

Agenda

SAFIR-SAREP Regional Regulatory Dialogue

on

“Enhancing Electricity Regulatory Ecosystem for Accelerating Clean Energy Transition and Achieving Net Zero Ambitions in the South Asia Region”



18th September 2023
Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, India

**Jointly Organised
by
South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR)
&
USAID’s South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)**

Background:

Power system and its regulation is undergoing rapid transformation across the globe due to various socio, economic, technological, and climate change factors, and South Asia (SA) region is also impacted by this change. From integrating new technologies and renewable energy sources to responding to consumers and climate change, electricity systems are constantly evolving to address environmental and social goals thereby bringing complexity.

South Asia region is highly vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change and decarbonising energy sector is crucial in the fight against climate change. Increasing population, rising energy demand, growth in the manufacturing sector, extreme weather conditions such as heatwaves in India and Pakistan, climate change vulnerabilities, regional and global geopolitical events have intensified regional energy security concerns.

A regional approach to meet the energy challenges will be beneficial for the South Asia region. Cross border electricity trade possesses an immense opportunity and can trigger rapid decarbonising of the energy sector and will also foster energy and climate security in the region through development of large-scale sustainable energy infrastructure. Increased regional electricity cooperation on a sustained basis among SA countries can bring economies of scale, strengthen financing capability, enhance competition, support market development, improve sector efficiency and enhance greening of the SA power grid.

Development of an integrated regional power market will also help in mobilising investment in untapped energy resources. A vibrant regional power market will make the SA power sector competitive and streamline investments, making it lucrative for investors who seek fair, steady, and risk-mitigated short/long-term returns on their capital.

Recognizing energy security challenges and climate change vulnerabilities, SA country governments are ratcheting up their clean energy targets to minimize emissions and have come up with net zero goals. India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have announced net zero target year of 2070, 2030, 2045 and 2060, respectively. Bhutan has committed to remain carbon neutral. On regional front, South Asia has witnessed many-fold increase in Cross Border Electricity Trade, from 1,400 MW in 2012 to 4,500 MW in 2023. With an upsurge in cross-border transmission interconnection, power trade is expected to increase to about 43.8 GW by 2040. One Sun One World One Grid will further accentuate the regional grid integration in SA Region. Honourable Prime minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi during the G20 Energy Ministers' Meet in Chennai, India during July 2023 said *“Trans-national grid interconnections can enhance energy security. Realizing the vision of inter-connected green grids can be transforming.”*

Regulation is the management of complex systems according to a set of rules, standards, and trends. While electricity regulation depends on the political economy of the jurisdiction that creates it, for ensuring just clean energy transition and achieving net zero goals, regulators will have to play an important role in ensuring a smooth and balanced transition in a manner that is affordable and sustainable with minimal environmental and socioeconomic repercussions—and it requires regulatory leaders to navigate the difficult trade-offs. Regulators can provide a level playing field and provide businesses the certainty they need to invest in clean energy transition and net zero projects while protecting the interest of consumers. While SA countries are at different stage of regulatory evolution, a coordinated and harmonized regional regulatory framework and complementary mechanisms in SA shall help in deepening cross border electricity trade, enhancing regional energy and climate security, accentuating clean energy transition, and facilitating in achieving net zero goals.

Considering the long-term nature, scale of change and ramification of clean energy transition, there is a need to enhance the electricity regulatory ecosystem and develop coordinated and complementary regulatory framework among SA regulators for accelerating clean energy transition and in achieving net zero ambitions.

In the above context and to explore and discuss critical issues and long terms prospects for regulation of the dynamically evolving power system in the region, the First edition of the SAFIR-SAREP Regional Regulatory Dialogue on **“Enhancing Electricity Regulatory Ecosystem for Accelerating Clean Energy Transition and Achieving Net Zero Ambitions in the South Asia Region ”** is being organised on September 18, 2023, from 10.00-13.00 Hrs at the Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, India.

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SAFIR-SAREP Regional Regulatory Dialogue

“Enhancing Electricity Regulatory Ecosystem for Accelerating Clean Energy Transition and Achieving Net Zero Ambitions in the South Asia Region”

18th September 2023, 10.00-13.00 Hrs, Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, India

AGENDA	
09.30-10.00 Hrs.	Registration
10.00-11.00 Hrs.	Session-I: Inaugural Session
10.00-10.05 Hrs.	Lamp Lighting Ceremony
10.05-10.10 Hrs.	Welcome Address by Mr. John Smith-Sreen, Director, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India
10.10-10.20 Hrs.	Special Address by Ms. Deki Choden, Chairperson of South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulations (SAFIR) & Chief Executive Officer, Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), Bhutan
10.20-10.30 Hrs.	Special Address by Shri Jishnu Barua, Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), India.
10.30-10.45 Hrs.	Special Address by Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary (Power), Government of India
10.45-10.50 Hrs.	Vote of thanks by Mr. Harpreet Singh Pruthi, Secretary, SAFIR and CERC
10.50-11.00 Hrs.	Group Photograph and Tea Break
11.00-13.00 Hrs.	Roundtable Dialogue : Enhancing Electricity Regulatory Ecosystem for Accelerating Clean Energy Transition and Achieving Net Zero Ambitions in the South Asia Region

