18 was discussed in detail. Certain queries were raised by Chairperson, WBERC regarding the provisions for deficit budgeting and Labour (Outsourcing) in the budget. It was clarified that deficit budgeting of Rs.2,72,363/- is based on conservative estimate of income and expenditure for the FY 2017-18. In case of Labour (Outsourcing), Rs.10.75 lakhs was on account of payment to outsourced agency for salary to be paid for the months of March'17 to February'18 to the staff and Rs. 0.60 lakh was towards payment to outsourced agency for salary paid for the month of February'17 for the staff.

After discussion, the SC approved the proposed budget for 2017-18.

Agenda Item No. 3:

(i) Appointment of Auditors for auditing the Accounts of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

(ii) Appointment of Tax Consultant for filing the Income Tax Return of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

(iii) Appointment of a Chartered Accountant for certifying and filing the FCRA Return of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

The Committee was informed that Shri A.K. Awasthi of M/s A.K Awasthi & Co., Chartered Accountants, New Delhi / Kanpur was appointed for auditing the Accounts of SAFIR for the financial year 2016-17. It was proposed that new Auditors for the F.Y. 2017-2018 may be appointed after following the due practice/procedure.

The Committee was informed that M/s M.M. & Associates, Chartered Accountants was appointed to file the Income Tax Return of SAFIR for the financial year 2016-17. It was proposed that M/s M.M. & Associates may be re-appointed to file the Income Tax Return of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2017-2018.

The Committee was informed that Prof. S. Sampath, Corporate Tax Consultant had prepared and filed the FCRA Return of SAFIR with the respective authority (viz. Ministry of Home Affairs [MHA]) for the F.Ys. 2012-2013 to 2015-2016. It was proposed that the FCRA Return for the F.Y. 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 may be prepared in-house and a Chartered Accountant may be appointed to certify the FCRA Return and file the same with the MHA..

All the proposals were accepted by the Steering Committee and Secretary, CERC/SAFIR was authorized to take steps for the appointment of the Auditors for auditing the Accounts of SAFIR, Tax Consultant for filing the Income Tax Return and appointment of Chartered Accountant for certifying & filing the FCRA return of SAFIR along with their fee, with the approval of the Chairperson, SAFIR

Agenda Item No. 4:

Resolution for applying for online viewing facility of the bank statements of SAFIR.

The Resolutions were approved by the SC and SAFIR Secretariat was directed to take suitable action.

Agenda Item No. 5:

Outstanding membership fee from the Members of SAFIR

The members of the SC were informed that SAFIR Secretariat had written and pursued with all members whose subscription fee is outstanding. After much deliberation it was agreed to pursue with members once again. In case no positive response is received, they would cease to be members of SAFIR.

Agenda Item No. 6:

Report of 16th Core Course

SAFIR Secretariat apprised the members that the flagship Core Course was organized at CUTS International, Jaipur, India during 24th-28th April 2017 and a mixed response was received. Chairperson, SAFIR directed that a detailed report may be prepared so that the areas of concern can be highlighted and addressed while conducting the Core Course in future. It was also directed to take up the same as an agenda item in the next ECM and SCM of SAFIR.

Agenda Item No. 7:

New Members of SAFIR

The SC was apprised of the request received from Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) of Mongolia for collaborating with SAFIR. In order to expand their international cooperation, ERC of Mongolia had proposed to establish a mutually beneficial collaboration with SAFIR so as to share the learning of the members of SAFIR. The SAFIR Secretariat also apprised the SC on the request received from Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) expressing their interest in seeking membership of SAFIR under academic institutions category. The SC consented to initiate steps,

within the purview of Memorandum of Association of SAFIR, for ERC of Mongolia and accept the request of IICA to become a member of SAFIR under the category of Academic Institution.

Agenda Item No. 8:

Plan of Action for the F.Y. 2017-18

- It was brought to notice that Shri Gireesh B Pradhan, Chairperson SAFIR & Chairperson CERC was to demit office in December 2017. As per the Memorandum of Association of the SAFIR, the Chairperson of SAFIR would be elected on rotation basis (among the countries represented in SAFIR). Considering that Nepal and Pakistan are not attending any meeting of SAFIR, the ECM proposed to nominate Shri Saliya Mathew, Chairperson Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) as the next Chairperson of SAFIR. The same was considered and approved unanimously by the SC.
- A decision on conducting the next Infrastructure Conference would be taken at a later stage.

Agenda Item No. 9:

Presentation on Mechanism for Regulatory Cooperation to Facilitate Knowledge sharing, addressing Cross cutting Energy/Electricity Regulatory Issues and Capacity Building in South Asia SARI/EI - IRADe

The presentation on Mechanism for Regulatory Cooperation to Facilitate Knowledge sharing, addressing Cross cutting Energy/Electricity Regulatory Issues and Capacity Building in South Asia was made by Shri V K Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI - IRADe. Copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure II**.

The key features of the presentation included the following

- Overview of South Asian Power Sector
Need for Regulatory Coordination /Cooperation
- International experiences on regional electricity regulatory agencies/Associations/Forums
- Existing Forums/ Association in South Asian experiences
- Options for Institutional Mechanism for coordination of Regulations in South Asian Region
- IRADe-SARI/EI Experience: Key Activities
- Way Forward

While appreciating the presentation, Chairperson SAFIR stated that the suggestion in terms of formation of Working Group under the aegis of SAFIR(for the aforesaid matter) will be taken into consideration.

The participants were also appreciative of the presentation.

