

**MINUTES OF THE 26TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF SOUTH
ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION (SAFIR)**

DATE: 15TH APRIL, 2024; 03:30 PM IST

VENUE: VIRTUALLY THROUGH MS TEAMS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS: ANNEXURE-I.

At the outset, Chairperson, SAFIR/CERC welcomed all the members to the ECM. He highlighted that SAFIR would be completing 25 years of its existence next month and congratulated everyone on the commendable achievements of the Forum for the past years. He underscored SAFIR's role as a platform for learning and collaboration, emphasizing its dedication to serving the region's aspirations. He added that the agenda items included discussions on the budget, membership enhancement efforts, and the layout of the annual report. The Chairperson apprised members of ongoing efforts to achieve collective goals, particularly in developing a common grid code and power market design for the entire region. He also informed that Mr. Dilli Bahadur Singh, Chairperson, ERC, Nepal, who has been a special invitee for all meetings of SAFIR would be demitting office soon and thanked him for his contributions.

2. Chairperson of PUCSL, Sri Lanka, expressed gratitude for the invitation to the ECM, and shared his unremitting optimism regarding SAFIR's future progress in the power sector in the region.

3. Chairperson, BERC, Bangladesh, expressed gratitude for the leadership of Chairperson, SAFIR/CERC, for his unwavering commitment and dedication to the activities of SAFIR. He emphasized Bangladesh's commitment to sustainable development through its integrated energy and Power Master Plan, with a focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and security. BERC pledged support for the plan's implementation and collaboration with regional partners to achieve common goals. The Chairperson reaffirmed BERC's commitment to SAFIR's objectives and principles, advocating for cooperation, innovation, and regulatory excellence for regional benefits. He concluded by wishing success for the meeting and proposed hosting the next ECM of SAFIR meeting in Bangladesh.

4. Chairperson, ERC of Nepal expressed gratitude to the Forum, which has proven to be a highly effective platform for knowledge sharing. He added that he himself has gained valuable insights from the discussions held during the meetings through various activities of the Forum on the Common

Minimum Grid Code, which is now in its final stages. Additionally, he highlighted the formulation of Nepal's own Electricity Grid Code based on the Common Minimum Grid Code. He thanked the Members of the Forum for their support and guidance.

5. With the permission of the Chair, the agenda items were taken up for discussion subsequently.

AGENDA 1: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 25TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6. The Forum was briefed on the action taken on the minutes of the previous ECM, after which the minutes of the 25th ECM were confirmed.

AGENDA 2: ACCOUNTS RELATED ITEMS:

(i) MEMBERSHIP IN SAFIR – UPDATE

7. Joint Chief (RA), CERC apprised the Members that, as advised by the EC Members during the last ECM, invitation letters were sent to Ex members of SAFIR, various Corporates, Utilities and PSUs in India, informing them of the advantages of the Forum. In response, Andhra Pradesh ERC, Rajasthan ERC, Tripura ERC, IEX, PGCIL, Grid Controller of India, NEEPCO, and PTC India have joined as Members of SAFIR.

8. In principle, acceptance has been received from TRAI, PXIL, and ONGC Tripura Power to join SAFIR and SAFIR Sectt. will follow up with them and other Corporates, Utilities & PSUs in India to confirm their joining SAFIR. The EC member countries were also requested to share details of the Utilities in their respective countries to SAFIR Sectt so that invitations can be sent to them as well. In response, Chairperson, SAFIR/CERC advised to vigorously follow up with the new organizations who had expressed their willingness to join SAFIR and to continue the exercise for expanding the Membership base of SAFIR. He also asked SAFIR Secretariat to explore if Associations such as CII, ASSOCHAM, and the like are eligible to join SAFIR as per Rules, and if so, they, too, may be requested to join. The Chairperson, Bangladesh ERC also informed that his office would convey regarding interests of any organisations in Bangladesh who would like to become a part of the Forum in the near future.

(ii) BUDGET FOR THE F.Y. 2024-2025.

9. Thereafter, Jt. Chief (RA), CERC apprised the EC members on the salient features of the SAFIR budget for the F.Y. 2024-2025, including the projected income and expenditure. It was informed that

the income under the head of membership fees of SAFIR increased during the F.Y. 2023-24, due to an increase in the number of Members and receipt of past dues of membership fees from the Members.

