

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 11TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION**

Date: 27TH MAY, 2016

Venue: SHANGRI LA- EROS HOTEL, NEW DELHI, INDIA

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Gireesh B. Pradhan, Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and Chairperson, South Asia Forum of Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) who extended a warm welcome to all members of the Committee. List of participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

The Committee thereafter took each of the agenda items for consideration.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 10th Executive Committee Meeting held on 14th January 2016 at New Delhi, India.

The minutes of the 10th Executive Committee Meeting and Action Taken Report as circulated were confirmed. The Committee directed the SAFIR Secretariat to explore the possibility of organising the next Executive Committee Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting back to back with the 16th Core Course at CUTS, Jaipur in November, 2016.

Agenda 2: Status Update on SAFIR Website

The Committee was informed that the current website was not interactive enough to support features like E-library and Discussion forum/ Virtual Working Groups etc. Therefore, the task of re-designing the website to include the above features was assigned to M/s Jabit Soft, through the process of competitive bidding. A presentation (**Annexure- II**) was made by SAFIR Secretariat apprising the Committee about the features of the redesigned SAFIR Website. The SAFIR Secretariat sought the approval of the Committee to launch the same. The Committee suggested to provide links to the websites of the Member

Organizations in a separate section of the website along with a brief introduction in respect of each Member Organization.

The Committee appreciated the proposed structure of web-site. Subsequently, the Committee launched the new SAFIR Website.

Agenda 3: Future Activities of SAFIR

A short presentation (Annexure- III) was made by SAFIR Secretariat on the future activities of SAFIR. The proposed activities inter alia included creation and maintenance of databases, identification and dissemination of best practices, carrying out studies through consulting agencies, publishing newsletter in e-format. After detailed deliberations, the Committee decided that the following activities may be taken up by the SAFIR Secretariat.

- Creation & maintenance of databases on infrastructure sectors and making the same available for Member Organizations through e-library section of the website.
- Sharing various reports, articles on best practices adopted in various infrastructure sectors as provided by the Member Organizations for the benefit of other Members through e-library section of the website.
- Undertaking a study on “Growth of Telecom Sector: A Regulatory perspective”
- Publishing Newsletter on quarterly basis in e-format, which essentially provides for disseminating updates on activities of Member Organizations along with articles, if any.

The Committee further decided that all Member Organisations of SAFIR may be requested to appoint a Nodal officer to communicate with the SAFIR Secretariat for providing relevant information pertaining to the future activities of the Forum, as specified above.

Agenda 4: Any Other Items for Discussion

Dr. Sushanta K. Chatterjee, Joint Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC briefed the Committee about the progress made by CERC in bringing out draft regulations on cross border trade of electricity. The Committee appreciated the initiative taken by CERC. Mr A.R. Khan, Chairperson, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) observed that in view of progress made in the area of cross border trade of electricity, there appears a need for establishing a suitable arbitration mechanism for dispute resolution between parties of different countries. He opined that dispute resolution under the SAFIR umbrella may be explored.

The Committee also discussed about lack of participation from Member Organization from Pakistan and lack of representation from Nepal in the deliberations of SAFIR. The Committee felt that regular representation from these countries would help the Forum carry out the deliberations more effectively.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

**List of Participants in 11th Executive Committee Meeting held at
Shangri La-Eros Hotel, New Delhi, India**

- 1. Mr. Gireesh B. Pradhan**
Chairperson
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India and
Chairperson, South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation
- 2. Mr. Samdrup K. Thinley**
CEO
Bhutan Electricity Authority, Bhutan
- 3. Mr. A.R. Khan**
Chairperson
Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, Bangladesh
- 4. Mr.Saliya Mathew**
Chairperson
Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka and
- 5. Dr. S.K. Chatterjee**
Joint Chief, Regulatory Affairs
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India