At the end of the meeting, Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan, Chairman, CERC/ SAFIR conveyed his sincere thanks to all the dignitaries present in the meeting. He also thanked the staff of “SAFIR” Secretariat for their sincere efforts in organizing the meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
01.	Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan	Chairperson	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
02.	Shri Saliya Mathew	Chairperson	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
03.	Shri Md. Abdul Aziz Khan	Member	Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
04.	Shri Narayan Singh	Chairperson	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
05.	Shri Vishwanath Hiremath	Chairperson	Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
06.	Shri Rabindra Nath Sen	Chairperson	West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
07.	Justice Narendra Nath Tiwari	Chairperson	Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
08.	Shri S Akshaya Kumar	Chairperson	Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
09.	Shri Ismail Ali Khan	Chairperson	Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
10.	Shri B.P. Singh	Member	Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
11.	Shri Shakti Kumar Negi	Chairperson	Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
12.	Shri U. N Behera	Chairperson	Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
13.	Dr. Basudev Mohanty	Member	Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board	India
14.	Shri Anand Kumar	Chairperson	Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
15.	Justice G. BHavani Prasad	Chairperson	Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
16.	Shri Desh Deepak Verma	Chairperson	Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India

17.	Shri Naba Kumar Das	Chairperson	Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
18.	Dr Dev Raj Birdi	Chairperson	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
19.	Shri M. K. Goel	Chairperson	Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
20.	Shri Jagjeet Singh	Chairperson	Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
21.	Shri Radha Krishna Tripathy	Senior Fellow	CUTS Institute For Regulation & Competition	India
22.	Shri M K Mittal		NHPC Ltd.	India
23.	Shri A. S. Bakshi	Member	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
24.	Shri M.K. Iyer	Member	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
25.	Shri A.K. Singhal	Member	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
26.	Ms. Rashmi Nair	Deputy Chief (Regulatory Affairs)	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India

Presentation on

Mechanism for Regulatory Cooperation to Facilitate Knowledge sharing, addressing Cross cutting Energy/Electricity Regulatory Issues and Capacity Building in South Asia

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)

Agenda

- ☐ Overview of South Asian Power Sector
- ☐ Need for Regulatory Coordination /Cooperation
- ☐ International experiences on regional electricity regulatory agencies/Associations/Forums
- ☐ Existing Forums/ Association in South Asian experiences
- ☐ Options for Institutional Mechanism for coordination of Regulations in South Asian Region
- ☐ IRADe-SARI/EI Experience: Key Activities
- ☐ Way Forward

Overview of South Asia Power Sector

Overview of South Asia Power Sector

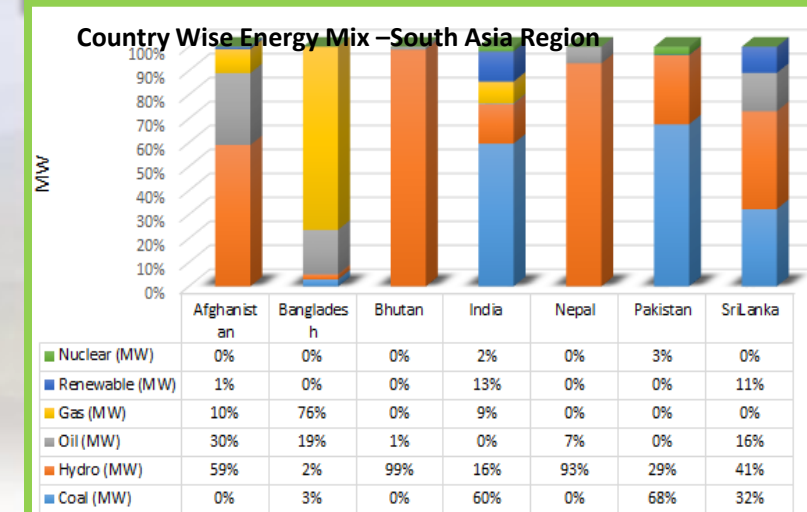
Total Installed capacity of South Asia Power Sector around 3,76,803 MW

- ✓ **Afghanistan** : Small Power system(1341 MW), Electricity Imports high, Hydro Dominated.
- ✓ **Bhutan**: Small Power system (1614 mw) Hydro dominated, Surplus Hydro , Exporting to India
- ✓ **Bangladesh** : Gas Dominated, Resource Constraints , Imports Electricity from India and in future will remain as a Importing Country.
- ✓ **India**: Very Large Power System, Coal Dominated, reducing deficits, long terms electricity demand are huge and potential large market, Electricity importing and exporting nation.
- ✓ **Nepal** : very Small Power system (765 MW), Hydro based, very high deficits, Importing Electricity from India , Potential exporter and importer of electricity.
- ✓ **Sri Lanka**: hydro dominated but the fuel mix is changing, no trading at present, High peak demand.

Overall SA region is a power hungry region and per capita consumption is very low. Large part of population remains without access to electricity.

Country	Installed Capacity (MW)
Afghanistan	1341
Bhutan	1,614
Bangladesh	15,000
India	329204
Nepal	765
Sri Lanka	4050
Pakistan	24,829
Total	3,76,803

Source : Compiled form various sources PGCB, DGPC,CEA,Annual Report NEA, Status of Industry Report NEPRA, Task Force 1 Report IRADE Report on CBET in South Asia: Challenges and investment oppoutinuties, etc.



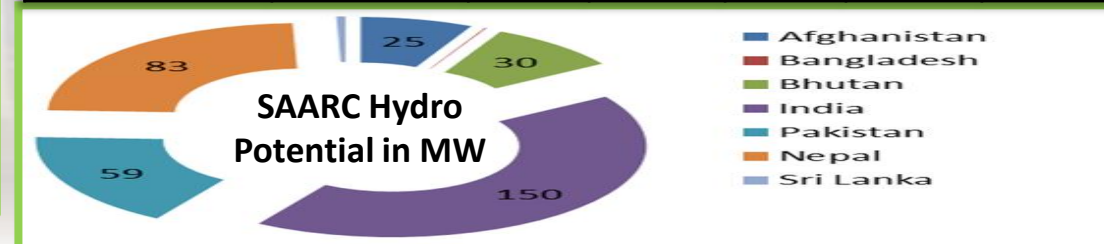
Resource Potential: Hydro Potential :350 GW !

