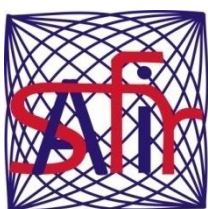


# TWENTY FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MEETING

**TAJ TASHI HOTEL, THIMPU, BHUTAN  
25<sup>TH</sup> – 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2015**



## **SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION**

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

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**TWENTY FIRST STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE**  
**SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION (SAFIR)**

**Venue:**        **Taj Tashi Hotel**  
                  **Thimpu (Bhutan)**

**Dates**        :        **25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**

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

Smt Shubha Sarma, Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) extended a warm welcome to all members of SAFIR in the twenty first meeting of Steering Committee ( SC) of SAFIR.

The welcome address of Shri Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) and SAFIR 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 2015 the flagship Core Course was successfully organized at Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He offered to host the next Core Course in India. He also stated that SAFIR Secretariat is making efforts to hold the next Infrastructure Conference during FY 2015-16 in India. He however, underscored the need for enhancing the visibility of SAFIR through active co-operation of all the member organizations.

The Steering Committee thereafter took the following agenda items for consideration.

**Agenda Item No. 1:**

**Confirmation of the minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> SC meeting of SAFIR held during 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 at Colombo (Sri Lanka) and the Action Taken Report.**

The Steering Committee endorsed the minutes of the meeting held during 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 at Colombo (Sri Lanka). The Committee also discussed and noted the Action Taken Report.

**Agenda Item No. 2:**

**Financial Statement of SAFIR for the year 2013-14 and Budget for the year 2015-16.**

Secretary, CERC explained the salient features of the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year 2013-14 (as per **Annexure-I** of the said Agenda). After discussion, the Annual Accounts of SAFIR for the financial year 2013-14 were considered and adopted.

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 informed that Chairperson, SAFIR and PUCSL had written to all these members to pay the outstanding membership fee of SAFIR at the earliest.

The budget for the FY 2015-16, as circulated was discussed in detail. It was informed that during the FY 2014-15, 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 officials / Research Officers and Research Associates of CERC.

After deliberations, it was agreed that the existing membership fee structure be continued for the present. Subject to above, the proposal of budget for the year 2015-16 was approved.

In the 20th Steering Committee Meeting of SAFIR held during 28th - 30th January, 2014 at Colombo, Sri Lanka it was decided that SAFIR Secretariat should engage professionals or a Consultancy firm on retainership basis to assist SAFIR. Secretary, CERC informed that SAFIR Secretariat advertised the Terms of Reference for engaging a firm on retainership basis and had evaluated the bids received for the same. The Successful bidder has quoted a monthly professional fee of Rs 4,00,000 towards consultancy charges and applicable taxes amounting to Rs 49,440 p.m (approx 12.36% ). Therefore, there would be an additional expenditure of Rs 48,00,000 per annum plus applicable taxes amounting to Rs 5,93,280 (approx).

To meet this additional expense, various measures including enhancement of existing membership fee as also payment of past arrears by all the member organizations were discussed.

However, in view of the fact that the membership fee was increased only in FY 2014 -15, the members opined that a further increase at this stage would not be advisable. However, as it is necessary to engage a retainership firm to increase the visibility of SAFIR, members of the forum agreed that Public Sector Undertakings who are also members of SAFIR could fund such expenses as part of their capacity building initiatives.

### **Agenda Item No. 3:**

#### **Report of 14<sup>th</sup> Core Course and conducting of the next Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation and Reforms.**

The Steering Committee noted the report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Core Course of SAFIR held at Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management, Dhaka, during 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

The proposal for organizing the 15<sup>th</sup> Core Course of SAFIR during FY 2015-16 in India was approved. Dr Usha Ramchandra, representative from Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) offered to organize the Core Course.

**Agenda Item No. 4:**

**Next Chairmanship of SAFIR.**

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

**Agenda Item No. 5:**

**Proposed Infrastructure Conference.**

It was informed that SAFIR Secretariat is exploring the possibility of organizing the Infrastructure Conference in India in 2015. This was noted and endorsed.

**Agenda Item No. 6:**

**Plan of Action for the year 2015-16:**

After discussion, the following was decided for the FY 2015-16:

- 1) Organizing Core Course of SAFIR on Infrastructure Regulation and Reforms in India
- 2) Organizing an 'Infrastructure Conference: Opportunities and Challenges in Infrastructure Sector in South Asia'.
- 3) Operationalisation of Virtual Working Groups.
- 4) Increasing Membership Base.

A vote of thanks was extended by Smt Shubha Sarma, Secretary, CERC. She conveyed her sincere thanks to all the dignitaries present in the meeting and conveyed her gratitude and appreciation for the entire team of Bhutan Electricity (BEA) for organizing the Steering Committee meeting at Thimpu, Bhutan. She also thanked the staff of “SAFIR” Secretariat for their sincere efforts at organizing the meeting.

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

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>
01.	Mr. Gireesh B. Pradhan	Chairperson	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
02.	Mr. A.R. Khan	Chairman	Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
03.	Mr. Saliya Mathew	Chairperson	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
04.	Mr Samdrup K. Thinley	CEO	Bhutan Electricity Authority	Bhutan
05.	Mrs. Shubha Sarma	Secretary	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
06.	Mr. Subhash Chander Negi	Chairperson	Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
07.	Mrs. Romila Dubey	Chairperson	Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
08.	Mr. Digvijai Nath	Chairperson	Arunachal Pradesh State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
09.	Mr. Umesh Narayan Panjiar	Chairperson	Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
10.	Mr. P.D. Sudhakar	Chairperson	Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
11.	Mr. T.T. Dorji	Chairperson	Sikkim State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
12.	Mr. T. M. Manoharan	Chairperson	Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
13.	Mr. Narayan Singh	Chairperson	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
14.	Mr. Desh Deepak Verma	Chairperson	Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
15.	Mr Pravinbhai Patel	Chairperson	Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission	India

16.	Mr. Naba Kumar Das	Chairperson	Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
17.	Mr Vishwanath Hiremath	Chairperson	Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
18.	Thiru S Akshaya Kumar	Chairperson	Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
19.	Mr Justice Narendra Nath Tiwari	Chairperson	Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
20.	Mr Dev Raj Bidi	Chairperson	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
21.	Mr. Habibullah Khilji	Vice Chairperson	National Electric Power Regulatory Authority	Pakistan
22.	Mr. A.K. Das	Member	Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
23.	Mr. Zain-ul-Abdeen	Executive Director	Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority	Pakistan
24.	Mr P.K. Bishnoi	Member	Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board	India
25.	Mr. T. S. Balasubramanian	Member	Tariff Authority of Major Ports	India
26.	Dr. Usha Ramachandra	Professor, Energy Area	Administrative Staff College of India	India
27.	Mr. Arun Kumar Gupta	General Manager (BD)	National Thermal Power Corporation	India