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South Asia Forum For  
Infrastructure Regulation

## **Agenda**

### **SAFIR-SAREP Regional Regulatory Dialogue**

on

**“Electricity Regulatory Cooperation Framework for Trans-Regional  
Grid Interconnections for Enhanced Energy Security and Climate  
Prosperity ”**



**12 December 2024, Hotel Le Meridien, Inspire Hall, New  
Delhi, India**

**Jointly Organised  
by**

**South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR)**

**&**

**USAID’s South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)**

## **Context:**

Grids for electricity are a significant technological advancement. They represent a breakthrough that allowed nations to collaborate to create integrated electrical networks and encourage humanity to see beyond its own self-drawn borders. Approximately twenty regional electrical grid integration efforts are currently in varying phases of development and market integration throughout different parts of the world. The degree of integration in every region is reflected in the growth of regional electrical markets (REMs), which are impacted and moulded by the political, economic, social, and cultural elements that are currently in place<sup>1</sup>. Through cross-border electricity trading (CBET) and REMs, nations have progressively overcome a number of obstacles and deepened grid interconnection<sup>1</sup>.

Honourable Prime Minister of India has called for connecting solar energy supply across borders with the mantra of 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG). The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is “The Sun Never Sets,” and is a constant at some geographical locations, globally, at any moment. With India at the fulcrum, the solar spectrum can easily be divided into two broad zones, viz. Far East, which includes countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao, Cambodia, etc., and the Far West covering the Middle East and Africa. Honourable Prime Minister of India, during the G20 Energy Ministers’ Meet in Chennai, India, in July 2023 had also said that “*Trans-national grid interconnections can enhance energy security. Realizing the vision of inter-connected green grids can be transforming<sup>2</sup>.*”

Among other things, a sizable, linked grid spanning a subregion, region, or continent can take advantage of variations in peak hours and time zones and provide distant resources to the load center<sup>1</sup>. With a wider balancing area, such a linked grid makes it easier to integrate renewable energy on a broad scale, supporting initiatives to meet the goals of the clean energy transition. Given the pressing need to harness renewable energy on a big scale, given the challenges of intermittency and the infirm nature of renewable energy, electricity grid integration has resurfaced as a tool to enable wide-scale decarbonization in a sustainable and cost-effective way<sup>1</sup>.

Through a shared grid that guarantees the transfer of efficient and clean solar power, OSOWOG hopes to supply electricity to around 140 countries. In a sense, this will establish a global system that will enable the distribution of clean energy anytime and anywhere (i.e., electricity produced in a daytime region of the world can be transported and used in a nighttime region), and three phases have been suggested for the project. The integration of the Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Southeast Asian grids would take place in the first phase. The Asian and African grids will be joined in the second phase. The grid will be established as the global grid in the final stage.

For achieving the objective of OSOWOG, a regulatory framework for trans-regional connections is essential requirement. Experiences from ASEAN, GCC, and Africa demonstrate that technical and regulatory harmonization have been pivotal, and help in regulatory coordination, and infrastructure investment, needed to overcome barriers to trans-regional grid interconnections. Coordinated regional regulatory frameworks are essential for the effective functioning of trans-regional cross-border electricity trade and grid interconnections. Moreover, coordinated regulatory policies are needed to facilitate the development of a trans-regional power market that aligns with broader energy transition goals, leveraging cleaner energy sources and enhancing overall energy security across regions.

## **SAFIR-SAREP Regional Regulatory Dialogue:**

In the above context and to discuss critical issues and long-term prospects for regulation coordination and harmonisation for trans-regional grid interconnection, including the role of regional regulatory institutions, the second edition of the SAFIR-SAREP Regional Regulatory Dialogue is being organised on 12 December 2024, from 10.00-13.00 Hrs at the Hotel Le Meridien, Inspire Hall, New Delhi, India.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nbr.org/publication/transforming-regional-electricity-markets-in-south-and-southeast-asia-for-a-greener-and-more-sustainable-future/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1941627>

## Agenda

### SAFIR-SAREP Regional Regulatory Dialogue

### “Electricity Regulatory Cooperation Framework for Trans-Regional Grid Interconnections for Enhanced Energy Security and Climate Prosperity”

12 December 2024, 10.00-13.00 Hrs, Inspire Hall, 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 Aaron Schubert, Director, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India   |   |
| 10.10-10.20 Hrs.   | Special Address by Mr. Jishnu Barua, Chairperson of South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulations (SAFIR) & Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), India.  |   |
| 10.20-10.30 Hrs.   | Special Address by Dr. Binu Parthan, Deputy Director, Country Engagement & Partnerships International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)  |   |
| 10.30-10.35 Hrs.   | Vote of thanks by Mr. Harpreet Singh Pruthi, Secretary, SAFIR and CERC.  |   |
| 10.35-11.00 Hrs.   | Group Photograph and Tea Break   |   |
| 11.00-13.00 Hrs.   | <b>Roundtable Dialogue: Electricity Regulatory Cooperation Framework for Trans- Integrating South Asia, ASEAN, GCC, and Africa Region through a coordinated and harmonized Regulatory Framework Regional Grid Interconnection for Enhanced Energy Security and Climate Prosperity:</b> |   |
| <b>The roundtable will focus on:</b>   |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Opportunities and Challenges of South Asia’s Grid Interconnection and prospects for South Asia as the Regional Energy Hub for facilitating Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection.</li> <li>❖ Current Scenario and Future Prospects of Electricity Regulatory Cooperation for Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection for Energy Security: Integrating South Asia, ASEAN, GCC, and Africa Region South Asia (SA).</li> <li>❖ International Experiences from ASEAN, GCC and Africa Region on Electricity Regulatory Cooperation for Regional Grid Interconnection.</li> <li>❖ Need for Regulatory Coordination and harmonisation for facilitating Trans-Regional Cross Border Electricity Trade (CBET) and Trans-Regional Power Market for energy transition for enhanced energy Security.</li> <li>❖ Role of coordinated and harmonized regional regulatory frameworks, grid interconnection principles, and mechanisms for Trans-Regional CBET, enhancing inter-regional energy and climate security across geographies.</li> <li>❖ Role of Regional Institutions and Institutional Mechanisms in developing regional regulatory coordination frameworks for facilitating Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection for Energy Security.</li> <li>❖ Opportunities and Challenges of South Asia’s Cross border Grid Interconnections.</li> </ul> |  |   |
| 11.00-11.20 Hrs.   | Presentation on “South Asia as the Regional Energy Hub for facilitating Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection for Integrating South Asia, ASEAN, GCC, and Africa Region for Enhanced Energy Security”  | Mr. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Regional Energy Trade Lead, USAID’s South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP) Program |
| 11.20-11.40 Hrs.   | Presentation on “Current Scenario and Future Prospects for Regional Electricity Regulatory Cooperation for Deepening ASEAN Power Grid and Role of ASEAN Energy Regulators Network (AERN  | Mr. Prihastya Wiratama, Project Manager, ASEAN Power Interconnection, ASEAN Centre for Energy, Jakarta, Indonesia |

