



**MINUTES OF THE 25TH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION ON
26TH APRIL 2019**

Venue: “Desire”, Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, India

The 25th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) was chaired by Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, SAFIR & Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) and attended by members of Steering Committee of SAFIR. The list of participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

Mrs. Rashmi Nair, Deputy Chief (RA), CERC/SAFIR Secretariat introduced all the member participants and announced the launch of report on Grid connected solar rooftop PV in India.

Dr. S.K. Chatterjee, Joint Chief (RA), CERC explained in brief about the report on ‘Gap assessment for comprehensive metering and accounting framework for grid connected solar rooftop PV in India’ supported by World Bank and informed that the same has been adopted by Forum of Regulators (FOR). It was also informed that in case any of the SAFIR members require any support in understanding or adopting the models, the same would be provided by the World Bank and CERC.

After the formal launch of the report, representatives of World Bank made a brief presentation about the need for such an initiative and explained the challenges faced by the solar rooftop PV in India and explained the World Bank program to facilitate the same. Consultants assisting the study (M/s E&Y) also made a brief presentation on comprehensive metering and accounting framework for rooftop solar PV in India. The Presentation is placed at Annexure.



Thereafter the Steering Committee took up the agenda items for discussion and decision.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 24th Steering Committee Meeting and Action taken report

Dy. Chief (RA), CERC/ SAFIR Secretariat briefed the Steering Committee about the action taken by the SAFIR Secretariat as regards the decisions taken in the 24th SCM which includes initiating correspondence to include new member countries and to ensure active participation from the existing members of SAFIR. The Committee was also briefed regarding the successful completion of the workshop on Power Pool Governance and Interconnection by SAFIR in association with CLDP and USAID during 25-26th April, 2019 in New Delhi which is in compliance to the approval given in 16th ECM. Subsequently the minutes of the 24th Steering Committee Meeting were confirmed as circulated.

Agenda 2: Accounts Related matters

Dy. Chief (RA), CERC/ SAFIR Secretariat explained the salient features of the proposed budget for the financial year 2019-20. Along with this, the re-appointment of Auditor for audit of the accounts of SAFIR, Consultant for filing the Income Tax Return of SAFIR, Consultant for certifying and filing the FCRA Return of SAFIR for the FY 2018-19 has been approved by the Steering Committee as proposed in the agenda. Similarly, re-appointment of Tax Consultant for filing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) return for FY 2019-20 has been approved as proposed in the agenda.



Agenda 3: Issue of Outstanding membership fee

The Committee noted the efforts made by the SAFIR Secretariat to establish communications with the member countries and pursue to strengthen SAFIR. Further, it was decided that the organisations/ institutions who have not paid the membership fee for the past 5 years even after consistent reminders by SAFIR Secretariat, shall be issued a notice regarding ceasing of their membership in SAFIR under rule 9.1.3 of MoA of SAFIR.

The Committee was informed about the mail received from Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) about the withdrawal from membership of SAFIR w.e.f. FY 2018-19. After discussion, the Committee approved the withdrawal application of MERC.

Agenda 4: Appointment of next Chairperson, SAFIR

The Committee was informed that the current Chairperson of SAFIR, Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairman PUCSL, Sri Lanka would be demitting office on 17.07.2019. It has been intimated that Executive Committee in its 17th Meeting has proposed and approved Mr. Monowar Islam, Chairperson BERC, to be the next Chairperson, SAFIR. The Steering Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Mr. Monowar Islam as its next Chairperson w.e.f. 18.07.2019.

