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Background Note
SAFIR-SARI/EI Conference (Virtual)
on
“Sustainable Energy Infrastructure
Development and Role of Cross Border Energy
Trade in South Asia: Challenges, Opportunities
and Way forward”
15th & 16th March, 2021, New Delhi, India

Jointly Organised
by
South Asia Forum of Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR)
&
USAID’s South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI)



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**Conference (Virtual) on
“Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development and Role of Cross Border Energy
Trade in South Asia: Challenges, Opportunities and Way forward”
15th & 16th March 2021, New Delhi, India**

A. Background and Context:

01. South Asia (SA) region is one of the most vibrant and diverse regions in the world. It comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 4.21% (US\$3.67 trillion) of the global economy, as of 2019¹. Access to reliable, affordable, clean, and sustainable energy is a high priority not only to support rapid economic growth and improved welfare of more than 1.8 billion population² of the SA region but also to ensure energy security in the region.
02. Over the past few years, SA has had a period of sustained economic growth (average of ~ 6 %) that has lifted many from poverty and contributed to notable strides in health and education and other development indicators and in striving to achieve suitable development goals. Rapid industrialisation, modernisation, and urbanisation lead to the rising energy demand across all the countries of the South Asian region and considering the current level of per capita electricity consumption of 915 kwh per capita against the global average 2674 kwh per capita³. There is an urgent need, and a tremendous opportunity, for enhancing per capita consumption of energy, particularly electricity, in SA region. Adequate supply of energy is pre-requisite for all human pursuits ranging from economic progress of scientific research endeavours, education, healthcare, and recreational activities.
03. South Asia is highly vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change and decarbonising power/energy sector is crucial in fight against climate change. Some of the cities in South Asia are known hotspots for air pollution and this region is also among the world's most exposed to household air pollution⁴. About 79 percent of the population in Bangladesh, 60 percent in India, and 52 percent in Pakistan are exposed to pollution from burning of solid fuels, which contribute significantly to poor health in the region⁵. Therefore, it is important to meet the rising energy demand through sustainable form of energy and minimise and eliminate pollution caused across the Energy Sector Value Chain through rapid adoption of clean and modern energy technologies. Like other parts of the globe, here also, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a devastating toll on lives, livelihoods, and economies⁶, however, a silver lining to the cloud is that it has enabled us to catch glimpses of a better and sustainable world—cleaner air, blue skies, and reduced emissions, besides reinforcing the value of public health⁷. This re-intensifies and remind us the urgency to expand the development Sustainable Energy Infrastructure (SEI) at a rapid scale.
04. Energy mix in the SAARC region is predominantly inclined towards fossil fuels⁸. According to the SAARC Energy outlook, even though there is significant focus on promotion of clean energy fuel sources, it is expected that the fossil fuels will account for a major share till 2030. While coal dominates energy production in India and Pakistan, Bangladesh relies on natural gas. Maldives will continue to rely on fossil fuel imports to meet its energy needs. While each SA country has taken measures to reduce emission from power/energy sector, building sustainable energy infrastructure continues to remain a challenge. On the other hand, Cross Border Electricity/Energy Trade (CBET) possess an immense opportunity and can trigger rapid decarbonising of power/energy sector in SA through the development of large-scale Cleaner, Greener and Sustainable Energy Infrastructure (CGSEI) across the region. There are huge opportunities for regional optimization of diverse energy resources in a sustainable manner through the development of interconnected and integrated power system by advancing CBET in the region. Hydro power potential of Nepal and Bhutan can help in better hydro-thermal ratio of the whole SA region. The CBET across the SA Region will promote economic growth and improve the quality of life for all the nations and shall balance

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_Association_for_Regional_Cooperation#:~:text=The%20South%20Asian%20Association%20for,Nepal%2C%20Pakistan%20and%20Sri%20Lanka

2 <https://www.adb.org/news/op-ed/how-south-asia-can-continue-world-s-fastest-growing-subregion-lei-lei-song>

