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Brief report

On

SARI/EI Delegation to Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Secretariat - Meeting with Honorable Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation



**20th October, 2016
BIMSTEC Secretariat
House No-N.W. (I)-06, Road No-53, Gulshan-02, Dhaka-1212
Dhaka, Bangladesh.**



SARI/EI



SARI/EI delegation comprised of Mr. V.K.Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI/IRADe, Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Head-Technical, SARI/EI/IRADe and Dr. Anjana Das, Consultant, IRADe met with Mr. Sumith Nakandala, Honorable Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) on 20th October, 2016 at BIMSTEC Secretariat at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mr. V.K.Kharbanda made a brief presentation on the “Overview of SARI/EI Program Progress, Key Achievements and Way Forward”. Various SARI/EI task force studies being conducted under SARI/EI was highlighted and discussed and how these studies can also be useful to BIMSTEC was also deliberated. Mr. Kharbanda suggested that, considering that out of 8 SARI/EI countries 5 countries are a part of BIMSTEC countries, therefore work of SARI/EI will be very useful for BIMSTEC for promoting/advancing energy cooperation and cross border electricity trade among BIMSTEC countries. Dr. Anjana Das, Consultant, IRADe briefly explained the Analytical study on macro-economic benefits CBET between India-Nepal being carried out by IRADe.

In response to a question from Honorable Secretary General of BIMSTEC about what concrete proposal BIMSTEC need to pursue to advance Energy/Electricity Cooperation among BIMSTEC countries, Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Head-Technical, SARI/EI/IRADe said that Energy literacy is very limited among BIMSTEC member countries, he suggested that BIMSTEC may consider for publishing a biennial flagship publication titled “BIMSTEC Energy Outlook “which will not only improve the Energy literacy among BIMSTEC member states but also can bring cohesion and sustenance about the Energy/Electricity cooperation initiatives among BIMSTEC member states over a long period of time. The idea of “BIMSTEC Energy Outlook“ was positively noted by the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Secretariat.

It was informed to the Delegation by BIMSTEC, that BIMSTEC Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Grid Interconnection is expected to be finalized and signed in next BIMSTEC summit. In the above context, SARI/EI delegation mentioned once BIMSTEC MoU on Grid Interconnection signed, a lot of work needs to be carried out to operationalize the BIMSTEC MoU on Grid Interconnection, as grid interconnection will involve substantial amount of work on harmonization and coordination technical standards, grid codes, system planning and operation etc. and the SARI/EI study on Harmonization grid codes, operating procedures and standards among South Asian Countries can be very useful for BIMSTEC.