

Minutes of the 12th Executive Committee Meeting of the South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation

Date: 12th November, 2016

Venue: Hotel Marriotte, Jaipur, 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). At the outset, Chairperson 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 11th Executive Committee Meeting held on 27th May, 2016 at New Delhi, India.

The minutes of the 11th Executive Committee Meeting held on 27th May, 2016 at New Delhi, India and Action Taken Report as circulated were confirmed.

Agenda 2: Outstanding Membership fee from the Members of SAFIR

The Executive Committee, SAFIR was appraised that SAFIR Secretariat has been following up with its Members seeking payment of dues related to membership fee. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat. The Committee advised the Secretariat to write to the Members

drawing their attention to the activities of SAFIR and to request them for clearing their outstanding dues.

In continuation, Chairperson, SAFIR informed the Committee that he met the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP on the sidelines of Singapore International Energy Week during October, 2016. During the interaction, Executive Secretary, UNESCAP indicated that UESCAP is interested to understand the activities of SAFIR and willing to forge a bond with the Forum. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to take the discussion with UNESCAP further for mutual benefit.

Agenda 3: Membership of SAFIR in Energy Regulators Regional Association

The Executive Committee (EC) considered the reference received from the Bhutan Electricity Authority, about the request from Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA) for SAFIR to become its Member. EC noted that ERRA is a voluntary organization comprising of independent energy regulatory bodies primarily from Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East and United States. The U.S. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) who is an Associate Member of ERRA, through a Cooperative Agreement with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has been assisting in providing technical forums, meetings and study tours for the energy regulators since 1999.

The Committee felt that before taking up the matter of subscription before the Steering Committee for discussion, SAFIR Secretariat may obtain and examine all other relevant details including subscription fee, opportunity to participate in Technical Fora / Conferences / Meetings, structure of study tours etc. and place the same before the Executive Committee for further discussion. The Committee also advised the Secretariat to facilitate the SAFIR Member Organizations with the details of membership and other information of ERRA which will enable the members to explore the possibility of taking individual Membership for their countries etc. The Committee authorized the Chairperson to take the discussion with ERRA further for mutual benefit.

Agenda 4: SAFIR Website, Newsletter and Database

The Committee noted the structure and contents of the newly developed SAFIR website, the proposed database as well as the proposed Newsletter. The Committee advised the Secretariat to add Petroleum & Gas sector (including tariff, pipelines etc.) to the existing sectors for making the database comprehensive and complete. The Committee urged the Member organizations to share articles, photographs, data and other important information related to sectoral developments in their areas of jurisdiction for inclusion in the Website / Newsletter etc. The Committee also agreed to identify Nodal Officers from their respective Organizations to establish contact with SAFIR Secretariat to ensure free flow of information for updating the Website and timely publication of Newsletter and updation of databases. The

Committee advised the Secretariat to write to all Member Organizations to provide inputs for Website / Newsletter / Databases.

Agenda 5: Study on “Growth of Telecom Sector: A Regulatory Perspective”

The Committee considered the draft “Terms of Reference (ToR)”, “Scope of Study” along with other aspects connected to the study on “Growth of Telecom Sector: A Regulatory Perspective”. The Forum approved the draft ToR (along with Scope of Study) and suggested the SAFIR Secretariat to send the approved ToR to all Member bodies for wider circulation in order to attract international consultants to respond to the ToR and assist the Forum in carrying out the study.

Agenda 6: Plan of Action for the year 2017-18

The Committee decided to convene the 13th Executive Committee Meeting and 23rd Steering Committee Meeting in the first quarter of 2017 and 16th SAFIR Core Course, in 2017-18. The Committee advised the Secretariat to write to Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka seeking their convenience to host the 13th Executive Committee Meeting and 23rd Steering Committee Meeting and 16th SAFIR Core Course in Sri Lanka.

Secretary, CERC / SAFIR thanked all the dignitaries who participated in the Meeting.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

**List of Participants in 12th Executive Committee Meeting held at
Marriott, Jaipur, 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. Saliya Mathew

Chairperson

Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka and

4. Mrs. Shubha Sarma

Secretary

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India