3 <https://sari-energy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Deepening-Power-System-Integration-and-Cross-Border-Electricity-Trade-in-SAARC-Region-Current-Status-and-Future-Outlook-Rajiv-Ratna-PandaTechnical-Head-22-09-2020.pdf>

4 <https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/air-pollution-aggravating-covid-19-south-asia#:~:text=South%20Asia%20is%20also%20among,poor%20health%20in%20the%20region.>

5 <https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/air-pollution-aggravating-covid-19-south-asia#:~:text=South%20Asia%20is%20also%20among,poor%20health%20in%20the%20region.>

6 <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/09/renewable-energy-drive-post-covid-recovery/>

7 <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/09/renewable-energy-drive-post-covid-recovery/>

8 <https://www.saarcenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SAARC-Energy-Outlook-2030-Final-Report-Draft.pdf>

9 <https://www.saarcenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SAARC-Energy-Outlook-2030-Final-Report-Draft.pdf>



the diversity of primary energy sources and differences in seasonal patterns of supply and demand. CBET particularly in the SA can also play an incredibly significant role in achieving the social, economic, and developmental objectives of the region and in a way shall enhance the overall stability in the region. In a post COVID recovery world, affordable, reliable, and, more importantly, sustainable, and clean energy/electricity supplies is becoming even more critical to sustain the competitive and low carbon economic growth over a long period of time.

05. The South Asian Countries (SACs) have recognized the importance of Sustainable Energy Infrastructure and potential benefits of Regional Energy Cooperation (REC) and CBET and are undertaking transmission interconnections and development of hydro power for five decades. In the BBIN (Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal) sub-region, CBET has been happening between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal. In case of India-Bhutan, Bhutan is exporting sustainable clean hydro power to India. Many export oriented hydro power plants are also under construction in Nepal. Various CBET projects at bilateral, trilateral, and regional level are under discussion and construction stage. There is also a small quantum of power supply between India and Myanmar. In total, on the eastern side of South Asia, the overall electricity trade was 15,680 Million Units in FY20. In terms of MW power flow also, the CBET has more than doubled since the year 2012 and currently around ~3700 MW is being traded⁹. Greater number of cross border power projects and transmission interconnections are being planned and proposed particularly in the BBIN sub-region, which will enable greater integration of power systems of SACs. It is expected that cross border transmission interconnection could be ~43.8 GW by 2040 in SA Region¹⁰.
06. While sustainable energy infrastructure development and CBET is on an upward trajectory in the recent past however potential remains exceedingly large across SA region. Region has tremendous hydro potential (~350 GW) and significant solar (~939 GW) and wind (967 GW) energy potential¹¹. While South Asia is endowed with large (> 350 gigawatts) hydropower potential, only around 20 percent has been exploited so far¹². Increased REC on a sustained basis among countries can bring economies of scale, strengthen electricity/energy sector financing capability, enhance competition, market development, improve sector efficiency and greening the South Asia Power Grid (SAPG). The development of hydropower, a sustainable form of energy in the region would increase by 2.7 times over the next two decades if the region could facilitate an unconstrained flow of electricity across the borders in South Asia¹³. The region will save almost a 100 billion dollars from its electricity supply costs over the next two decades through the substitution of fossil fuels with hydropower. If a moderate carbon tax is added on top of that, hydropower capacity in 2040 could be more than three times as high as the current level.
07. India has come up with a very ambitious plan to develop large scale sustainable energy infrastructure, to reach a target of 450 GW of Renewable energy by 2030, arguably the most ambitious plan in the world. Other SA countries also have plans for increased RE in the energy basket. Because of resource diversity between countries, to manage the RE intermittency and grid balancing, hydro resources of Bhutan and Nepal can supplement the sustainable grid integration of renewable energy in India and other countries. Recent initiative by India for One sun One world and One Grid (OSOWOG) can further deepen power system integration in South Asia and beyond.
08. Region also witnessed trade of petroleum products through cross border pipeline infrastructure between India-Nepal with the commissioning of the 69 km-long pipelines from Motihari in Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal, the first-ever cross-border petroleum product pipeline in the SA region¹⁴. Similarly, cross border oil pipeline is under construction¹⁵ between India and Bangladesh¹⁶. Similar discussion is ongoing to develop cross border natural gas pipeline trade and eventually to form regional gas grid in the region.