|                         |  |   |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| 11.40-12.00 Hrs.        | Presentation on " Global Experience in Operating Cross-Border Interconnections:-Key Ingredients and Requisites for Safe, Secure, and Reliable Design and Operation of Trans-Regional Grid Interconnections"  | Mr. S. R. Narasimhan, President, GO15 (an association of Very Large Power Grid Operators), CMD, Grid India. |
| <b>12.00-13.00 Hrs.</b> | <b>Round Table Dialogue</b>  |   |
| 12.00-12.50 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"> <li>❖ What role Regulators and Regulatory Initiatives can be undertaken in South Asia to deepen Grid Interconnection in South Asia and to facilitate Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection with neighbouring regions, i.e., ASEAN, GCC, and Africa Region.</li> <li>❖ Taking account the electricity regulatory cooperation in South Asia, what key experiences and lessons from the international regional experience of ASEAN, GCC, and Africa can be useful for the region?</li> <li>❖ Prospects of Regulatory Coordination and Harmonization to Support Trans-Regional Power Market and Cross-Border Electricity Trade (CBET) for facilitating the Energy Transition for Improved Energy Security</li> <li>❖ What kind of cross-border electricity trade and regional electricity market model would be suitable for South Asia for facilitating bilateral, trilateral, multilateral and Trans-Regional Cross-Border Electricity Trade?</li> <li>❖ Regulatory Action Plan and Roadmap for South Asian Regulators to Enable Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection with neighbouring regions, such as ASEAN, GCC, and Africa Region, and Promote Grid Interconnection within South Asia</li> <li>❖ Prospects of SAFIR's Institutional Regulatory Partnership with Relevant Regional Regulatory Associations/Bodies/Networks in ASEAN, Africa and GCC Region.</li> </ul> <p>Discussants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Mr. Dorji, Chief, Monitoring, Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), Bhutan.</li> <li>2.Mr. Jalal Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, Bangladesh.</li> <li>3.Mr. Jishnu Barua, Chairperson of South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulations (SAFIR) &amp; Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC),</li> <li>4.Dr. Ram Prasad Dhital, Chairman, Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC), Nepal.</li> <li>5.Mr. Kanchana Siriwardana , Deputy Director General – Industry Services, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), Sri Lanka.</li> </ol> |   |
| 12.50-12.55 Hrs.        | Summarization by Session Moderator   |   |
| 12.55-13.00 Hrs.        | Vote of Thanks by Ms. Monali Zeya Hazra, Senior Regional Energy Specialist, Indo Pacific Office, USAID/India   |   |
| 13.00-14.00 Hrs.        | Lunch  |   |

## **Participants:**

2<sup>nd</sup> edition of 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 Cooperation to deepen Grid Interconnection in South Asia and facilitate Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection with neighbouring region i.e. ASEAN, GCC and Africa Region, ii) Regulatory Action Plan and Roadmap for South Asian Regulators to Enable Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection with neighbouring regions and promote grid interconnection within South Asia, iii) Prospects of SAFIR's institutional regulatory partnership with relevant Regional Regulatory Association/Bodies/Networks in ASEAN, Africa and GCC Region, iv) role of coordinated and harmonized regional regulatory frameworks, grid interconnection principles and mechanisms for Trans-Regional CBET across geographies v) Suitable cross border electricity trade and regional electricity market model for South Asia for facilitating bilateral, trilateral, multilateral and Trans-Regional Cross-Border Electricity Trade; and vi) Role of Regional Institutions and Institutional Mechanism in developing regional regulatory coordination frameworks for facilitating Trans-Regional Grid Interconnection for Energy Security.

## **Points of Contact:**

1. Rashmi S Nair, Joint Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC, Email [rashmisnair102@gmail.com](mailto:rashmisnair102@gmail.com)
2. Rajiv Ratna Panda, Regional Energy Trade Lead, SAREP, Email: [rpanda@sarep-southasia.org](mailto:rpanda@sarep-southasia.org)

## **South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR):**



**South Asia Forum For  
Infrastructure Regulation**

The South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) was established in May 1999. SAFIR aims to provide 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.

## **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 the 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 supports the expansion of cross-border power trade by supporting stakeholders to participate in trilateral, multilateral, and exchange-based markets.