



Press Release

SAFIR : Steering Committee and Executive Committee meeting 2010

08th December, 2010

The 17th Steering Committee meeting and 4th Executive Committee meeting of SAFIR would held on 10th December 2010 at Kathmandu. The meeting will be attended by delegates from South Asian countries including regulators, industrialists, educational institutes and members from the ministries of governments.

SAFIR was formed in 1999 as a network of infrastructure regulators of the region comprising **Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan**, connected international institutions and individuals that are active in the field. It provides a platform for exchange of regulatory best practices in the infrastructure sector. Infrastructure sector is vital to the growth of a country and especially for developing countries of South Asian region. Unlike other associations, the focus of SAFIR is on infrastructure regulations and promotion of investment in this sector. It enables the regulators, policy makers and investors to take more informed decisions for strengthening infrastructure.

SAFIR functions though the mandate of its Executive committee and Steering Committee. The Steering Committee comprises of more than 40 member organizations from representing various infrastructure sectors. The meetings of SAFIR Executive and Steering committee are held on yearly basis in which the future course of action is decided. Presently, Mr. B.K. Mansingh, (Chairman of Water Supply Tariff Fixation Commission of Nepal) is the chairman of SAFIR.

Secretariat service is provided by India's central electricity regulator. The 2010 SAFIR meetings are being held in Kathmandu.

The focus in present meeting of SAFIR is on Green Energy. A position paper on the status of renewable energy development will be presented by SAFIR Secretariat. To achieve the purpose of promoting Green Energy in South Asia the position paper paves the way for further detailed study on the issues and barriers in renewable energy development in each of the South Asian nations.

The paper addresses key areas in each country like:

- Energy and power sector scenario
- Legal, policy and regulatory frame work
- Renewable energy tariff and other related issues
- Issues and barriers: technological, financial, socio-economical, policy/regulatory related issues etc.
- The way forward

Earlier SAFIR has held international conferences in New Delhi. The objective has been promotion of investment in infrastructure in South Asian region. SAFIR has conducted core courses for infrastructure regulation in IIM Bangalore.

A proposal for new research studies in different sectors of infrastructure will be discussed by the Steering committee members of South Asian countries. Further, the steering committee will discuss the outline of the Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation & Reforms to be organized in IIM Calcutta, India in 2011.