9 <https://sari-energy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Deepening-Power-System-Integration-and-Cross-Border-Electricity-Trade-in-SAARC-Region-Current-Status-and-Future-Outlook-Rajiv-Ratna-PandaTechnical-Head-22-09-2020.pdf>

10 <https://sari-energy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Deepening-Power-System-Integration-and-Cross-Border-Electricity-Trade-in-SAARC-Region-Current-Status-and-Future-Outlook-Rajiv-Ratna-PandaTechnical-Head-22-09-2020.pdf>

11 SARI/EI Data Source, compiled from various sources, <https://sari-energy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Deepening-Power-System-Integration-and-Cross-Border-Electricity-Trade-in-SAARC-Region-Current-Status-and-Future-Outlook-Rajiv-Ratna-PandaTechnical-Head-22-09-2020.pdf>

12 <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/714401531237858109/pdf/WPS8513.pdf>

13 <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/29986/WPS8513.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

14 <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-nepal-petroleum-products-pipeline-project-inaugurated/article29382582.ece>

15 <https://bdnews24.com/business/2020/12/03/india-bangladesh-pipeline-construction-begins-in-dinajpur#:~:text=The%20construction%20work%20in%20the,work%20on%20Thursday%20at%20Sonapurk>

16 <https://www.thestatesman.com/india/pm-modi-sheikh-hasina-jointly-inaugurate-india-bangladesh-oil-pipeline-1502686326.html>



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09. SARI/EI and SAFIR has been partnering with each other in various areas. This year SAFIR's Annual conference (Virtual) has been titled as "Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development and Role of Cross Border Energy Trade in South Asia: Challenges, Opportunities and way forward ". The conference is being jointly organised by SAFIR and USAID's SARI/EI Program.

B. Format of the Conference.

The conference will be virtual conference and have inaugural session and three focused working session in the format of panel discussion. The conference is being jointly organised by SAFIR and USAID's SARI/EI Program.

Day-1, 15 th March, 2021 Monday (14.30 Hrs-17.30 Hrs)	Day-2, 16 th March, 2021 Tuesday (14.30 Hrs-17.35 Hrs)
Inaugural Session (14.30 Hrs-15.40 Hrs)	Working session 2 (14.30-16.00Hrs)
Working session -1 (15.40-17.30 Hrs)	Working session 3 (16.00-17.35 Hrs)

- **Inaugural Session**
- **Working session-1** "Conducive Policies and Facilitating Regulations for Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development for a Cleaner and Greener Energy Future in South Asia"
- **Working session-2** "Transitioning from Bilateral to Trilateral/Multilateral Power Trade and Development of Regional Power/Energy Market for accelerating Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development and Cross Border Energy/Electricity Trade"
- **Working session-3** "Greening the South Asia Energy/Power System for a Sustainable Future: An investment perspective"

C. Inaugural Session of the conference

Inaugural session of the conference is expected to be a high-level session keeping with the tradition, where high level dignitaries such as Hon'ble Minister of Power, US ambassador to India, Officials from Ministry of power, India, SAFIR chairman, Chairperson of CERC, among others is expected to be present. Inaugural Session will also set the platform to release background paper of the conference titled "Prospects for Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development and Role of Cross Border Energy Trade in South Asia: Challenges, Opportunities and way forward "and the SAFIR Regulatory Newsletter (SRN).

D. Working session-1 "Conducive Policies and Facilitating Regulations for Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development and cross border energy trade for a Cleaner and Greener Energy Future in SA".

