



# Think Tank Forum

Building Consensus Among Stakeholders

28th June 2019



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# Think Tank Forum

- Outreach and dissemination forum set up in 2016
- Engage different stakeholders to prioritize, educate, and build consensus on the issue of CBET
  - Policy makers
  - Media
  - Parliamentarians and bureaucrats
  - Civil society

# Highlights

20 think tanks  
engaged

Two TTF  
Meetings -  
India and Nepal

Five Studies  
Undertaken

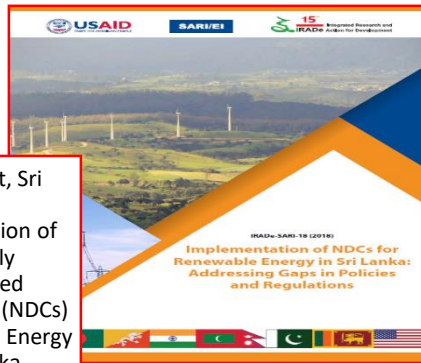
## Small Grants Program

- Grants of upto INR 5 lakhs given to think tanks for policy issue examination, as well as the propagation of socio-economic benefits of CBET
- Shortlisting of recipients done through RFP process, after assessing suitability of proposal against the identified objectives
- Five recipient think tanks worked across Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan

# Studies Undertaken



IIDS Nepal:  
Translation of study  
on Economic benefits  
of Nepal India Power  
Trade in Nepali  
language



Slycan Trust, Sri  
Lanka:  
Implementation of  
Nationally  
Determined  
Contributions (NDCs)  
for Renewable Energy  
in Sri Lanka



CUTS International:  
Impact assessment of  
CBET on gender and  
livelihoods in Nepal  
and Bhutan



ICCCAD, Bangladesh:  
Tracking the socio-  
economic impacts of  
electricity trade  
between India and  
Bangladesh

# Outreach – Media Coverage



**The Daily Star**  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018

## Electricity trade win-win for India, Bangladesh: report

Star Business Report



## Dhaka Tribune

February 27, 2018

## ‘Importing power from India may be better than production’

Panelists at the release event of the report on import of power from India  
**Mehedi Hasan**

The country is looking to generate India and expanded power trade will this ambitious goal’

Electricity import from India is an

Tuesday 27 February 2018, 01:39:25

**theindependen**

**Rizvi praises Indian role in power sector**  
Report on economic benefits of electricity trade between Bangladesh and India released



Prime Minister’s International Affairs Adviser Dr Gower Rizvi, alongside other guests, holds the report ‘Economic benefits from Bangladesh-India Electricity Trade’ for a photo shoot during the launching of the report at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Independent Photo

Monday.

## Bangladesh benefits a lot from electricity trade with India

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister’s International Affairs Advisor Dr. Gower Rizvi on Monday said India has helped Bangladesh make tremendous achievement in gaining electricity power.

He said this while addressing a programme to release a report titled ‘Economic Benefits from Bangladesh-India Electricity Trade’ at Lakeshore Hotel on Monday.

Harsh. V. Shringla, High Commissioner, India, Dr. Kirit Prakash, Chairman, IRADE, Farooq Sobhan, President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institution and Dr. Kerry Reeves, Deputy Director, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“Once Bangladesh was lagging behind in power, but in the present time the situation is no longer the same. In 2010, our electricity production was 4000 megawatts, which has now increased to 15,000 MW and in the middle of 2021 it will be 23000 MW,” said Dr. Gower Rizvi.

Dr. Gower Rizvi also mentioned that this trade result shows the overall progress of the two countries.

# Important Takeaways

- Engagement with the think tanks beneficial in bridging communication gaps, and sustaining the discourse on CBET
- Aids in bringing together disparate stakeholders together - create understanding and appreciation on the broader objectives and benefits of CBET
- Meaningful advocacy of benefits needs creative engagement strategies to ensure sustained engagement for momentum
- Greater engagement of stakeholders by leveraging media has been underutilized – this clearly needs focused attention.