Agenda 5: Status Update of planned activities of SAFIR for FY 2018-19 & Proposal for FY 2019-20



- a. The Committee was appraised that the proposal to conduct the next Infrastructure Conference has already been sent to IRADe. IRADe in response had intimated about the extension of the SARI/EI program for another 4 years and that it has stated that it would send a detailed proposal for the Infrastructure Conference once the documentation for SARI Stage 1 is completed.
- b. The Committee was also informed that the 17th Core Course was successfully conducted by SAFIR in association with IICA during 5th-8th April, 2019 at Manesar, Gurgaon, India and the feedback was satisfactory. It has been informed that as per the decision taken in 17th ECM, the next core course would be conducted before December, 2019. The budget of SAFIR would cover the expenses of SAFIR Core Course as also the reimbursement of economy airfare (on the shortest route) for the participants. Regarding the venue, the Chairperson, GERC suggested the option to conduct the next Core Course in association of IIM Ahmedabad. CIRC, also volunteered to conduct the next Core Course. The Steering Committee decided that proposals may be sought from different organisations and other member countries too, so as to decide on an appropriate venue for the next core course.
- c. The Committee tentatively decided that the 26th SCM will be held in Sri Lanka subject to the confirmation of PUCSL. The Committee directed the secretariat to follow up with PUCSL for exact dates and venue for the next SCM.
- d. Members of the Steering Committee suggested that the SAFIR Sectt can take up studies in the sectors related to Water, Education, Coal etc. and key takeaways from other countries by way of country presentations.
- e. Further, the Committee was briefed about request of International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) for active participation of SAFIR in the activities of Virtual Working Groups (VWGs). SAFIR being a member, consented to be a part of the two



VWGs of ICER and SAFIR secretariat nominated DC (RA), CERC/SAFIR Sectt as co-chair of VWG on Technology and Innovation. The Committee approved the nomination as proposed.

f. The Committee has further been apprised regarding the discussion held during the 17thECM regarding membership in SAFIR. It was apprised that as per directions of the Executive Committee, communication will be initiated with other South Asian countries such as Myanmar, Afghanistan, Maldives and Nepal to join SAFIR and participate in the activities of SAFIR.

The SCM formally placed on record its appreciation to Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, PUCSL, Sri Lanka for steering the SAFIR during his tenure as Chairperson, SAFIR and welcomed Mr. Monowar Islam as next Chairperson of SAFIR w.e.f 18.7.2019.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Annexure – I

PARTICIPANTS

Sr.No.	Name and Designation	Organisation
1	Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson	SAFIR and PUCSL, Sri Lanka
2	Mr. Samdrup Thinley, CEO	BEA, Bhutan
3	Mr. Monowar Islam, Chairperson	BERC, Bangladesh
4	Mr. P.K. Pujari, Chairman	CERC, India
5.	Mr. U.N. Behera, Chairman	OERC, India
6.	Mr. Anand Kumar, Chairman	GERC, India
7.	Mr. S.S. Chauhan, Chairman	DERC, India
8.	Mr. M.K. Goel, Chairman	JERC, India
9.	Dr. Dev Raj Birdi, Chairman	MPERC, India
10.	Mr. Sutrittha Bhattacharya, Chairman	WBERC, India
11.	Mr. Arbind Prasad, Chairman	JSERC, India
12.	Ms. Anjali Chandra, Member	PSERC, India
13.	Mr. M.K. Jain, Member	UERC, India
14.	Mr. Prithvi Raj, Member	RERC, India
15.	Mr. Sanoj Kr. Jha, Secretary	CERC, India



16.	Dr. S.K. Chatterjee, Joint Chief (RA)	CERC, India
17.	Mr. R.K. Tripathy, Fellow	CIRC, India
18.	Mrs. Rashmi Nair, Deputy Chief (RA)	CERC, India
19.	Mr. Arun Kumar, Assistant Secretary	SAFIR, India
20.	Mr. Himanshu Baghel, Research Associate	SAFIR, India
<u>SPECIAL INVITEES</u>		
11.	Mr. Somesh Kumar, Partner	EY, India
2.	Mr. Yuvraj D.Babu, Senior Advisor	EY, India
3.	Mr. Amit Jain	World Bank
4.	Ms. Mani Khurana	World Bank
5.	Mr. Abhinav Goyal	World Bank
6.	Ms. Reena Kori	Idam Infrastructure, India