Conducive policies and enabling regulations with stability, transparency, predictability in the regulatory approach is crucial in faster development of sustainable energy in SA region both in the domestic and regional front. This helps in minimising perception of regulatory and policy risks, thus making it lucrative for interested parties to develop Sustainable Energy Infrastructure. Different SA countries have pursued different and similar approaches and put in policy, regulatory incentive instruments/mechanism to increase the deployment of Sustainable Energy Infrastructure. The /energy/power sectors of the SA nations are at different stages of reforms and sector evolution revolving around policy, regulatory, legal, technical, commercial, market and institutional frameworks. In the SA regional context, the risks associated with intra-regional, cross-border energy projects would be greatly minimized if each participating country adopts a complementary energy policy, with interconnections forming an integral part of it. The development of harmonized/coordinated policies to facilitate competitive cross-border trading in electricity is a key 'building block' towards meeting the larger goal of capturing the efficiencies and synergies associated with the resources and customer demands of the neighbouring nations. While there has been significant policy and regulatory development related to CBET in the recent past with a leading role played by India, a robust coordinated and implementable regional framework among the countries is required which will further promote and give impetus to the REC & CBET to realise its full potential. A consistent, credible, compatible and sector friendly policy, regulatory and legal framework will encourage investors, developers, and multilateral development banks to participate more actively in development of untapped regional energy resources and associated cross border transmission infrastructure in the SA region.

Working session-1 is expected to have speakers from SA countries and will deliberate on a) how to create facilitating regulations and enabling technical framework and incentive mechanism/instruments to Sustainable



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Energy Infrastructure Development and cross border energy trade b) sharing of lessons learned and experience of SA countries on designing appropriate policy regulatory instruments and their impacts c) need to build regional institutional mechanism across policy, regulatory, transmission and system operator level for deepening CBET with a view to create for a cleaner, greener and sustainable energy future in SA region through mutual understanding and cooperation, by promoting, initiating and facilitating effective dialogue among SACs.

E. Working session-2 “Transitioning Gradually from Bilateral to Trilateral/Multilateral Power Trade and Development of South Asia Regional Power/Energy Market for accelerating Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development and Cross Border Energy/Electricity Trade”.

South Asian Countries have so far been successful in undertaking cross border power trade through bilateral form of cooperation and development of bilateral Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Projects. India-Bhutan has been developing sustainable hydropower projects through mutual cooperation and partnership and electricity generated from these projects are being traded across the border. India-Nepal is also building hydro power projects which will trade electricity across the borders such as 900 MW Arun-3 HEP. While all the CBET is currently traded bilaterally, the region is gradually taking steps in moving towards Cross Border Trilateral and Multilateral Power Trade and building sustainable energy infrastructure which can be utilised by more than two countries. GMR of India is developing (under construction) 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydropower Project, an export-oriented project which will supply electricity to Bangladesh and India¹⁷. Project will be connected with Indian grid through dedicated transmission lines, which will be developed by GMR Energy, through Nepal based subsidiary¹⁸. Bangladesh will purchase 500 MW from this project and has issued letter of intent after negotiation was concluded¹⁹. Bangladesh Plans to Import sustainable energy ~1 GW from Bhutan and ~3 GW from Nepal. Bhutan is planning to develop sustainable hydro power projects as trilateral project such as Dorjilung Hydropower Project (1125 MW) which is expected to export to India and Bangladesh. Due to the immense diversity that exists among the SA nations, regional Sustainable Energy Projects and trilateral and multilateral power trade has the potential to accrue more benefits in terms of higher trade volumes, lower installed capacity and optimization of investment cost, lesser reserve capacity due to sharing of reserves, reduced CO₂ emission and overall regional cost optimization & economies of scale. India's Guidelines for Import/Export (Cross Border) of Electricity-2018 opens avenues for trilateral trade²⁰. The region is also gradually moving towards a more market-based and commercial form of CBET which was initially very limited. Bangladesh buys around ~750 MW on commercial/market basis from India out of the 1160 MW traded between India and Bangladesh.

