
REGIONAL INVESTMENT ROUNDTABLE ON ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES

September 3, 2019 | USISPF, 12 Hailey Road, New Delhi



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ROUNDTABLE

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) under the USAID's SARI/EI (South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration) program, organised a roundtable on the topic 'Regional Investment Roundtable on Energy Opportunities', in partnership with Industry Advisory Council – US India Strategic Partnership Forum.

The Regional Roundtable was conceptualised with the dual objectives of enabling cross-border learning opportunities as well as promoting private investment in clean energy.

Mr Pankaj Batra, Project Director, IRADe-SARI/ EI, emphasized on the importance of Cross-Border Electricity Trade (CBET) among South Asian nations in view of the diversities in demand, seasons, supply sources in these countries. SARI/ EI plays a critical role in promoting CBET in the region and its relentless efforts have resulted in many key achievements.



Mr Michael Satin, Director of the Clean Energy and Environment Office, USAID, urged all policymakers and private investors to come together and make the right investments and choices for a better future. Mr Satin acknowledged the key role played by SARI/ EI in the energy reforms narrative in the region since the last two decades.

Mr Akamine Kengo, Senior Representative, JICA India Office, spoke about the unique challenges faced by the South Asian nations with regard to electricity generation and transmission. Specific to India, Mr Kengo highlighted the need to promote private participation in the Renewable Energy space, promoting access to low cost finance, encourage use of pumped storage hydro power plant and the need to reduce transmission and distribution losses.



Mr Pravin Kumar Singh, Director (Technical), Power Finance Corporation Ltd., showcased the various initiatives by the Government to improve Transmission efficiencies, including the mission of achieving One Nation, One Grid. In terms of Distribution, Mr Singh informed the audience, 20 billion USD has already been invested in various urban and rural schemes.

Regional sessions

The sessions were attended by leading dignitaries of the Government and State Electricity Boards from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. In-depth discussions were held on the challenges and opportunities for private sector investment and its role in Regional Energy cooperation, with focus on Renewable Energy and Grid Management.

Regional Session I



Session I was moderated by **Mr V.K. Agarwal**, Technical Director, IRADe, and comprised eminent panellists: **Mr Mohammad Nazmul Abedin**, Deputy Secretary, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Government of Bangladesh (GoB); **Mr Md. Abdur Rouf Miah**, Director (Sustainable Energy), Power Cell, Dhaka, GoB; **Mr Galey Dorji**, Engineer, Department of Renewable Energy, Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB); **Mr Gem Dorji**, Principal Engineer, Department of Hydropower and Power System, RGoB.

Key Country-specific Takeaways

Bangladesh

- As per the latest Power System Master Plan 2016, the Government envisions to take power generation to 40,000 MW by 2030, which requires a huge investment
- Private sector currently provides more than 50% of the power generation capacity in the country
- Several Power distribution policy changes are being implemented by the Government to encourage investment into the sector

Bhutan

- The country promotes green energy and is a hydro-power rich state with surplus capacity
- Bhutan is seeking private partnerships to explore research into Renewable Energy technologies
- The Government has proposed several models to encourage investment into the sector – Intergovernmental, Joint Ventures, PPP and Private participation to develop small hydro plants

Regional Session II

Session II was moderated by Mr Tushar Sud, Chief of Party, GTG Rise Program, and was attended by distinguished dignitaries: **Mr Babu Raj Adhikari**, Senior Divisional Engineer, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources & Irrigation, Government of Nepal (GoN); **Mr Saroj Acharya**, Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Electricity Development, GoN; **Mr Nihal Fernando**, Additional Finance Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board, Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL); **Mr T. L. B. Attanayake** (GoSL)



Key Country-specific Takeaways

Nepal

- Currently 35% of the country's power requirements are met through Government projects, 35% by the Private sector and the remaining through imports
- Government has formulated favourable investment policies to encourage domestic and foreign participation – Private sector is allowed to obtain licence and operate for 30 years; 100% IT exemption is given for upto 10 years and minimal energy royalty charges are levied

Sri Lanka

- The country has achieved 100% electrification, and faces 5-6% annual demand growth. Renewable Energy is the current focus as hydro-generation fluctuation prove to be a challenge
- Private sector investment is sought to ensure wind and solar power access to remote areas
- Sri Lanka is aiming to attract USD 1.3 billion investment in the next five years. For that, an Energy Policy has been formulated, with focus on investor protection

ABOUT IRADe

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) is the implementing partner for USAID's SARI/EI program. IRADe is an independent advanced research institute which aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as Government, Non-governmental organizations, Corporations, Academic and Financial institutions. The organization conducts multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder policy and technical research & analysis in the domains of Energy, Climate Change, Urban Development, Poverty, Gender Equity, Agriculture, and Food Security in Asia.

A major area of focus for IRADe has been to promote investment in the South Asian Power Sector, from the perspective of Cross Border Energy Trade. IRADe is in the process of forming a Regional Investment Council for promoting Cross Border Electricity Trade in the South Asian nations. It recently came out with a Report on 'Regional Investment Framework and Guidelines for Promoting Investment in South Asian Power Sector and in Cross Border Electricity Trade in South Asia'.

Read the Report at: <https://irade.org/SARI-EI-Report-Regional-Investment-Framework-and-Guidelines-for-Promoting-Investment-in-SA-Region-Report.pdf>

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