The roundtable will focus on:

- ❖ South Asia (SA) Regional Clean Energy Transition Scenarios and Future Outlook
- ❖ Emerging International Trends in Regulatory Approaches for accelerating Clean Energy Transition (CET) and in achieving Net Zero Goals (NZG).
- ❖ Role of Cross Border Electricity Trade (CBET) and Regional Power Market in accentuating clean energy transition and achieving net zero goals in an optimal and sustainable manner.
- ❖ Role of coordinated and harmonized regional regulatory framework and mechanisms for deepening CBET, enhancing regional energy and climate security, accentuating clean energy transition, and facilitating net zero goals.
- ❖ Role of Regional Institutions and Institutional Mechanism in developing regional regulatory frameworks and complementing regulations for facilitating Clean Energy Transition and Climate Ambitions in the Region.

11.00-11.15 Hrs	South Asian Regional Perspective	Presentation on “Regional Clean Energy Transition in South Asia: Current Scenario & Future Regional Outlook”	Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Power Market Specialist, South Asia Regional Energy Partnership
11.15-11.30 Hrs	Southern	Presentation on “Regional energy	Mr. Alison Chikova,

	African Regional Perspective	Cooperation and regulatory approaches for achieving Just Clean Energy Transition and Net Zero goals in Southern Africa Region- SAPP Pool Plan for facilitating regional renewable energy deployment & clean energy transition in SAPP Region”	Chief Engineer (Planning and Operations), Southern African Power Pool, Harare, Zimbabwe
11.30-11.45 Hrs	ASEAN Regional Perspective	Presentation on “Regional energy Cooperation and regulatory approaches for achieving Just Clean Energy Transition and Net Zero goals in ASEAN Region- ASEAN Power Interconnection”.	Mr. Prihastya Wiratama, Project Manager of ASEAN Power Interconnection, ASEAN Energy Center, Jakarta, Indonesia
11.45-13.00 Hrs.	Round Table Dialogue		
11.55-13.00 Hrs.	<p>Moderator: Dr. S.K. Chatterjee, Chief (Regulatory Affairs), Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), India</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What role Regulators and Regulatory Initiatives can undertake in South Asia to accelerate Clean Energy Transition and facilitate achieving Net Zero Goals? ❖ Taking in account Clean Energy Outlook of South Asia, what key experiences and lessons from international regional experience can be useful for the region? ❖ What are prospects of Cross Border Electricity Trade (CBET) for accelerating clean energy transition in an optimal and sustainable manner? ❖ What kind of cross border electricity trade model would be suitable for South Asia? ❖ Roadmap and Action Plan for South Asian Regulators for accelerating Clean Energy Transition and facilitate in achieving Net Zero Goals? <p>Discussants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Deki Choden, Chief Executive Officer, Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), Bhutan. 2. Mr. Md. Nurul Amin, Chairman, Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, Bangladesh. 3. Shri I S Jha, Member , Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), India. 4. Mr. Dilli Bahadur Singh, Chairman, Electricity Regulatory Commission, Nepal. 5. Prof. M A R M Fernando, Chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), Sri Lanka. 6. Mr Arvind Kumar, Chairperson, Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission. 		
13.00-13.05 Hrs.	Summarization by Session Moderator		
13.05-13.10 Hrs.	Vote of Thanks by Ms. Monali Zeya Hazra, Regional Energy and Clean Energy Specialist, USAID		
13.10-14.15 Hrs.	Lunch		

Participants:

SAFIR-SAREP Regional Regulatory Dialogue participants will include SAFIR Steering Committee and Executive Committee members, and international speakers.

Expected Outcomes:

The event will lead to improved understanding and awareness on: i) how to enhance electricity regulatory ecosystem in South Asia for accelerating clean energy transition and achieving net zero ambitions, ii) regional regulatory roadmap and action plan for SA Regulators for accelerating clean energy transition and achieving net zero goals, iii) South Asia regional clean energy transition scenarios and future outlook, iv) emerging trends in regulatory approaches for clean energy transition and achieving net zero ambitions across the globe v) Role of Cross Border Electricity Trade and regional power market in accentuating clean energy transition and achieving net zero goals in an optimal and sustainable manner; and vi) Role of Regional Institutions/ Institutional Mechanism in developing regional regulatory frameworks and complementing regulations for facilitating Clean Energy Transition and Climate Ambitions in the Region.

Point of Contact:

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2. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Power Market Specialist, SAREP, Email: rpanda@sarep-southasai.org

South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR):

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.

South Asia Forum For
Infrastructure Regulation

US Agency for International Development (USAID):

USAID is the world's premier international development agency and a catalytic actor driving development results. USAID leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people progress beyond assistance. USAID works to foster sustainable development and advance human dignity globally.

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South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP):

The South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) is a flagship energy program of USAID to advance objectives of the U.S. Government's Clean Asia Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy (EDGE) initiative. SAREP is working on developing regional power markets, improving coordination and planning, strengthening national and regional institutions, building consensus on power trade, and institutionalizing a supporting framework and mechanisms. SAREP activities are supporting expansion of cross-border power trade by supporting stakeholders to participate in trilateral, multilateral, and exchange-based markets.