A vibrant regional power market with market products/instruments as per the participant's requirements will also make the SA power sector competitive and streamline investments, making it lucrative for investors who seek fair, steady and risk mitigated short- and long-term returns on their capital. The value of regional power exchanges and other transparent market mechanisms in the enhancement of bilateral and multilateral trading among the countries is being recognised. India has allowed²¹ the cross-border trade of electricity through power exchange. Such market mechanisms also lead to an efficient exchange of incremental power. Market arrangement and competitive price discovery provide a level playing field and a useful benchmark for investors, generators, and purchasers.

Working session-2 is expected to have speakers from all SA countries and will deliberate on a) Opportunities and challenges in transitioning from Bilateral to Trilateral/Multilateral Power Trade (TMPT) for accelerating Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Development and Cross Border Energy/Electricity Trade b) Development of Regional Power Market c) Framework for development of regional projects and TMPT d) strategies and roadmap to overcome the challenges and collectively tap the opportunity in a balanced and equitable manner through proper sharing of benefits among participating countries.

F. Working session-3 “Greening the South Asia Energy/Power System for a Sustainable Future: An investment perspective”

¹⁷ <https://www.gmrgroup.in/upper-karnali/>

¹⁸ <https://www.gmrgroup.in/upper-karnali/>

¹⁹ <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2019/12/20/bangladesh-agrees-to-pay-7-7-cents-per-unit-for-upper-karnali-power>

²⁰ https://powermin.nic.in/sites/default/files/uploads/Guidelines_for_ImportExport_Cross%20Border_of_Electricity_2018.pdf

²¹ https://powermin.nic.in/sites/default/files/uploads/Guidelines_for_ImportExport_Cross%20Border_of_Electricity_2018.pdf



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South Asia is highly vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change and decarbonising power/energy sector is crucial in fight against climate change. While each SA country has taken measures to reduce emission from power/energy sector, CBET also possess an immense opportunity for decarbonising power sector in SA through the development of large-scale Cleaner, Greener and Sustainable Energy Infrastructure (CGSEF) and facilitating renewable energy grid integration in SA. Region has tremendous hydro potential (~350 GW) and significant solar (~939 GW) and wind (967 GW) energy potential²². India has come up with a very ambitious plan to reach a target of 450 GW of Renewable energy by 2030²³. Other SA countries also have plans for increased RE in the energy basket. Due to resource diversity between countries, to manage the RE intermittency and grid balancing, hydro resources of Bhutan and Nepal can supplement the sustainable grid integration of renewable energy in India and other countries. South Asia is projected to require 1,390 billion US\$ for expanding electricity generation expansion during the 2015-2040 period (to add approximately 750 GW of electricity generation capacity)²⁴ and ~29 billion US\$ for interconnection. Recent initiative by India for One sun One world and One Grid (OSOWOG) can further deepen power system integration in South Asia and beyond. The possibility of CBET at a higher level across this region can also lead to significant optimisation of investment in the generation, transmission, and utilization of capacity. Natural gas is also becoming clean energy fuel and there are proposals/ discussion to develop cross border natural gas pipeline trade and eventually to form gas grid in the region with countries of neighbouring region such as Myanmar. This would further lead to reduction in carbon footprints, better availability of power/energy supply in times of need, increased reach of power/energy sources. To make such transition a reality massive amount of investment is required considering that energy infrastructure investment is very capital intensive and long term in nature. There is need to focus on developing innovative financing instrument to mobilise such investment. Thus, there is a need for accelerating regional energy cooperation that offers an ideal platform for achieving sustainable growth by investing in sharing of available energy resources in the SA region.

Working session-3 will have speakers from SA countries and will deliberate on issues and solution related to mobilising finance for Greening the South Asia Energy/Power System, de-risking energy investments, innovative financing mechanism etc.

