

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 8TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION**

Date: 27TH JANUARY, 2015

Venue: HOTEL PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

The meeting was chaired Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka and Chairperson, South Asia Forum of Infrastructure Regulation. He extended a warm welcome to all members of the Forum. List of participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

The Forum thereafter took the agenda items for consideration.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 7th Executive Committee Meeting and Action Taken Report.

The minutes of the 7th Executive Committee Meeting and Action Taken Report as circulated were confirmed.

Agenda 2: Conducting the next Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation & Reforms.

Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India proposed to hold the 15th Core Course of SAFIR in India by December, 2015. The proposal was accepted and Chairperson, CERC was authorized to explore appropriate Academic / Research institutes for organizing the Core Course.

Agenda 3: Next Chairmanship of SAFIR.

The Executive Committee decided to defer this item for discussion in the next Executive Committee Meeting. It was also decided that 9th Executive Committee Meeting be

held back to back with the Steering Committee Meeting at Thimpu Bhutan, which has already been scheduled to be held on 26.3.2015.

Agenda 4: SAFIR Study on “Integrated Development of South Asian Region: Regulatory Issues on Cooperation in South Asia”.

The Committee noted the progress made with regard to the Study on “Integrated Development of South Asian Region: Regulatory Issues on Cooperation in South Asia” and directed the SAFIR Secretariat to expedite the matter.

Agenda 5: Engagement of Agency to assist SAFIR in tasks handled by SAFIR Secretariat.

Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India conveyed that the selection of agency to assist SAFIR in tasks handled by SAFIR Secretariat is being done through open bidding process. Terms of Reference (ToR) have been advertised but the response was found to be inadequate. Therefore, the ToR has been advertised again. The Committee noted the progress.

Agenda 6: Plan of Action for the Year 2015-16.

Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India conveyed that the Members are required to interact at regular intervals to discuss crucial issues relating to the infrastructure. However, due to the difficulties being faced by the Members to travel at frequent intervals, the facility to interact through “Virtual Working Groups” has been activated. However, it has been noted that the facility was not fully utilized by the Members. The Committee decided to take up the matter with their respective organizations so that the

medium of "Virtual Working Groups" to interact with other member bodies could be used effectively.

Agenda 7: Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

1. Chairperson, CERC, India conveyed that several member organizations have not paid their subscription fee to SAFIR. The total accumulated pending subscription fee upto FY 2013-14 stands as ` 59,44,500. Chairperson, SAFIR has agreed to take up the matter with all such Member Organizations and request them to pay the pending subscription dues immediately.
2. Chairperson, BERC, Bangladesh stated that presently, in cases of disputes arising between the trading partners involved in cross border energy trading, the matters for arbitration are referred to the courts located in European Union. This has been quite expensive for both the parties involved in dispute and at times the parties do not invoke the option of taking up the matter for arbitration. It is also expected that the number of disputes may increase owing to increase in cross border energy trading. Therefore, in order to provide a cost effective solution to the trading parties, it was proposed that SAFIR may proactively discuss the possibilities of providing arbitration services to SAARC based business entities. In this context, the Committee directed the SAFIR Secretariat to engage a consulting agency to prepare a base paper on "providing cost effective dispute resolution mechanism / arbitration to the SAARC based business entities". The base paper will be discussed initially in the Executive Committee Meeting to decide future course of action in this regard.
3. Chairperson, CERC, India stated that there is an urgent need for expansion of membership base of SAFIR for better outreach of the activities of SAFIR. It was also

stated that Regulators from other infrastructure sectors would definitely add value to the Forum. Chairperson, SAFIR agreed to take up the matter with all members of SAFIR Executive Committee separately and request them to play anchor role in their respective countries to invite regulatory bodies of other infrastructure related sectors and take part in the activities of the Forum. It was also agreed that efforts would be made by SAFIR Secretariat to persuade SAARC Secretariat to acknowledge and support the SAFIR initiative in getting SAARC regulators together on one platform.

**List of Participants in 8th Executive Committee Meeting held at
Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

- 1. Mr. Saliya Mathew**
Chairperson
Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka and
Chairperson, South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation.
- 2. Mr. Gireesh B. Pradhan**
Chairperson
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India
- 3. Mr. A.R.Khan**
Chairperson
Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission
- 4. Ms. Janaki M. Vithanagama**
Secretary
Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka
- 5. Mr. Mohammad Abu Faruque**
Director (Finance)
Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission
- 6. Mr. Rajasekhar Devaguptapu**
Regulatory Executive Officer
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India