- ✓ Vast potential of hydro power:350 GW
- ✓ Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, India: 30,83, 59, 150 GW respectively.
- ✓ Nepal and Bhutan can build export oriented hydro power plants
- ✓ Significant Coal deposits in India and Pakistan.
- ✓ Coal deposits in Bangladesh yet to be exploited.
- ✓ In addition to the conventional energy resources, there is huge renewable energy resources like solar and wind.

Country	Coal (million tons)	Oil (million barrels)	Natural Gas (trillion cubic feet)	Biomass (million tons)	Hydro (GW)
Afghanistan	440	NA	15	18-27	25
Bhutan	2	0	0	26.6	30
Bangladesh	884	12	8	0.08	0.33
India	90,085	5,700	39	139	150
Maldives	0	0	0	0.06	0
Nepal	NA	0	0	27.04	83
Pakistan	17,550	324	33	NA	59
Sri Lanka	NA	150	0	12	2
Total	108,961	5,906	95	223	349.33

Source: SAARC Secretariat (2010) for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka; CWC (2005) for Indian States and WAPDA (2011) for Pakistan

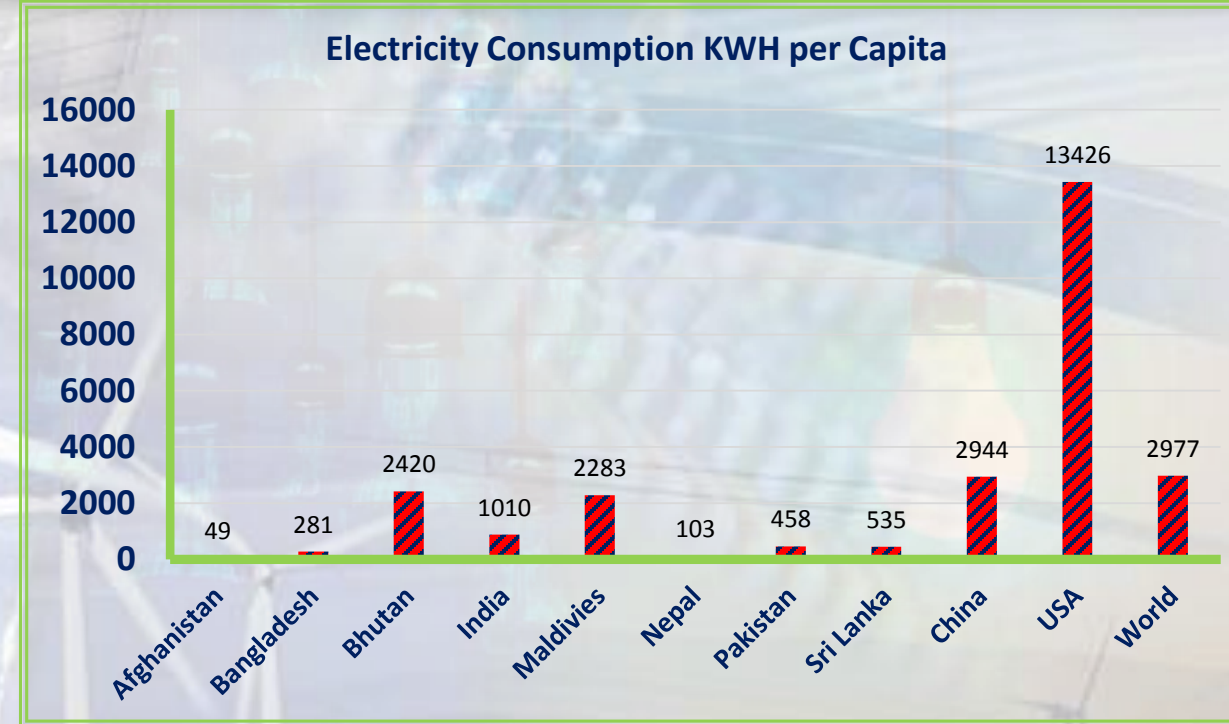
Renewables	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Bhutan	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Solar Power (Kwh/sq. m per day)	3.8 - 6.5	4 - 7	3.6 - 6.2	2.5 - 5	5.3	NA
Wind (MW)	Very limited potential	151,918	3,000	4,825	24,000	25,000MW



PER CAPITA ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

Country/ Region	Electricity Use kWh/capita/yr
SAARC	517
USA	13,426
EU	6,592
BRAZIL	2,206
MALAYASIA	3,614
CHINA	2,944
WORLD	2,977

