

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 9TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION**

Date: 26TH MARCH, 2015

Venue: TAJ TASHI HOTEL, THIMPU, BHUTAN

The meeting was chaired by 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 each of the agenda items for consideration.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 8th Executive Committee Meeting and Action Taken Report.

The minutes of the 8th Executive Committee Meeting and Action Taken Report as circulated were confirmed.

Agenda 2: Next Chairmanship of SAFIR

The Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Samdrup K. Thinley, CEO, Bhutan Electricity Authority (BEA) as the next Chairperson of SAFIR for one year.

Agenda 3: Outstanding subscription fee of SAFIR from members

Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) informed that members of the Executive Committee that SAFIR Secretariat had written and pursued with all members whose subscription fee is outstanding. In response, only a few members have paid the subscription fee.

Chairperson, PUCSL informed that he had written to all the members from whom the subscription fee of SAFIR is pending. He informed that Meghalaya State Electricity Regulatory Commission (MSERC) has formally withdrawn from the membership from SAFIR.

Mr. A.R. Khan, Chairperson, Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (BERC) suggested that the number of Core Course /training programmes can be increased covering different areas. The idea of seeking funds from a foreign funding agency was discussed and Mr. Gireesh B. Pradhan, Chairperson, CERC stated that SAFIR can seek the assistance of World Bank funding for Capacity Building Programmes due to increasing demands on our budget.

Agenda 4: Exploring recognition of SAFIR under the overall umbrella of SAFIR

Chairperson, CERC, India informed that SAFIR Secretariat followed up with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India to persuade SAARC Secretariat to acknowledge and support SAFIR initiative in getting SAARC regulators together on one platform. This idea has been supported by MEA, India and is being taken forward. It was decided that other member countries may also take up this issue with their External Affairs Ministries.

Agenda 5: Plan of Action for the Year 2015-16.

- Operationalisation of SAFIR Website and Virtual Working Groups.
- 22nd Steering Committee Meeting and 15th Core Course of SAFIR to be held in India during FY 2015-16.
- Engagement of Agency to assist SAFIR in tasks handled by Secretariat.
- Organising an 'Infrastructure Conference: Opportunities and Challenges in Infrastructure Sector in South Asia' in India.

**List of Participants in 9th Executive Committee Meeting held at
Taj Tashi Hotel, Thimpu, Bhutan**

- 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, Bangladesh
- 4. Mr. Samdrup K. Thinley**
CEO
Bhutan Electricity Authority, Bhutan
- 5. Mr. Habibullah Khulji**
Vice Chairman
National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, Pakistan
- 6. Mrs Shubha Sarma**
Secretary
Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India