G. Objective of the Conference

To provide platform for dialogue, discussion, exchange of ideas and deliberation on

- ❖ Key policy and regulatory design & frameworks for incentivising Sustainable Energy Infrastructure development in SA region.
- ❖ Opportunities and Challenges offered by the region in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure (SEI) Development and Cross-Border Electricity/Energy Trade (CBET).
- ❖ Need for coordinated policies and regulation for advancing Cross Border Energy Trade.
- ❖ Potential benefits of gradually transitioning from bilateral to trilateral/multilateral power trade, development regional power market.
- ❖ Showcase the ‘win-win’ benefits offered by bilateral/trilateral/multilateral electricity trade and development of regional sustainable energy infrastructure;
- ❖ Role of CBET in development of cleaner, greener and sustainable energy future and renewable energy grid integration in SA .
- ❖ Investment opportunities and challenges of greening the South Asia Energy/Power System.
- ❖ De-risking energy investment and innovative financing instrument/mechanism.
- ❖ Release the background paper, SAFIR working group report and SAFIR newsletter.



²² SARI/EI Data Source, compiled from various sources for each South Asian Country, <https://sari-energy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Deepening-Power-System-Integration-and-Cross-Border-Electricity-Trade-in-SAARC-Region-Current-Status-and-Future-Outlook-Rajiv-Ratna-PandaTechnical-Head-22-09-2020.pdf>

²³ https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-at-the-g-20-summit-side-event-safeguarding-the-planet-the-cce-approach/?comment=disable&tag_term=pmspeech

²⁴ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/22224/How0much0could0operation0and0trade00.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>



H. Participants:

Conference (virtual) participants will include SAFIR members, representative from government, ministries/departments of power, energy, finance, regulatory commissions, planning authorities and other policy making bodies, load dispatch centres, power exchanges, power generation companies, transmission and distribution utilities, power equipment manufacturers and suppliers, trade and industry associations, SAARC, Civil society, BIMSTEC, regional forums, network associations, research & development organisations, financial institutions, Multilateral development banks, educational institutions, energy professional, researchers, consultants and other organisations/agencies affiliated with energy/power sector, nominated members of SARI project steering committee and task forces, from South Asian countries.



I. Expected Outcomes:

The event will lead to: i) improved understanding and awareness on the potential of Sustainable Energy Infrastructure and cross border energy trade in bilateral, trilateral and multilateral form among the South Asian Countries, various clean, green energy initiatives as well as the energy challenges being faced by different countries; ii) provide practical ideas and thoughts for developing policy and regulatory frameworks in the future work plan of the South Asia Regional Energy Cooperation, and iii) facilitating in creating a conducive atmosphere for mobilizing investment in Sustainable energy infrastructure across south Asia region.

J. Point of Contacts

- ❖ Rashmi S Nair, Dy. Chief (Regulatory Affairs), Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), New Delhi, India.
- ❖ Rajiv Ratna Panda, Associate Director, South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI), Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), New Delhi, India.

The South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) was established in May 1999. SAFIR aims at providing high quality capacity building and training on infrastructure regulation & related topics, in South Asia and to stimulate research on the subject by building a network of regional and international institutions & individuals that are active in the field. It also aims at facilitating effective and efficient regulation of Utility and infrastructure industries, initiate beneficial exchange of knowledge and expertise, and set the trend of rapid implementation of global best practices.



The US Agency for International Development (USAID) initiated the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/E) program in the year 2000, covering the eight countries in South Asia, viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In the first three phases, the program focused on increasing awareness on regional energy markets, supporting transmission interconnections and building capacity. The current and fourth phase of the **program (2012-2022) i.e., the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI)** program, implemented by Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), is focused on moving the region to trilateral and multilateral cross border power trade, and establishing the South Asia Regional Energy Market (SAREM). SARI/EI is a key program under USAID's Asia EDGE (Enhancing Growth and Development through Energy initiative. Through close collaboration with stakeholders in all the SAARC member countries, SARI/EI aims to create an enabling environment for power trade by: i) Harmonization of Policy, Legal and Regulatory Issues; ii) Advancement of transmission interconnections; iii) Establishment of SAREM.



Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), the leading South Asia think tank, is the implementing partner for phase IV (2012-22) of the SARI/EI program through a cooperative agreement with USAID. IRADe acts as the Secretariat and works to provide technical inputs to build consensus among member countries as per the program objectives. Established in 2002, IRADe is a non-profit, fully autonomous institute for advancing multidisciplinary research and policy analysis to aid action programs.