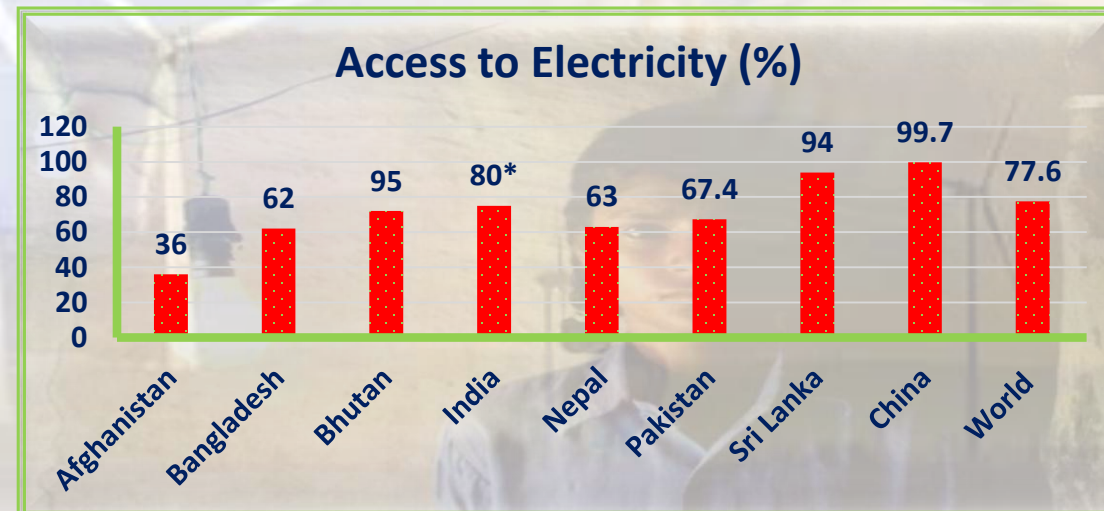
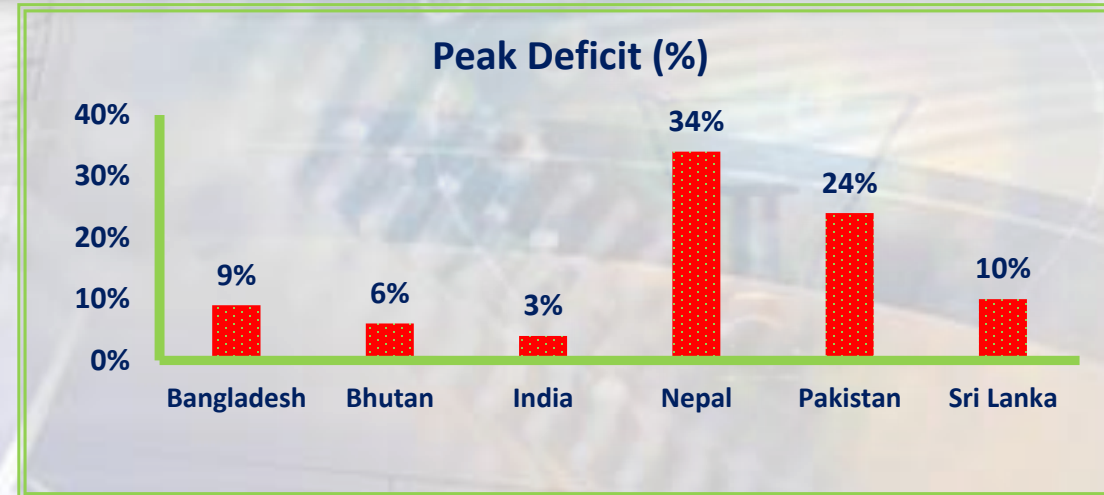
Source: SAARC Energy Centre/Country Govt. data



- ✓ Low per capita electricity consumptions.
- ✓ Maldives and Bhutan have high per capita electricity consumption among SA countries.
- ✓ Developed countries are at much higher level of consumption.
- ✓ Need to increase the level of consumption for a decent standard of living.

