
Highlights of Second Meeting of SAFIR Working Group on “Regulatory Cooperation to Facilitate Knowledge sharing, addressing Cross cutting Energy/Electricity Regulatory Issues & Capacity Building in South Asia”

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L-R: Mr. Md. Firoz Zaman, Deputy Director, BERC, Bangladesh; Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Technical Head-SARI/EI/IRADe; Hon. Mr. Monowar Islam, Chairman, BERC, Bangladesh; Mr. Pankaj Batra, Project Director, SARI/EI/IRADe; Ms. Rashmi Somasekharan Nair, Deputy Chief (RA), CERC India; Mr. Gaseb Dorji, Chief, Economic Research, BEA, Bhutan

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKSHOP

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), under the USAID SARI/EI program, organized the Second South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) Working Group meeting on ‘Regulatory Cooperation to Facilitate Knowledge sharing, addressing Cross cutting Energy/Electricity Regulatory Issues and Capacity Building in South Asia’ on 4th December in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was graced by Honorable Mr. Monowar Islam, Chairman, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan and India.

Delivering the keynote address, Honorable Mr. Monowar Islam appreciated the contribution of SARI/EI and commended the work being done under the SAFIR working Group. He stressed on the need to move towards a harmonized policy and regulatory framework, and a regional power market.

The SAFIR Working Group members from Bangladesh, Bhutan and India made presentations on their respective country’s Energy/ Electricity Regulatory framework. They also shared their perspective on Regulatory Cooperation to facilitate knowledge sharing and addressed cross-cutting Energy/ Electricity regulatory issues.

Mr. Pankaj Batra, Project Director, SARI/EI and Rajiv Ratna Panda Technical-Head, SARI/EI, presented on the Common Minimum Grid codes for facilitating cross border electricity trade in the South Asia region. The objectives of the common minimum grid code are: a) Facilitating cross border trading of

power, while ensuring secure, reliable, economic, and efficient operation of the grid; b) Facilitating coordinated optimal operation of the South Asian grid; and c) Facilitating coordinated and optimal maintenance planning of generation and transmission facilities in the South Asian grid.

Presenting on 'Evolution of Cross Border Electricity Trade in South Asia and Future Outlook', Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda highlighted four key future trends - Moving from Bilateral to Tri/Multilateral and Market Integration; Role of Regional Hydro-Power in Renewable Integration and Grid Balancing; Moving towards Market form of Cross Border Power Trade; and Trans-Regional Energy Integration – South Asia and South-East Asia.

An important highlight of the meeting was the updates presented by the Mr. Pankaj Batra and Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda on the various activities of SAFIR working group, covering the following activities:

- Study on South Asia electricity regulations to develop regulatory pathway for Electricity/Energy exchange and Energy Cooperation in South Asia
- Study on Regulatory interventions for Grid discipline and Grid reliability in the region
- Study on Cross Border Electricity Trade
- Organizing a 'South Asia Energy Sector Training and Capacity Building program on Energy
- Regulation for Energy Cooperation and Exchange of Electricity in South Asia'
- Developing South Asia Energy/Electricity Regulatory Compendium, as well as SAFIR-Regulatory Newsletter
- Creating a web portal on 'South Asia Energy/Electricity Knowledge Resource Database'

The second SAFIR Working Group meeting concluded with discussion on the work plan for 2019 - 2020, and the activities needed to be undertaken at an accelerated pace to attain its objectives.

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<https://sari-energy.org/>

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