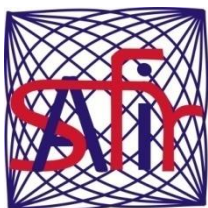


TWENTIETH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MEETING

**TAJ SAMUDRA HOTEL, COLOMBO,
SRI LANKA- 28TH – 30TH JANUARY, 2014**



SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION

Sectt. : C/o CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
3RD & 4TH FLOOR, CHANDERLOK BUILDING, 36, JANPATH
NEW DELHI - 110001

MINUTES OF THE
TWENTIETH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION (SAFIR)

Venue : **Taj Samudra Hotel**
Colombo (Sri Lanka)

Dates : **28th – 30th January, 2014**

The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

Dr. Bandula Perera, Deputy Chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka welcomed all the members of SAFIR. He expressed his gratitude for selecting Colombo as the venue for the SAFIR's Steering Committee Meeting. He reiterated the commitment of his Commission to furtherance of activities of SAFIR.

The welcome address of Dr. Perera was followed by the address of Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan, Chairperson, CERC. Shri Pradhan apprised the members about the initiatives of SAFIR. He informed that in 2013 the flagship Core Course was organized at LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka and an Investment Conference on Infrastructure Regulation was also organized during 2012 at Mumbai. He however, underscored the need for enhancing the visibility of SAFIR through active co-operation of all the member organizations. Shri A.R. Khan, Chairperson, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission and the present Chairperson, SAFIR in his keynote address welcomed all the members of SAFIR. He recalled that previous Steering Committee meeting was held in Bangladesh. Back to back with the meeting, an international workshop was also organized that helped establish SAFIR as a forward looking organization in the South Asian Region. He stated that SAFIR should endeavor to take all necessary steps to achieve the basic objectives that went into its formation. SAFIR provides a good platform for experience sharing on infrastructure sectors in South Asian Regions. There was an urgent need for further strengthening SAFIR in the interests of all member organizations of the Forum.

The Steering Committee thereafter took agenda items for consideration.

Agenda Item No. 1:

Confirmation of the minutes of the 19th SC meeting of SAFIR held during 09th-10th May, 2012 at Dhaka (Bangladesh) and the Action Taken Report.

The Steering Committee noted and discussed the Action Taken Report and endorsed the minutes of meeting held during 09th - 10th May, 2012 at Dhaka (Bangladesh).

Agenda Item No. 2:

Financial Statement of SAFIR for the year 2012-13 and Budget for the year 2014-15.

Shri S.K. Chatterjee explained the salient features of the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year 2012-13 (as per **Annexure-I** and **II** of the said Agenda). After discussion, the Annual Accounts of SAFIR for the financial year 2012-13 were considered and adopted.

The budget for the FY 2014-15, as circulated was discussed in detail. It was informed that during the FY 2013-14, there was no professional staff (like Research officer or Senior Research Officer) in SAFIR Secretariat. Paucity of funds was one of the reasons for this. SAFIR activities were being managed by borrowing the services of Research Associates of CERC.

Attention was drawn to note at S. No. 6 of Annexure-II to Agenda Item No. 2, wherein it was discussed that in order to enhance the visibility and activities of SAFIR, there was a need to engage a Consultancy Firm on retainership basis or appoint a Senior Research Officer / Research Officer at professional level specifically for SAFIR. This would require enhancement of existing membership fee as also payment of past arrears by all the member organizations. The members noted that the

membership fee included inter alia travel cost for all member organizations for attending Executive Committee/Steering Committee meetings and also travel cost of regulatory staff for Core Course. The need for increasing the effectiveness of SAFIR was reiterated. After discussion, the following was decided:

- Increase in the membership fee of SAFIR as proposed was approved. The revised fee to be effective from 01.04.2014 would be as under:
 - **Consumer Bodies : USD 500**
 - **Academic / Research Institutions: USD 2000**
 - **Regulatory Bodies : USD 4000**
 - **Corporates/Utilities: USD 5000**

- The Member organizations of SAFIR paying the membership fee in INR shall pay at the applicable exchange rate of USD, prevailing as on the date of payment.
- Till date, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has been paying the membership fee under the category of Consumer Bodies/NGOs. However, since TERI falls under the category of Academic/Research Institutions, it is liable to pay the membership fee under the aforesaid category (of Academic/Research Institution).
- It was also highlighted that the membership fee was due from several members and this caused a challenge in carrying out the activities of SAFIR effectively. It was decided that SAFIR Secretariat would write to these members, to pay the outstanding membership fee of SAFIR at the earliest.

After deliberations, the proposed budget for the year 2014-15, with above modifications was approved.

Agenda Item No. 3:

Report of 12th Core Course and conducting of the next Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation and Reforms.

The Steering Committee noted the report of the 12th Core Course of SAFIR held at LIRNEasia, Tuhiriya, Sri Lanka during 05th-08th March, 2013.

The proposal for organizing the 13th Core Course of SAFIR during March, 2014 in Bangladesh was approved.

Agenda Item No. 4:

Next Chairmanship of SAFIR.