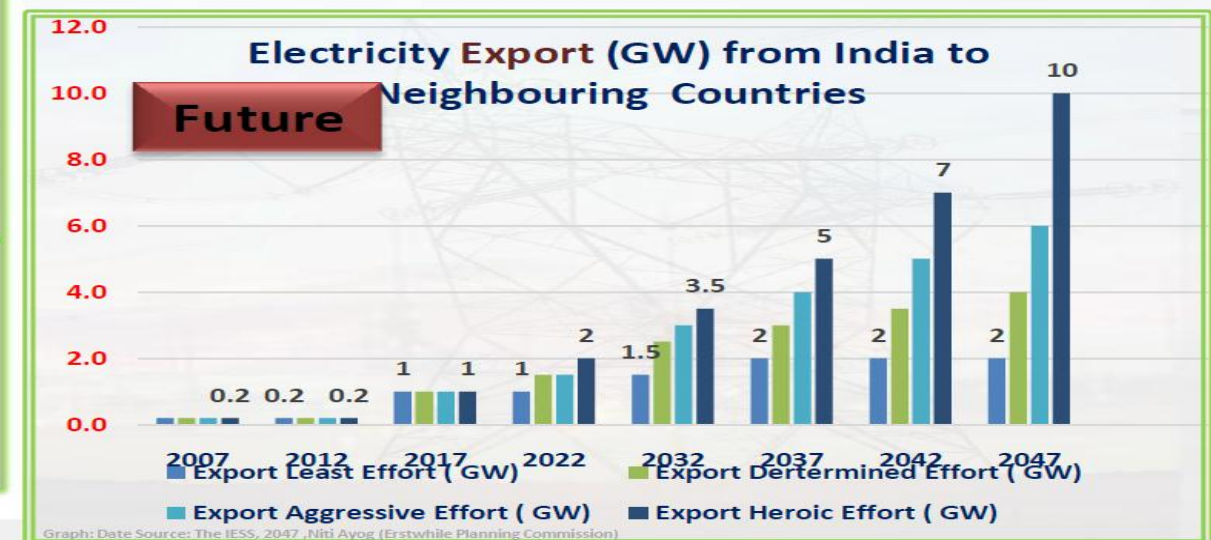
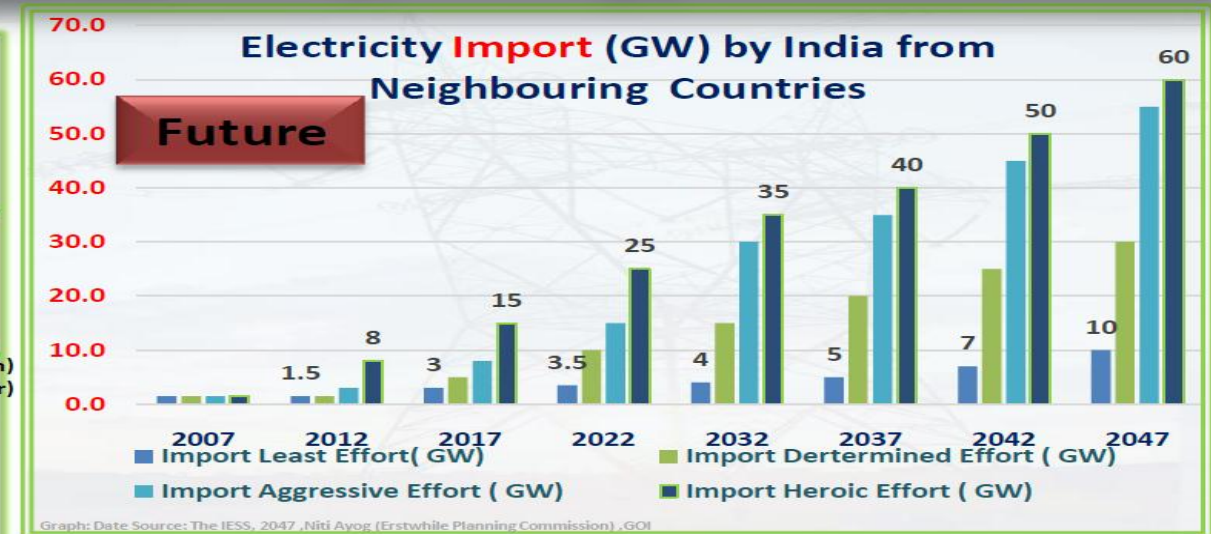
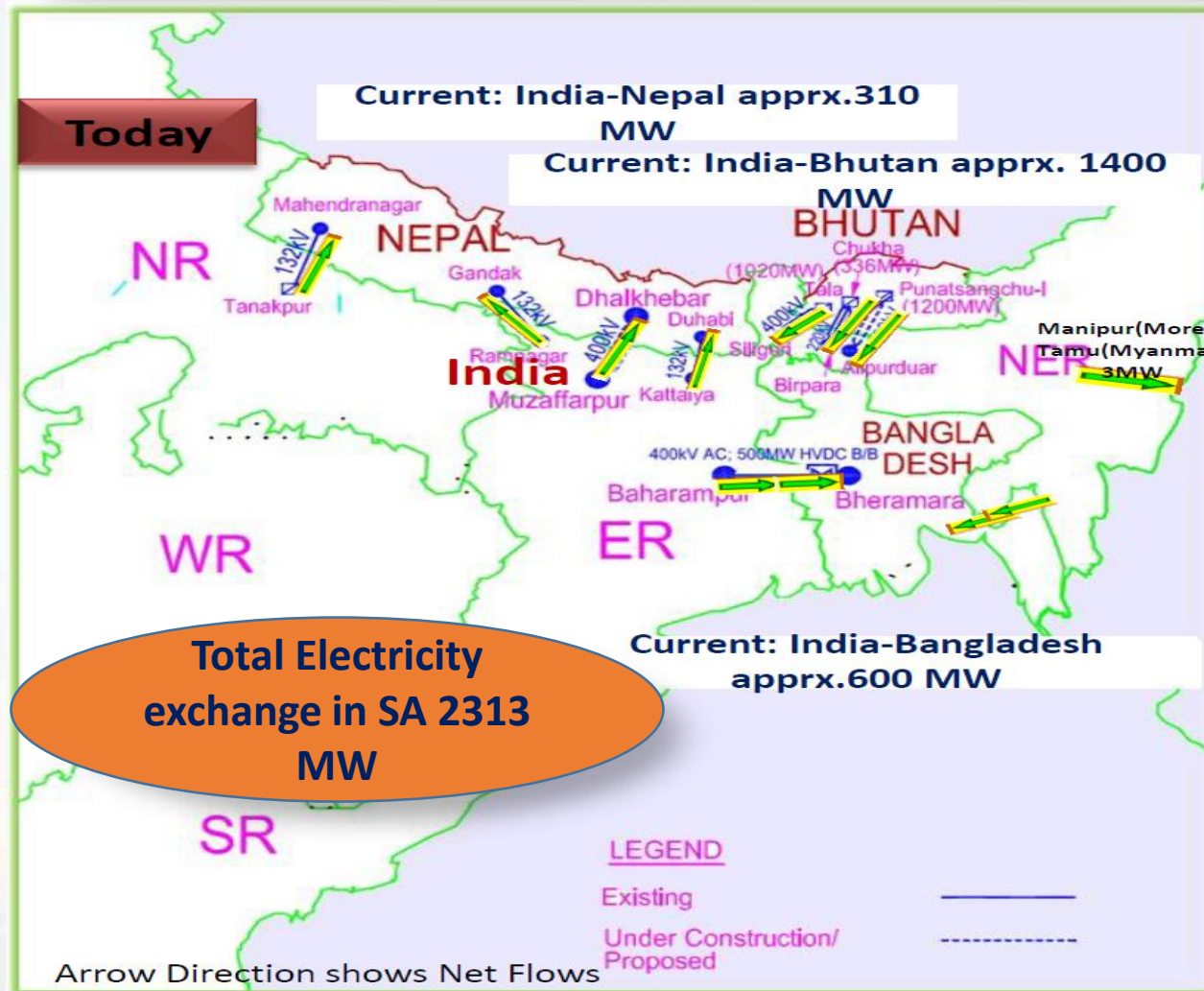
Key Drivers for Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia

- ✓ Energy and Peak Shortages.
- ✓ Low per Capita electricity consumptions
- ✓ Poor access to electricity.
- ✓ Resource Crunch (In Bangladesh)
- ✓ Optimal utilization of energy resources.
- ✓ Economic benefits.



