



MINUTES OF THE 17TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION

HELD ON 26TH APRIL 2019

Venue: “Board Room “, Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, India

The 17th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) of South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) was chaired by Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, SAFIR & Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) and attended by members of Executive Committee of SAFIR. The list of participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

Chairperson, CERC/ SAFIR Sectt welcomed all members to the ECM. Thereafter the Executive Committee took up the agenda items for discussion and decision.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 16th Executive Committee Meeting and Action taken report

- a. Dy. Chief (RA), CERC / SAFIR Secretariat briefed the Executive Committee about the action taken by SAFIR Secretariat on the decisions taken during the 16th ECM which includes the correspondence to include new member countries and ensure active participation of the existing members of SAFIR.
- b. The Committee was also briefed regarding the successful completion of the workshop on Power Pool Governance and Interconnection by SAFIR in association with CLDP and USAID during 25-26th April, 2019 in New Delhi which is in compliance to the approval given in 16th ECM.
- c. Regarding seeking representation from Nepal, it was explained that currently there was no Electricity Commission in place and the same is under constitution. SAFIR



Secretariat is also in the process of approaching Afghanistan for membership. The members of ECM suggested that Afghanistan may be approached through the Embassy or foreign ministry of Afghanistan.

- d. Thereafter, the minutes of the 16th Executive Committee Meeting were confirmed as circulated.

Agenda 2: Accounts Related matters

Dy. Chief (RA), CERC / SAFIR Secretariat explained the salient features of the proposed budget for the financial year 2019-20. Along with this, re-appointment of Auditor for audit of the accounts of SAFIR, Consultant for filing the Income Tax Return of SAFIR, Consultant for certifying and filing the FCRA Return of SAFIR for the FY 2018-19 has been approved by the ECM as proposed in the agenda. Similarly, re-appointment of Tax Consultant for filing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) return for FY 2019-20 has also been approved as proposed in the agenda.

Agenda 3: Issue of Outstanding membership fee

a) The Committee noted the efforts made by the SAFIR Secretariat to establish communication with the member countries and pursue them for their active participation in activities of SAFIR. Further, it was decided that those organisations/institutions who have not paid the membership fee for the past 5 years, despite consistent reminders from SAFIR Secretariat may be issued a notice regarding cessation of their membership under rule 9.1.3 of MoA of SAFIR.

b) The Committee was also informed about the request received from Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for their withdrawal from SAFIR w.e.f. FY 2018-19. After discussion, the Committee approved the withdrawal application of MERC.



Agenda 4: Appointment of next Chairperson, SAFIR

The Committee was informed that the current Chairperson of SAFIR, Mr Saliya Mathew, Chairman PUCSL, Sri Lanka would be demitting office on 17.07.2019. As the Chairperson of SAFIR is selected on rotation basis for 2 years (among the countries represented in the ECM of SAFIR) , Mr Monowar Islam, Chairperson BEREC was requested to take charge as next Chairperson of SAFIR w.e.f. 18.07.2019.

Agenda 5: Status Update of planned activities of SAFIR for FY 2018-19 & Proposal for FY 2019-20

- a. The ECM was updated that a proposal has been sent to IRADe to conduct the next Infrastructure Conference. IRADe, in response had intimated about the extension of the SARI/EI program for another 4 years and that they would send the detailed proposal for the Infrastructure Conference once the documentation for SARI Stage 1 is completed. The ECM has directed the SAFIR secretariat to pursue with IRADe and finalise the topics at the earliest.
- b. The Committee was informed that the 17th Core Course was successfully conducted by SAFIR in association with IICA during 5th-8th April, 2019 at Manesar Gurgaon, India and the feedback was satisfactorily. The Committee directed the Secretariat to conduct the next Core Course before December, 2019. They also directed SAFIR Sectt to write to the Member countries and other Members of SAFIR if any of them volunteer to conduct the 18th Core Course. Chairperson, BEREC, Bangladesh offered to host the next ECM in Bangladesh in September, 2019. Accordingly, the ECM directed SAFIR Secretariat to follow up with BEREC for exact date and venue.



c. Further, the Committee was briefed about the request of International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) for active participation of SAFIR in the activities of their Virtual Working Groups (VWGs). SAFIR being a member consented to be a part of the two VWGs of ICER and SAFIR secretariat nominated DC (RA), CERC/SAIR as co-chair VWG on Technology and Innovation. The Committee approved the nomination and suggested that links for the video conferencing be shared with the SAFIR members so that they can also nominate their officials to attend the video conferencing as per their convenience.

Agenda 6: New memberships

The Committee expressed their concern regarding withdrawals of membership and directed the Secretariat to pursue new members to join SAFIR. The ECM members also directed the Secretariat to establish communication with countries such as Myanmar, Afghanistan, Maldives and Nepal to participate in activities of SAFIR.

The ECM formally placed on record its appreciation to Mr Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, PUCSL, Sri Lanka for steering the SAFIR during his tenure as Chair person, SAFIR and welcomed Mr Monowar Islam as new Chairperson of SAFIR w.e.f 18.7.2019

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair

**Annexure – I****Participants**

Sr.No.	Name and Designation	Organisation
1	Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson	SAFIR and PUCSL, Sri Lanka
2	Mr. Samdrup Thinley, Chief Executive Officer	BEA, Bhutan
3	Mr. Monowar Islam, Chairperson	BERC, Bangladesh
4	Mr. P.K. Pujari, Chairman	CERC, India
5.	Mr. Sanoj Kr. Jha, Secretary	CERC, India
6.	Dr. S.K. Chatterjee, Joint Chief (RA)	CERC, India
7.	Mrs. Rashmi Nair, Deputy Chief (RA)	CERC, India
8.	Mr. Arun Kumar, Assistant Secretary	SAFIR, India
9.	Mr Firoz Zaman, Dy Director	BERC, Bangladesh