

**MINUTES OF THE 24th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF
SOUTH ASIA FORUM FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATION**

Date: 10.5.2018

Venue: Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh

List of participants is enclosed at Annexure-I.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Saliya Mathew, Chairperson, South Asia Forum of Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) & Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL). He extended a warm welcome to all members of the Steering Committee (SC).

The Steering Committee took the Agenda Items for discussion and decision.

Agenda 1 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 23rd Steering Committee Meeting and Action Taken Report

The Steering Committee endorsed the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May, 2017 at New Delhi, India. The Committee also discussed and noted the Action Taken Report.

- Agenda 2 :**
- i. Adoption of the Audited Accounts of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2016-2017.**
 - ii. Approval of Budget for the F.Y. 2018 - 2019.**
 - iii. Appointment of Auditors for auditing the Accounts of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2017-18.**
 - iv. Appointment of Chartered Accountant for certifying and filing the FCRA Return of SAFIR for the F.Ys. 2016-17 & 2017-18**

- (i) The Committee considered the Audited Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2016-17 placed before it by SAFIR Secretariat and adopted the same.

The Committee considered the updated Budget estimate statement for the F.Y. 2018-19 with actual receipts & expenditures till 31.03.2018 and adopted the same. It was also decided that whenever any Steering Committee Meeting is held in New Delhi, India, the organizations of India represented in the Steering Committee shall make their own arrangements for stay and travel and SAFIR shall not reimburse such costs.

- (ii) The Committee was informed that M/s R.K. Raman & Co., Chartered Accountants, New Delhi have been appointed to conduct the audit of Accounts of SAFIR for the F.Y. 2017-18 by following due procedure. The Committee endorsed the same.
- (iii) The Committee noted that during the 23rd SCM of SAFIR, it was decided that the FCRA Return of SAFIR would be prepared in-house and M/s MBR & Co. LLP, Chartered Accountants, New Delhi be appointed for the certification and filing of the FCRA Return of SAFIR for the F.Ys. 2016-17 & 2017-18 with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee directed the SAFIR Secretariat to complete the procedure and report to the Committee in its next meeting.

All the proposals were accepted by the Steering Committee and Secretary, CERC/SAFIR was authorized to take steps for all relevant actions, with the approval of the Chairperson, SAFIR.

Agenda 3: Outstanding membership fee from the members of SAFIR for the earlier financial years.

The Committee noted the efforts made by SAFIR Secretariat towards eliciting response from the Members who have not been paying their Membership fee. The Committee observed that further efforts should be made by the Secretariat by establishing initial contacts and thereafter exploring the possibility of visiting the offices of Member Organizations to ensure their continued support to SAFIR.

Agenda 4: Report on the 16th Core course of SAFIR

The Committee perused the report based on compilation of feedback from the participants of the 16th Core Course on “Infrastructure Regulation and Reforms” organized in association with CUTS International at Jaipur, India during 24 – 28 April, 2017.

The Committee noted that the previous Infrastructure Conference was conducted by SAFIR in January 2016 in association with IRADe/ USAID on “Sustainable Development of Power Sector and Enhancement of Electricity Trade in the South Asian Region: Policy, Regulatory Issues/Challenges and way

forward”. It was decided that SAFIR Secretariat may explore the possibility of holding the next Infrastructure Conference in India, in association with IRADe or such other funding agency.

The Committee noted the efforts made by SAFIR Secretariat so as to hold the next SAFIR Core Course in India.

Agenda 5: Commissioning of new Study under SAFIR

The Committee considered that topics proposed by the SAFIR Secretariat for commissioning studies. The Committee after detailed deliberation decided that studies on the following two topics may be commissioned.

1. Cross Border Trade in Electricity
2. Regulatory interventions for Grid discipline and Grid reliability in South Asian region

The Committee noted that the SAFIR Working Group (comprising one representative from each member country) has been mandated to work on knowledge sharing and addressing cross cutting energy / electricity regulatory issues and Capacity building in South Asia. Hence, SCM directed that the SAFIR Working Group could take up the task of working on studies on the above topics.

The Committee also directed the SAFIR Secretariat to explore the possibility of associating with multilateral funding agencies such as Asian Development Bank for financial support for conducting studies on subjects related to areas of infrastructure.

Agenda 6: Next meeting of SAFIR Steering Committee

The Committee decided to convene the next Steering Committee Meeting in New Delhi, India during the month of April 2019.

Shri P.K.Pujari, Chairperson, CERC, India thanked the officials of BEREC for their painstaking efforts in conducting the SCM and also the officials and staff of BEREC and the SAFIR Secretariat for their arduous efforts in organizing the meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S. No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
1	Mr. Saliya Mathew	Chairperson	Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
2	Mr. Pradeep Kumar Pujari	Chairperson	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
3	Mr. Samdrup K Thinley	CEO	Bhutan Electricity Authority	Bhutan
4	Mr. Md. Abdul Aziz Khan	Member	Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	Bangladesh
5	Shri Narayan Singh	Chairperson	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
6	Shri Rabindra Nath Sen	Chairperson	West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
7	Dr. Arbind Prasad	Chairperson	Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
8	Shri Ismail Ali Khan	Chairperson	Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
9	Shri Shakti Kumar Negi	Chairperson	Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
10	Shri U. N Behera	Chairperson	Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
11	Mr. T.S. Balasubramanian	Member	Tariff Authority for Major Ports	India
12	Justice G. Bhavani Prasad	Chairperson	Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
13	Shri S.K.B.S. Negi	Chairperson	Himanchal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
14	Dr Dev Raj Birdi	Chairperson	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
15	Shri M. K. Goel	Chairperson	Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
16	Shri. Preman Dinaraj	Chairperson	Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
17	Shri Subhash Chandra Das	Chairperson	Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
18	Shri M.K. Shankaralinge Gowda	Chairperson	Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
19	Shri Subhash Kumar	Chairperson	Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
20	Shri B.P. Singh	Member	Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
21	Ms. Anjuli Chandra	Member	Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission	India

22	Shri K.M. Shringarpure	Member	Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
23	Shri Radha Krishna Tripathy	Senior Fellow	CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition	India
24	Shri Sanoj Kumar Jha	Secretary	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India
25	Dr. Sushanta Kumar Chatterjee	Joint Chief (Regulatory Affairs)	Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	India