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**Brief Report
On
SARI/EI Delegation to 3rd Meeting of SAARC Energy Regulators**



**21st -22nd | September 2016
Hotel Marriott, Islamabad, Pakistan**





Brief Report

Based on the invitation received from SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal, SARI/EI Delegation comprising of Mr. V.K.Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI/IRADe and Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Head-Technical, SARI/EI/IRADe participated in the Third Meeting of SAARC Energy Regulators held on 21st -22nd September 2016 at Hotel Marriott, Islamabad, Pakistan. The Meeting was attended by all the SAARC member States.

Mr. V.K.Kharbanda made a detailed presentation titled “Regulatory Issues and Challenges in Cross Border Electricity Trade–Role of Regional Regulatory Guidelines & Way Forward”. He stressed on the need of regulatory coordination and harmonization and need of regional regulatory guidelines for creating a regional regulatory frame work for Cross Border Electricity Trade. He highlighted on the Specific Regulatory Aspects Requiring Harmonization and Coordination for Facilitating CBET in SA region which are 1) Licensing for cross border trading 2) Open access to Tx network 3) Transmission pricing regime 4) Transmission planning 5) Imbalance settlement mechanism 6) Dispute Resolution 7) Duties and tax regimes. The detailed presentation is attached as Annexure-I.

Mr. Rajiv made a detailed presentation titled “Harmonization of grid codes, operating procedures and standards to facilitate/promote cross border electricity trade in the south Asia region: Key Findings- Framework Grid Code Guidelines”. He stressed that with High Level of Cross Border Interconnection being envisaged, it is of paramount importance that for safe, reliable and stable operation of the interconnected transmission system, the various technical aspects of grid codes (planning, connection, metering, Protection etc.), operating procedures and standards needs to be harmonized/coordinated. He also said that considering the technical complexity in forming regional grid code and associated harmonization and for integrated system planning and operation, this study has suggested to create a Regional Technical Institutions/Body such as South Asian Forum of Transmission Utility (SAFTU). SAFTU will provide technical support & inputs in forming regional grid code and harmonization. The detailed presentation is attached as Annexure-II.

Both the presentations were highly appreciated by the members and it was requested by the members to circulate these high quality reports among SAARC member states.

SARI/EI/IRADe is providing technical advice to the formation of SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators (Electricity). SARI/EI/IRADe had drafted the Terms of Reference of the newly created SAARC Council of Experts of Energy SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators (Electricity). The Terms of Reference of the newly created SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators (Electricity) was deliberated by the members, which is expected to be finalized in the 1st meeting of the SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators (Electricity). SARI/EI/IRADe will continue to provide support to the SAARC Council of Experts of Energy Regulators (Electricity).

Third SAARC Energy Regulators Meeting concluded with an agreement on Plan of Action on Energy Regulation.¹The member states agreed to: Harmonisation of Regulations, Grid Codes and Standards for cross-border electricity trade in the region. It was agreed that the National Regulatory Authorities may provide suggestions and proposals for possible harmonisation of Regulations, Codes and Standards through SAARC Secretariat and discuss the suggestions/ proposals in subsequent meetings to further deliberate on regulatory issues relating to cross-border electricity trade/exchange with a view to harmonise the elements. Member States appreciated the technical work being done by international partners (ADB & SARI/EI) and requested that sharing of studies in this regard by international partners (ADB & SARI/EI) which is vital for resolving issues.

¹ <http://www.brecorder.com/fuel-a-energy/193/87576/>