10. As regards conducting the Core Course in SAFIR, the Secretariat would be writing to all the SAFIR members and educational institutions in India seeking proposals for conducting the Core Course.

11. As regards the previous SAFIR Conference, the same was held in Sri Lanka (in collaboration with PUCSL), which had a very good response. Considering budget limitations, Chairperson, SAFIR/CERC proposed to conduct the next Conference in India (outside Delhi). The SAFIR Secretariat would work out the dates and location.

12. After discussion, the Executive Committee Members approved the budget of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2024-2025.

AGENDA ITEM 3: OUTLINE OF SAFIR ANNUAL REPORT

13. The EC members were apprised of the need to initiate the preparation of an Annual Report of SAFIR noting the absence of one thus far. In light of the Silver Jubilee, the Forum intends to develop its Annual Report and a draft outline for the same was presented.

14. It was highlighted that the report shall broadly include sections on SAFIR's background, structure, function, activities of SAFIR during the year, achievements of the member countries and SAFIR's annual accounts.

15. The members suggested that the annual report should also include a section on the Way forward which shall include action plans and anticipated future activities. The report shall also feature photos of all major events of SAFIR (physical and virtual meeting snapshots).

16. Based on the discussion, the Forum approved the outline of the Annual Report with the aforesaid suggestions. The member countries were requested to provide inputs pertaining to their respective countries, such as significant achievements, major orders issued or any suggestion on future action plans, to SAFIR Sectt. for inclusion in the Annual Report. SAFIR Sectt. will work on the report and present the same before the Forum.

NEXT EC MEETING

17. Based on the offer by Chairperson, Bangladesh ERC to host the next meeting, it was decided to schedule the next ECM in September in Chattogram, Bangladesh.

VOTE OF THANKS

18. Chief (RA), CERC briefed the Forum about the SAFIR JWG, which has been addressing two key issues, the Common Minimum Grid Code and Power Market Design to facilitate electricity trade among SAFIR member countries. Both the reports have been circulated to all member countries for their comments. However, since the comments are still awaited, it was once again requested that the members forward their comments on the same.

19. He further informed that the draft reports of the SAFIR JWG on Power Market Design were presented to the Power Secretaries Round Table (PSRT) – 18, which received a positive response. Therefore, the report may be finalised and submitted by SAFIR. However, prior to finalizing these reports, he sought that a special online ECM of SAFIR be convened to discuss the recommendations of member countries.

20. Delivering the vote of thanks, Chief (RA), CERC thanked all the members for participating in the meeting and also thanked the Chairperson, Bangladesh ERC for offering to conduct the next meeting in Bangladesh. He expressed appreciation for the SAFIR Secretariat for organising the meeting successfully.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
OF THE 26TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF “SAFIR”
DATE :15TH APRIL, 2024

Sl. No.	Name	Organization
01	Mr. Jishnu Barua, Chairperson, SAFIR/CERC	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India
02	Mr. Md. Nurul Amin, Chairperson	Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission
03	Mr. M.A.R.M. Fernando, Chairperson	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
04	Dr. Sushanta K. Chatterjee, Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, India
SPECIAL INVITEE		
05	Mr. Dilli Bahadur Singh, Chairman	Electricity Regulatory Commission, Nepal
SAFIR SECRETARIAT/OTHERS		
06	Ms. Rashmi Somasekharan Nair, Joint. Chief (Regulatory Affairs)	CERC
07	Barrister Md. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Secretary (Admin and Law)	Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission
08	Mr. Rinchen Dorji, Chief Tariff Division	Electricity Regulatory Authority, Bhutan
09	Ms.Thukten Wangmo, Chief Licensing & Technical Division	Electricity Regulatory Authority, Bhutan
10	Ms. Sukanya Mandal, Asst. Chief (RA)	CERC
11	Mr. M.M. Prasad, Sr. Accounts Officer	SAFIR
12	Mr. Nilesh Diwan, Accounts Officer	SAFIR
13	Ms. Jijnasa Behera, Research Officer	FOR