After discussion, Ms. Pushpa Wellappili, Acting Chairperson, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) was unanimously elected as the next Chairperson of SAFIR for one year.

Agenda Item No. 5:

Proposed Infrastructure Conference.

The proposal for organizing an Infrastructure Conference on Opportunities and Challenges in Infrastructure Sector in South Asia during the FY 2014-15 in New Delhi or Mumbai, India was approved.

Agenda Item No. 6:

Expanding Membership Base of SAFIR.

Maldives Energy Authority (MEA) had expressed its willingness to become a member of SAFIR. It was decided to include MEA as the member of SAFIR under the category of Regulatory Bodies.

Agenda Item No. 7:

Virtual Working Groups.

The members underscored the need for greater visibility of SAFIR. The idea for Virtual Working Group (VWG) was conceived with due regard to the constraints of travelling between countries. After discussion, the participating members agreed to extend their co-operation in operationalising the VWG and designate a Nodal officer to coordinate the activities of VWG with SAFIR Secretariat.

Agenda Item No. 8:

Plan of Action for the year 2014-15:

After discussion, the following was decided for the FY 2014-15:

- A study to be conducted on 'Integrated Development of South Asian Region: Regulatory Issues on Cooperation in South Asia'.
- Operationalisation of the Virtual Working Groups.
- The Executive Committee of SAFIR to meet more often for preparing the road map for future activities of SAFIR.
- Member organizations to extend technical support to SAFIR Secretariat in undertaking the various activities specially Operationalisation of Virtual Working Groups and commissioning of studies on various subsectors of Infrastructure Sectors in South Asia.

A vote of thanks was extended by Shri Sushanta K. Chatterjee, Joint Chief (RA), CERC. He conveyed his sincere thanks to all the dignitaries present in the meeting and conveyed his gratitude and appreciation for the entire team of Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) for organizing the Steering Committee meeting at Colombo (Sri Lanka). He also thanked the staff of “SAFIR” Secretariat for their arduous efforts at organizing the meeting.

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

SAFIR WORKSHOP

The 20th Steering Committee Meeting was followed by a Workshop, wherein the following two distinguished speakers delivered a talk :

1. Mr. Rohan Samrajiva, Chair, LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka delivered a talk on "Consumer Protection and Regulation".
2. Mr. Mahendra P. Lama, Professor, International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India delivered a talk on "Security Issues in Cross Border Transmissions: Scope of Regulatory Framework in South Asia".

The valuable insights on the aforesaid topics were appreciated by the members of SAFIR. A copy each of the presentations is **enclosed**.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
01.	Mr. Gireesh B. Pradhan	Chairperson	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
02.	Mr. A.R. Khan	Chairman	Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
03.	Ms. Pushpa Wellappili	Acting Chairperson	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
04.	Dr. Bandula Perera	Dy. Chairman	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
05.	Mr. V.S. Verma	Member	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
06.	Mr. M.R. Sreenivasa Murthy	Chairperson	Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
07.	Mr. Subhash Chander Negi	Chairperson	Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
08.	Ms. Romila Dubey	Chairperson	Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
09.	Mr. S.P. Nanda	Chairperson	Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
10.	Mr. R.N. Prasher	Chairperson	Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
11.	Mr. T. M. Manoharan	Chairperson	Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
12.	Mr. Digvijai Nath	Chairperson	Arunachal Pradesh State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
13.	Mr. Jag Mohan Lal	Chairperson	Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
14.	Mr. Naba Kumar Das	Chairperson	Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
15.	Mr. Narayan Singh	Chairperson	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
16.	Mr. Anand Kumar	Chairperson	Meghalaya State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
17.	Mr. T.T. Dorji	Chairperson	Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
18.	Mr. Umesh Narayan Panjiar	Chairperson	Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission	India

19.	Mr. Saeed Ahmad Khan	Chairperson	Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority	Pakistan
20.	Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Naeem	Chairperson	National Electric Power Regulatory Authority	Pakistan
21.	Mr. Sujit Dasgupta	Member	West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
22.	Mr. I.B. Pandey	Member	Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
23.	Dr. Salim Mahmud	Member	Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
24.	Mr. T. S. Balasubramanian	Member	Tariff Authority of Major Ports	India
25.	Mr. Damitha Kumarasinghe	Director General	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
26.	Mr. Gamini Herath	Deputy Director General	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
27.	Ms. Janaki Vithanagama	Secretary	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
28.	Mr. Pem Dorji	Chief (AFD)	Bhutan Electricity Authority	Bhutan
29.	Mr. Abdul Khaleque	Secretary	Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
30.	Mr. Mohammad Abu Faruque	Director (Finance)	Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
31.	Prof. Usha Ramachandra	Professor, Energy Area	Administrative Staff College of India	India
32.	Mr. K. Ramanathan	Distinguished Fellow	The Energy & Resources Institute	India
33.	Mr. Udai S. Mehta	Associate Director	CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition	India
34.	Mr. Atul Shrivastava	General Manager	National Thermal Power Corporation	India
35.	Mr. Sushanta K. Chatterjee	Joint Chief (Regulatory Affairs)	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India