# Vision, Mission and Objectives

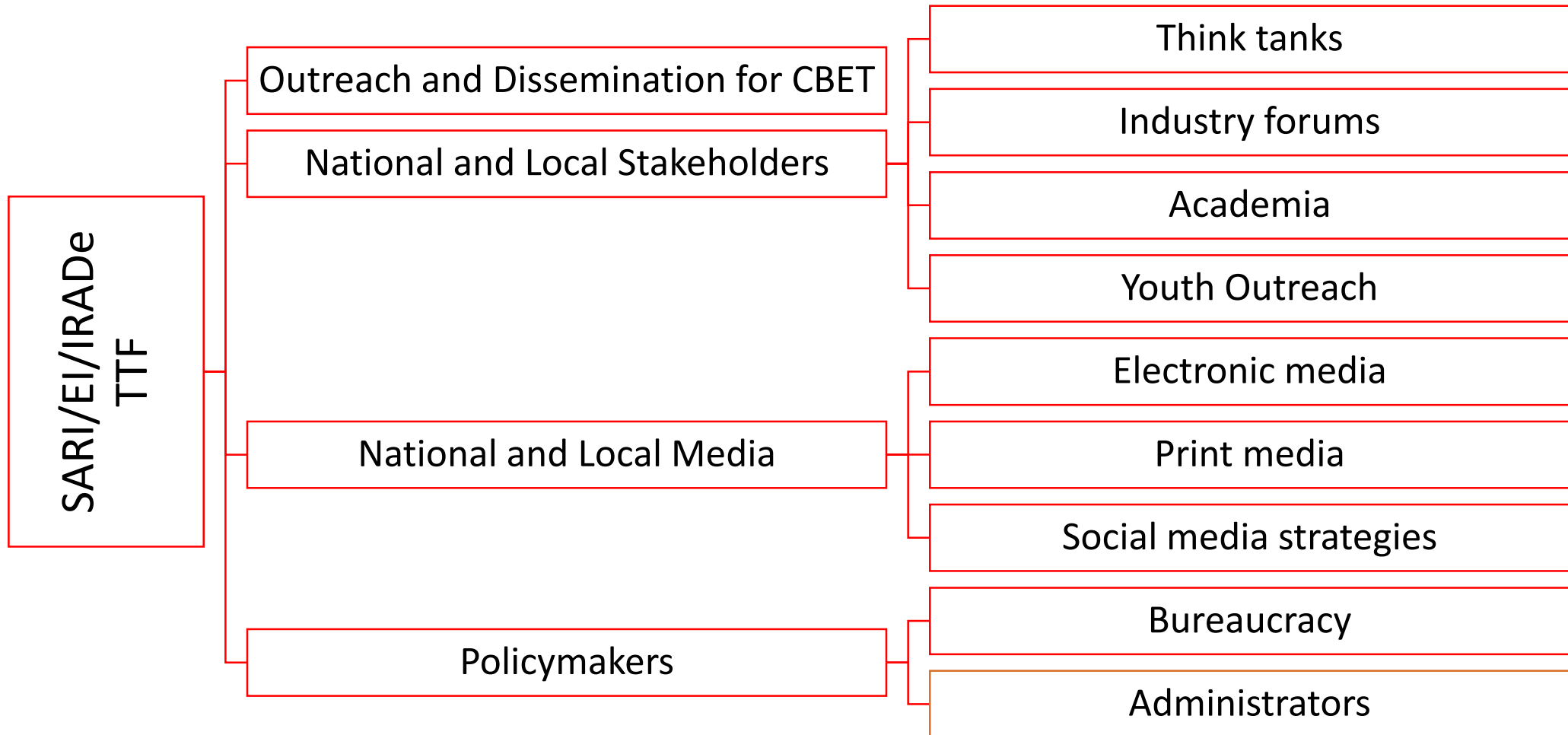
## VISION AND MISSION

- Strengthen the network of leading think tanks and advocacy platforms in South Asia for continued discourse and support for promoting Cross Border Energy Trade (CBET) to address the energy security challenges of the region, paving the way for regional economic development.

## OBJECTIVES

- Research, advocacy and engagement aligned with the activities of the Task Forces that help to promote Cross Border Energy Trade (CBET)
- Promoting enhanced adoption of renewable energy, sustainable development practices and climate change mitigation/adaptation strategies within the region countries

# Outreach Engagement – Identifying Stakeholders



# Activities Proposed

## National and Local Stakeholders

- Socio–economic assessment/impact studies - energy security, clean energy access, gender and climate change
- Creating platforms to prioritize CBET
- Conducting/participating in events and seminars conducted by industry forums or jointly organizing events with them
- Research funding for select students/academicians on relevant subjects
- Outreach events focused on youth

## National and Local media

- Sensitization events for media professionals
- Media fellowship program
- Update events at national level for media about SARI/EI/IRADe activities

## Policy Makers

- Engaging bureaucrats/administrators with the help of local civil society members
- Identify ways to encourage greater renewable energy penetration
- Assisting agencies to work towards securing finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts wherever possible

## Expected Outcomes

- Evidences to quantify that CBET has been creating (can create) positive impacts for socio-economic development
- Advocating policy changes, organizing media events, news articles, enabling discussions
- Evidences of country government plans to widen/improve energy access especially with CBET interventions
- Indicators that can measure the benefits of CBET for socio-economic development
- Knowledge products necessary for bringing change on the ground in the favour of CBET



# Thank You!

Gaurav Jain ([gjain@irade.org](mailto:gjain@irade.org))

Rajiv Panda ([rajivratnapanda@irade.org](mailto:rajivratnapanda@irade.org))

SARI/EI/IRADe PROJECT SECRETARIAT

B-44, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017, India