Source: world bank, 2014 Data

Current status of Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia



Need for Regulatory Coordination and Cooperation



Need for Regulatory Coordination and Cooperation for enhancing Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia

- **Power and energy sector are regulated.**
- **SA countries have different set of regulatory practices.**
- **Various studies/literatures reveals the key requirements for enhancing Exchange of Electricity/Energy such as :**
 - Well defined & coherent energy policies
 - Supporting legal & regulatory framework
 - Common/coordinated regulatory framework
 - Standards, Procedures and protocols in technical, operational and legal matters.
 - International experience also suggest the need to form Institutional mechanism for Regulatory Coordination
 - Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

SAARC IGFA framework and guidelines issued by MoP,GoI recognizes the need to harmonize regulations to advance Exchange of Electricity/Energy in South Asia

Study on Need of institutional mechanism for Regulatory Coordination and Cooperation for advancing Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia

TF-1 study on “Review of Electricity Laws, Policies and Regulatory framework of South Asian Countries (SAC)” recommended to form a regulatory institutional mechanism such as SAFER to manage the process of harmonization of regulations to promote/advance Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia . The study also proposed a set of Regional Regulatory Guidelines (RRGs) which aim to

- ✓ Establish transparent regulatory environment to promote Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia
- ✓ Provide a common course of action that can be referred for decision making on Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia by the regulators in their respective countries
- ✓ Ensure consistency in the transactions and remove delays on account of unclear and complicated regulatory regimes

- ✓ To this end , we organised Roundtable on "Catalysing Electricity Trade in South Asia", 06th August 2015. The meeting convened key stakeholders such as CERC; SAARC Energy Centre, BERC, Bangladesh, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan, IREDA, PTC, IEX; PFC; REC, NHPC, POSOCO.

- ✓ The meeting concluded that SARI/EI will be working on a detailed whitepaper on the regulatory institution identifying its role, institutional structure and the way forward for such a regulatory body/forum/association.



Study on Need of institutional mechanism for Regulatory Coordination and Cooperation for advancing Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia

- ✓ **Analyse the various existing forums/institutional mechanisms prevailing in South Asian Countries such as South Asia Forum of Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR), SAARC, BIMSTEC etc. and their role, responsibilities, structure, function etc. with a view of coordination of electricity regulations to promote Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia..**
- ✓ **Review and analyse the international experiences in formation of regulatory forums/institutional mechanisms including their structure, role /responsibilities, functions etc. for harmonization/coordination of electricity regulations from the perspective of trade of electricity. Based on their learnings, suggest/recommend formation of institutional mechanism for coordination of regulations in SA countries.**
- ✓ **Based on the above analysis, recommend a suitable Electricity Regulatory Institutional Mechanism in South Asia Region covering its rationale, role, function, operating structure (including working groups, expert committee etc.) and legal status.**
- ✓ **Develop a Road Map with a clear action plan on mechanism on Regulatory Coordination and Cooperation for advancing Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia .**



International experiences on electricity regulatory agencies/associations/forums



A snapshot of international experiences

Region	EUROPE	Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)	Western Africa	Southern Africa
Name of Institution	Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)	Regional Power Trade Coordination Committee(RPTCC)	ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA)	Regional Electricity Regulators Association of SA(RERA)
Geographical area	28 - Countries Community body for integration of EU markets in electricity and natural gas	6 –Countries Responsible for establishment of Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) regional power market.	14- Countries Independent electricity regulator in Western Africa	13- Countries Association of electricity regulators, for politico-economic integration of SADC states
Organization Structure	Director supported by Working and Expert Groups. Director- Manages and represents Agency. Board of Regulators, Administrative Board, Board of Appeal. Five Departments- Director office, Admin, Electricity, Gas & Market Monitoring	Two Groups: The Focal Group(FW)- Coordination & implementation activities. The Planning Working Group(PWG)- Identify priority connection, standards etc. FG and PWG representative of Govt. utilities	Regulatory Council supported by a pool of experts. Council supported by Technical unit & HR/Admin/Finance. Regulatory Council- Three members headed by Chairman & two members. Fixed term of 5 years.	RERA reports to SADC Directorate of Infrastructure Services. Governed by Regulatory Council consists of three members. Technical unit-deals with Regulatory activities ; HR, Admin and Finance unit.

International Experiences: key focus areas of electricity regulatory forums/Associations

Area	ACER	RPTCC	ERERA	RERA
key focus areas	Foster cooperation among National Regulatory Agencies (NRAs), Ensure market integration, Harmonisation of regulatory frameworks, Issues non-binding opinions to NRAs	Basic rules for bilateral trading, Overall policy on day-to-day management of power trade	Regulations of Cross Border Electricity exchange, Monitor regional market; Assist NRs on capacity building & technical issues.	Regulatory Guidelines, Regulatory cooperation, Capacity building & information sharing on Cross Border Electricity Exchanges
	System operation framework, frame guidelines , Harmonisation of transmission tariff Structures	Establish short, medium, long term initiatives for Cross border Energy Exchanges	Tariff setting methodology for regional power pool	Transmission pricing, operating agreements, Balancing market operations; Ancillary services
	System operation, connectivity, capacity allocation, network codes	Identify steps for expansion	Technical regulation of regional power pooling, effective DR methods	Grid codes Procedures
Funding Support	EU	Multilateral support, WB/ADB support	Member states	Multilateral support, USAID

Existing forums in South Asia Region (SAR)

Experiences of Existing Institutions/forums in South Asia

Name of Institution	SAFIR	SAARC	BIMSTEC
Geography	Association of infrastructure regulators from SAR nations except Maldives	Regional organization of all the 8 countries of South Asia.	Regional organization comprising 7 member states Bay of Bengal initiatives for multisectoral techno economic cooperation
Organization Structure	Steering Committee, Executive Committee	Council of minister, Standing Committee, Program Committee Technical Committee SAARC Secretariat	BIMSETC Summit, Ministerial Meeting, Senior Officials Meeting, BIMSTEC Working Group (BWG), Expert Group Meeting
Focus Area	Conducts flagship core course & capacity building programmes for all infrastructure	Multi-sector focus : Agriculture, Economic & Trade, Energy, Environment Finance etc.	Each member country is assigned with specific sector. Energy with Myanmar

