

SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION (SAFIR)

SIXTEENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Meeting

3rd November, 2009



SAFIR Secretariat

C/o CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
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16th SAFIR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: MINUTES OF MEETING**Meeting Date: 3rd November, 2009****Venue: Hotel Imperial, New Delhi****Introduction**

- 1.1 Dr. Pramod Deo, Chairperson, CERC welcomed all the participants on behalf of SAFIR Secretariat.

Confirmation of the minutes of 15th Steering Committee Meeting action taken report

- 1.2 The Steering Committee approved the minutes /summary of discussions of the 15th meeting as circulated. It also noted the action taken report.

Election for Chairman

- 1.3 Since no member from Bangladesh was present in the meeting, the Steering Committee unanimously elected Shri B.K. Man Singh, Chairman of the Water Supply Tariff Fixation, Nepal as the Chairman of SAFIR.

Budget for SAFIR

- 1.4 Steering Committee approved the budget for the year 2010-11 based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The approved budget is at Annexure -- I.

Revision of Membership fee

1.5 Steering Committee ratified the revised fee structure decided by the Executive Committee in its 1st meeting.

➤ The revised fee structure is given below:

- Academic institutions - 1000 USD
- Consumer bodies/NGOs - 250 USD
- Corporates / utilities - 4000 USD
- Regulatory bodies - 3000 USD [This will also include reimbursement of costs (travel, tuition fee etc.) for one person from each regulatory authority for the Core course.]

Registration of SAFIR as Association of Persons (AOP)

1.6 After discussion the Steering Committee unanimously approved the Memorandum of Association (MOA) with the following modifications:

- a. In the interest of continuity and keeping in view the importance of maintaining continuity in its legal status the proposal for rotating the Secretariat shall be dropped. The SAFIR Secretariat would be located in the member organizations as decided by the Steering Committee.
- b. MOA should explicitly provide that Chairperson of SAFIR would be elected in a manner that Chairmanship rotates among the country's represented in SAFIR.
- c. The Executive Committee would consist of one member from each country represented in SAFIR.

Report on Core Course

- 1.7 The report was noted after discussions the Steering Committee desired that the Secretariat should explore the possibility of organizing the next Core Course at Lahore University of Management Science (LUMS), Pakistan, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) - Bangalore, India or at Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), India within the available budget and take decision at its level.

The Steering Committee further desired the following:

- At least three months notice should be given to the member organisations for making nominations.
- Resource persons should be invited from various member countries of SAFIR.
- The course should have greater emphasis on current issues at advanced level and not just deal with elementary regulatory framework.

Plan of Action for the next year 2010 – 11

- 1.8 The Steering Committee approved the following activities as agreed in the Executive Committee:

- Organizing the Core Course
- Undertaking the two research studies with the help of World Bank, on the subjects agreed in the 1st Meeting of the Executive Committee.
- Developing a web based library for the use of SAFIR Members.
- Virtual working groups for the six sectors i.e. Highways, Telecom, Ports, Water, Power and Petroleum and Natural Gas. Every virtual working group would be led by one of the Member regulatory body in that sector.

- 1.9 Water Supply Tariff Fixation Commission of Nepal & PNGRB, India volunteered to be the lead regulatory bodies in the Water and Petroleum sector respectively.

Secretariat was authorized to settle the lead regulatory bodies in other sectors.

- 1.10 The Steering Committee also desired that Secretariat should take up issue of newsletters periodically and also a system of e-mail alerts to SAFIR members. It was also desired that a concept note on virtual working group should be prepared and posted on the SAFIR website.

It was further suggested by Bhutan Electricity Authority that possibilities of bilateral co-operation for capacity building of the staff of the regulatory bodies should also be encouraged.

Other issues

- 1.11 Chairman CERC briefly mentioned about his participation in the World Forum for Energy Regulation IV (WFER IV) held recently in Greece. He apprised that SAFIR has become a member of newly framed International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER). The Steering Committee also agreed that the Climate Change declarations adopted by other regional regulators associations at World Forum on Energy Regulation IV should be circulated to SAFIR Members for their comments.

Concluding Remarks

- 1.12 Shri B.K. Mansingh, Chairman SAFIR thanked the participants for their full support. He also expressed his gratitude for the services of the outgoing Chairman. He also appreciated the efforts made by the SAFIR Secretariat for various arrangements. He offered to host the next Steering Committee meeting in Nepal.

Annexure-I

BUDGET 2009-10 AND 2010-11					(US\$)@
S.No.	Head	2009-10		2010-11	
		Budget (Expenditure)	Actuals upto 30.09.09	Budget (Estimated)	
EXPENDITURE					
1	Professional Services	40,000	15042.2#	44,000	
2	Administrative Costs (Secretariat)	14,000	9771#	15,400	
3	Administrative Costs (Steering Committee)	35,000	-	38,500	
4	Core Course	-	3221.38*	40000	
	TOTAL	89,000	28,035	137,900	
RECIPTS					
	Subscription Fee	120500	54500	120500	
	TOTAL	120500	54500	120500^	

* Towards differential between the cost incurred and fees received for core course.

includes the expenditure incurred during November, 2008 to March, 2009 also. Activities have now picked up and accordingly the budget for 2010-11 has been proposed

@Conversion rate assumed: 1US\$=50Rs.

^There is a shortfall of receipts amounting to \$18400 vis a vis expenditure which may be met by increasing membership base.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl.No	Organisation	Name	Designation	Country
1	Administrative Staff College of India	Dr. Usha Ramachandra	Professor	India
2	Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	Mr. C.R. Sekhar Reddy	Member	India
3	Bhutan Electricity Authority	Mr. Nima Tshering	CEO	Bhutan
4	Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. B.K. Halder	Chairperson	India
5	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	Dr. Pramod Deo	Chairperson	India
6	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. Manoj Dey	Chairperson	India
7	Competition Commission of Pakistan	Mr. Khalid Aziz Mirza	Chairperson	Pakistan
8	Electricity Tariff Fixation Commission	Mr. Mahendra Nath Aryal	Chairperson	Nepal
9	Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. Yogesh Khanna	Chairperson	India
10	Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore	Mr. V. Ranganathar	RBI Chair Prof. & Prof. of Economics & Energy	India
11	Kerala Electricity Regulatory Commission	Shri K.J. Mathew	Chairperson	India
12	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	Dr. J.L. Bose	Chairperson	India
13	Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. Bijoy K. Mishra	Member	India
14	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Dr. Jayatissa de Costa	Chairperson	Sri Lanka
15	Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. Jai Singh Gill	Chairperson	India
16	Sui Northern Gas Company Ltd.	Mr. Tariq Iqbal Khan	Chairperson	Pakistan
17	Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. S. Kabilan	Chairperson	India
18	Jharkhand Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. Mukhtiar Singh	Chairperson	India
19	Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. Rajesh Awasthi	Chairperson	India
20	Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board	Sh. Ratan P. Watal	Secretary	India
21	Water Supply Tariff Fixation Commission of Nepal	Mr. B K Man Singh	Chairperson	Nepal
22	West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission	Sh. Prasad Ranjan Ray	Chairperson	India
23	CUTS Institute of Regulation & Competition	Sh. Vipul Chatterjee	Director	India
SAFIR Secretariat				
24	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	Shri Alok Kumar	Secretary	India
25	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	Shri S.K. Chatterjee	Deputy Chief (RA)	India