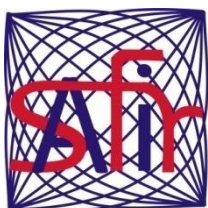


TWENTY SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MEETING

**SHANGRI-LA'S - EROS HOTEL,
NEW DELHI, INDIA
14TH JANUARY, 2016**



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
TWENTY SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION (SAFIR)

Venue: **Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel**
 New Delhi, India

Dates **:14th January, 2016**

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

Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan, Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) extended a warm welcome to all members of SAFIR in the twenty second meeting of Steering Committee (SC)

The welcome address of Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan was followed by the address of Ms. Shubha Sarma, Secretary, CERC. The Steering Committee thereafter took the following agenda items for consideration.

Agenda Item No. 1:

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 21st Steering Committee Meeting of SAFIR held during 25th-27th March, 2015 at Thimpu, Bhutan and Action Taken Report.

The Steering Committee endorsed the minutes of the meeting held during 25th - 27th March, 2015 at Thimpu, Bhutan. The Committee also discussed and noted the Action Taken Report.

Agenda Item No. 2:

Financial Statement of SAFIR for the year 2014-15 and Budget for the financial year 2016-17.

Secretary, CERC explained the salient features of the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year 2014-15 (as per **Annexure-I** of the said Agenda). After discussion, the Annual Accounts of SAFIR for the financial year 2014-15 were considered and adopted.

The budget for the FY 2016-17, (as circulated) was discussed in detail. SAFIR Secretariat proposed to recruit additional staff to take care of the various administrative and research works etc. for which the cost has been factored in the budget. The SC approved the proposal of additional staff as envisaged and the budget has been approved.

After discussion the proposed budget for 2016-17 was approved.

Agenda Item No. 3:

Appointment of Auditor for the Audit of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2015-2016

The Committee was informed that Shri A.K. Awasthi of M/s A.K Awasthi & Co., Chartered Accountants, New Delhi / Kanpur was appointed for auditing the Accounts of SAFIR for the financial year 2014-15

It was discussed with the members on the appointment of auditor for the next financial year. As M/s A.K Awasthi & Co., Chartered Accountants has completed only one year as auditor of accounts of SAFIR, it was proposed to extend the tenure by another year. The proposal was accepted by the Steering Committee

Agenda Item No. 4:

Outstanding membership fee from the Members of SAFIR and withdrawal/cessation from/of the membership of SAFIR

It was 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 Mr. Samdrup Thinley, Chairperson, SAFIR and CEO, Bhutan Electricity Authority (BEA) had written to all these members to pay the outstanding membership fee of SAFIR at the earliest. However no acknowledgement or reply was received.

The Committee was also apprised that Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) and Arunachal Pradesh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (APSERC) have requested for withdrawal from the membership of SAFIR citing financial constraints and limited professional interaction with SAFIR in last few years.

After deliberations, it was agreed to accept the withdrawal of CPRI and APSERC. It was also agreed that the existing membership fee structure be continued.

Agenda Item No. 5:

Report of 15th Core Course and conducting of the next Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation and Reforms

Secretary, CERC / SAFIR apprised the members that the flagship Core Course was successfully organized at Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, India in November 2015 and the participants were appreciative of the course content. The Steering Committee noted the report of the 15th Core Course of SAFIR held at ASCI, during 16th-18th November, 2015.

Agenda Item No. 6:

Presentation on Regulatory Impact Assessment- Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS)

The presentation on Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) was made by Shri Ashwini Swain, Director, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition. Copy of the presentation is placed at **Annexure II**.

The key features of the presentation included the following

- **Introduction to RIA:** Developed understanding of the key attributes that are the basis of RIA
- **Elements of RIA:** The tools such as cost benefit analysis and qualitative techniques related to understanding of the objectives and the concern for stakeholders were discussed
- **Process of RIA:** Provided insight on the process that is employed for RIA
- **Need for RIA in India:** Discusses the factors highlighting the need for RIA in India
- **CUTS Initiatives on RIA:** The initiatives taken by CUTS on RIA in banking, electricity and insurance sector in India were discussed
- **Applications of RIA in Electricity Sector:** The initiatives taken by CUTS on RIA in electricity sector were elaborated

- **Key Findings:** The key findings with specific focus on the coal, hydro and solar sector were discussed.

The participants were appreciative of the presentation.

Agenda Item No. 7:

Proposal for the next SAFIR Annual Training Programme – (Core Course)

CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition offered to organize the next Core Course in Jaipur. The SC approved the proposal for organizing the 16th Core Course of SAFIR during FY 2016-17 in India.

Agenda Item No. 8:

Proposal for the next Chairperson of SAFIR:

It was brought to notice that the tenure of Shri Samdrup K Thinley, Chairperson SAFIR & CEO, BEA was coming to an end and in the absence of any representation from the countries of Nepal and Pakistan in this meeting; the Executive Committee recommended the nomination of Shri Gireesh B Pradhan, Chairperson, CERC as the next Chairperson of SAFIR. The same was considered and approved unanimously by the SC.

Agenda Item No. 9:

Plan of Action for the year 2016-17:

- A) Conducting Next SCM
- B) The proposal for conducting the next Core Course at CUTS, Jaipur, India is accepted by all the members
- C) Organizing Infrastructure Conference:

A vote of thanks was extended by Shri Gireesh B. Pradhan, Chairman, CERC. He conveyed his sincere thanks to all the dignitaries present in the meeting. He also thanked the staff of “SAFIR” Secretariat for their sincere efforts at organizing the meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
01.	Mr Samdrup K. Thinley	CEO	Bhutan Electricity Authority	Bhutan
02.	Mr. Gireesh B. Pradhan	Chairperson	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
03.	Mr. A.R. Khan	Chairperson	Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
04.	Mr. Saliya Mathew	Chairperson	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
05.	Mrs. Shubha Sarma	Secretary	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
06.	Mr Rabindra Nath Sen	Chairperson	West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
07.	Justice Narendra Nath Tiwari	Chairperson	Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
08.	Mr. Subhash Kumar	Chairperson	Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
09.	Mr. S.K.B.S. Negi	Chairperson	Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
10.	Mr. Pramod Deepak Sudhakar	Chairperson	Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
11.	Mr. Shakti Kumar Negi	Chairperson	Bihar 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. K.M. Shringarpure	In-charge Chairperson	Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission	India

15.	Mr Vishwanath Hiremath	Chairperson	Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
16.	Mr. S Akshaya Kumar	Chairperson	Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
17.	Mr. Ismail Ali Khan	Chairperson	Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
18.	Dr Dev Raj Birdi	Chairperson	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
19.	Mr. S P Nanda	Chairperson	Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
20.	Mr. M S Puri	Member	Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
21.	Dr Ashwini K Swain	Director	Consumer Unity & Trust Society	India
22.	Dr. Usha Ramachandra	Professor & Area Chairperson, Energy Area	Administrative Staff College of India	India
23.	Dr. S.K.Chatterjee	Joint Chief (Regulatory Affairs)	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
24.	Ms. Rashmi Nair	Deputy Chief (Regulatory Affairs)	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India