South Asian Forum For Infrastructure Regulators (SAFIR)

Organizational Structure- Roles and functions

- **Steering Committee**
- **Executive Committee**

Operational aspects

- **Steering Committee and Executive Committee meetings-once a year**
- **Secretariat support provided by CERC, India**
- **Budget: PPIAF support till 2008; Respective government support**

Set up in May 1999 with support of World Bank to provide capacity building and training on infrastructure regulation and related topics

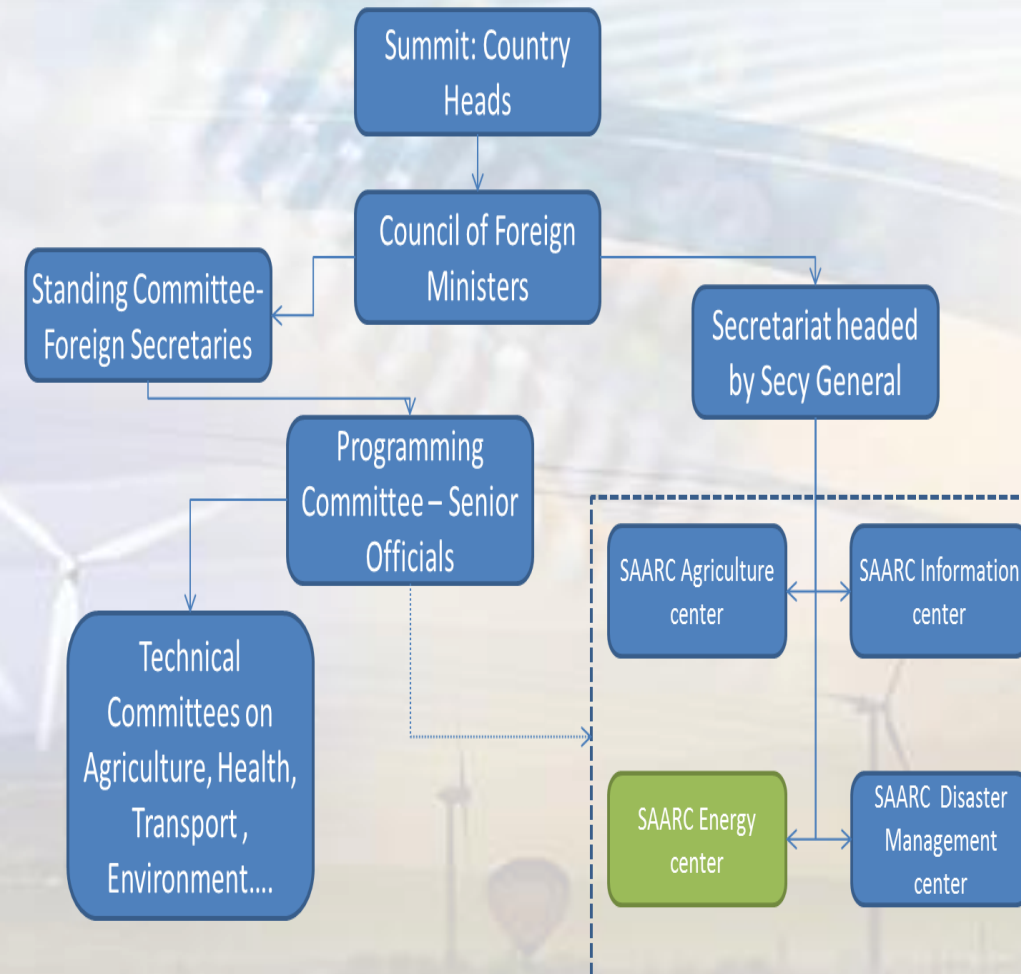
Aims and objectives

- **Platform for experience sharing amongst regional regulators**
- **Build regulatory decision-making & response capacity in South Asia**
- **Facilitate regulatory process**
- **Conduct training programmes for regulators and other stakeholders**
- **Spur research on regulatory issues**
- **Databank of information**
- **Encourage rapid implementation of global best practices**

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Cooperation on energy/electricity sector in SAARC

- **Key objectives**
 - Promote development of energy resources, including hydropower and energy trade in the region
 - To develop renewable and alternative energy resources
 - Promote energy efficiency and conservation in the region
- SAARC inter-governmental framework agreement for energy cooperation (electricity) signed in November 2014.
- SAARC has formed “SAARC council of experts of energy regulators” for implementation of SAARC inter-governmental framework agreement for energy cooperation (electricity).



The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Organizational Structure- Roles and functions

- BIMSETC Summit: Highest policy making body
- Ministerial Meeting: Cover the area of foreign affairs and the area of trade and economic affairs
- Senior Officials' Meeting: Divided into the areas of trade and economic affairs and foreign affairs.
- BIMSTEC Working Group : Reports to the Senior Officials meeting
- Expert Group : Lead countries of priority sectors of cooperation hosts the meeting

Operational aspects

- Annual Ministerial Meetings location in alphabetical order.
- SOMs, Other Working Groups, technical committees to meet as required
- Permanent Secretariat established in Dhaka

1st Energy Ministers conference

- Draft MOU for Trans-power exchange and grid interconnection, hydropower development, energy security of the region
- BIMSTEC Energy centre proposed in Bengaluru

3rd and 4th Task force meetings

- Meetings on Trans-power exchange in August 2012 and January 2013

5th Taskforce meeting

- MOU draft finalised among member countries in March 2015
- Agreement similar to SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation

Options for Institutional Mechanism for Coordination of Energy/Electricity Regulations in South Asia

Option

Option I: Within existing regional body/forum/association

Option II: Independent body/forum /association

Option I is more practical as it will Fast track the Regulatory Coordination and Cooperation for advancing Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia

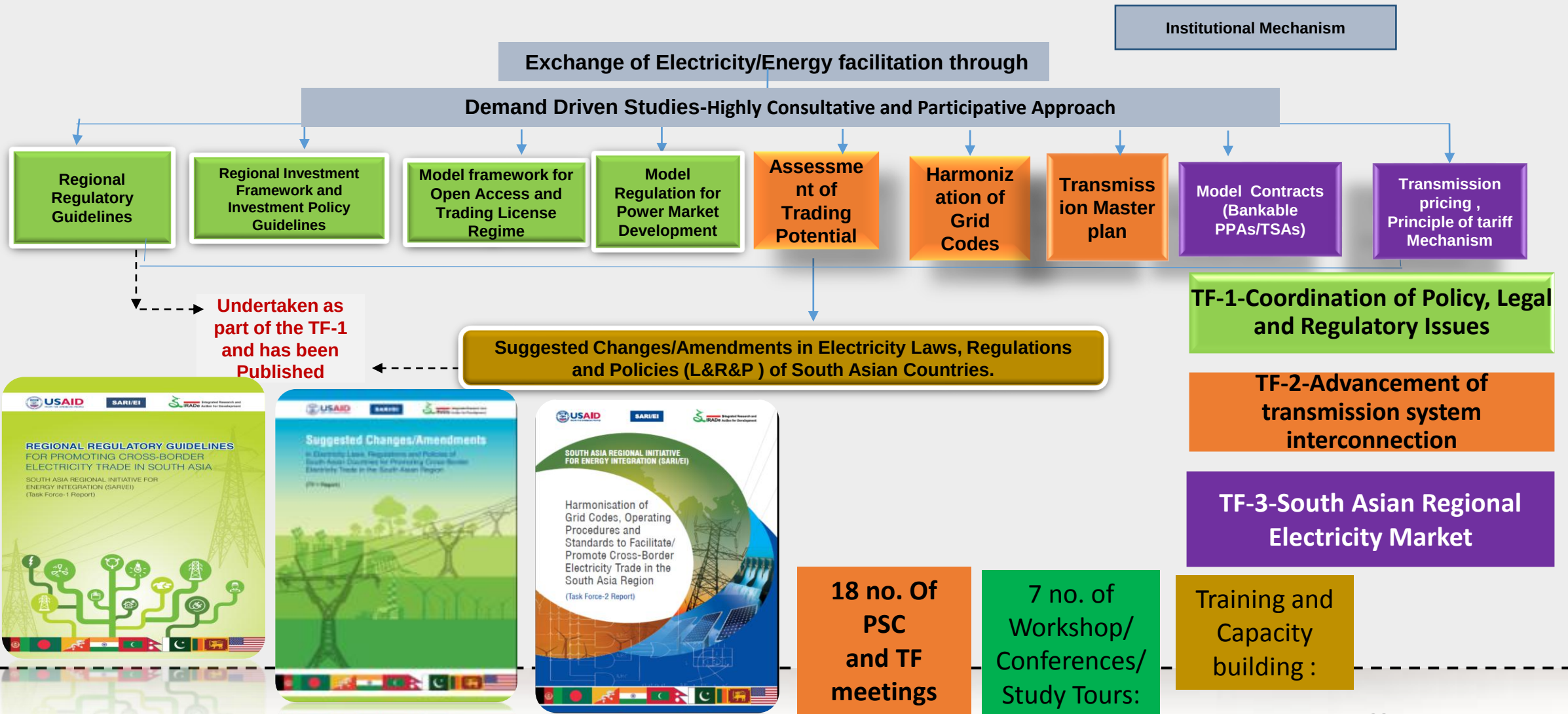
Constituting a Working Group Under the existing South Asia Forum of Infrastructure Regulations (SAFIR) will facilitate Cooperation on Knowledge sharing, addressing Cross cutting Energy/Electricity Regulatory Issues and Capacity Building in South Asia to begin with .

Working Group under SAFIR: Roles and responsibilities

The working Group consisting of members from National Electric Regulators (NERs) under SAFIR can be constituted with following objectives:

- ❑ Facilitate regulatory capacity building among members at both national and regional levels through information knowledge sharing and skills training.
- ❑ Facilitate the development of harmonized/coordinated electricity/energy regulations for advancing Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia.
- ❑ Providing inputs on policy & regulations, Regulatory opinions, Regulatory Guidelines and technical assistance etc.
- ❑ Undertaking research work in-house or through outsourcing on issues relevant to power sector regulation;
- ❑ Develop model regulations for promoting/advancing Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia.
- ❑ Addressing cross cutting energy/electricity regulatory issues for Exchange of Electricity/Energy in south Asia.
- ❑ Act as data bank/knowledge repository for the facilitation of regulatory issues for comprehensive energy/electricity integration in the long run.

SARI/EI Experience: Key Activities



Major Publications



Way forward

- ❑ To fast track and begin with, there is a need to form Working Group (including sub groups/task forces etc.) under South Asia Forum of Infrastructure Regulations (SAFIR) for “Regulatory Cooperation to Facilitate Knowledge sharing, addressing Cross cutting Energy/Electricity Regulatory Issues and Capacity Building in South Asia”
- ❑ A strong Technical and Knowledge support/assistance would be critical for the success and well functioning of the Working Group proposed to be created under SAFIR.
- ❑ During initial period, SAFIR may take support of various funding agencies. Subsequently, SAFIR members can also contribute.
- ❑ Detailed roadmap and annual work plan can be developed after formation of the working group.

IRADe is a Advanced Research Institute, has done pioneering work in the area of Electricity/Energy exchange and Energy Cooperation (EC) in South Asia under SARI/EI Program. IRADe will be happy to provide Technical and Knowledge support/assistance under SARI/EI Program to the proposed working group under SAFIR.

THANK YOU