

H.E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial
New Secretary General of SAARC
Joining in March 2017

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Mr. Mohammad Naeem
Malik - Director SEC

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Exclusive Interview
Ms. Lakshmi Puri
ASG of the UN and
Deputy Executive
Director of UN Women

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**SAARC ENERGY CENTER CONVERTING ENERGY
CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES FOR
DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTH ASIA REGION**



About SAARC Energy Centre

Energy cooperation is a driver for the SAARC process leading to durable peace in the region. SAARC Energy Centre has been created through Dhaka Declaration in 2005, as the Special Purpose Vehicle to realize the vision of SAARC leaders to establish an Energy Ring in South Asia. It has started journey from 1st March 2006 in Islamabad. SAARC energy cooperation program provides a major substantive element for economic prosperity of South Asia through meeting the energy demand of the countries. SAARC Energy Centre is converting energy challenges into opportunities for development. It is the platform involving officials, experts, academia, environmentalists and NGOs to tap potentials of cooperation in energy sector including development of hydropower, renewable and alternative energy, promoting technology transfer, energy trade, energy conservation and efficiency improvement in the region.

Vision:

The Centre is envisioned as a catalyst for the economic growth and development of South Asia region by initiating, coordinating and facilitating regional as well as joint and collective activities on energy.

Mission:

The Centre will provide technical inputs to the SAARC Working Group (and other) meetings on Energy, and will facilitate accelerating the integration of energy strategies within the region by providing relevant information, state-of-the-art technology and expertise.



SAARC ENERGY CENTRE

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Secretary General of SAARC

H.E. Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa

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Exclusive Interview Ms. Lakshmi Puri ASG of the UN and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women

Message from the Director



I am pleased to share that SAARC Energy Centre is publishing its annual "News Letter Edition 2016". Since the inception of the Energy Centre in 2006, the Centre has come a long way to implement the vision of SAARC Heads of States into a reality by providing an important platform for the Member States to cooperate and engage with each other, to work collectively to overcome the challenges of energy crisis in the region.

The Centre has been pursuing with commitment and purpose in a spirit of partnership to fulfill the profound thoughts and aspirations enshrined in the SAARC Charter. The Centre has paved way for the Region to pool its vast knowledge and expertise and also bring latest international skills to capitalize on synergies in the energy sector. The News Letter and Website of the Centre provides brief information of the activities for the year 2016.

I am also pleased to apprise that the Council of Ministers during its 37TH Session held on 17th March at Pokhara, Nepal decided to merge SAARC Environment Centre with SAARC Energy Centre subject to ratification by SAARC Summit. The objective is to promote awareness in the region regarding detrimental impacts of worsening environment

on human life; may it be economic, social, health or even the very survival of human life on this planet. The Centre will, therefore, also be focusing on environment related issues within the region, which comprises of more than two billion people.

With accelerated economic development, the energy consumption is increasing rapidly with resultant increase in further import dependence. Inefficient use of energy to support such economic growth further compounds the demand with consequent environment degradation. Member States, therefore, need to prioritize efficient pattern of energy use to become competitive in the global market besides meeting the new targets set for carbon emission. Among the various areas of energy sector, SEC is also focusing on Energy Conservation and energy efficiency.

The next Newsletters will also be covering the above important subjects to create more public awareness and also to explore possibilities of more cooperation.

My sincere appreciation and thanks to Ms. Saira Ahmed- Editor In Chief and all those who contributed towards bringing out this annual edition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, belonging to Mr. Muhammad Naeem Malik.

☛ **Mr. Muhammad Naeem Malik**
Director



H. E. Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa Secretary-General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

H. E. Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa of Nepal assumed charge as the Secretary-General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) from 1 March 2014. H. E. Mr. Thapa is the twelfth Secretary-General of the Association and succeeds H. E. Mr. Ahmed Saleem of the Maldives.

H. E. Mr. Thapa was appointed to the position by the Thirty-fifth Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers held in the Maldives on 20 February 2014. Endorsing the nomination from the Government of Nepal, the Council “approved the appointment of H. E. Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa as the next Secretary General of SAARC for a three-year term commencing from 1st March 2014.”

Prior to this appointment, H. E. Mr. Thapa served as the Foreign Secretary of Nepal. In his diplomatic career, H. E. Mr. Thapa has also served as Ambassador of Nepal to the United Arab Emirates and as Deputy Permanent Representative/Minister Plenipotentiary as well as Charge d’Affaires, a.i., at the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations in New York.

Born in January 1956, H. E. Mr. Thapa has a Masters’ Degree in International Law.

The Secretaries-General of SAARC are appointed by the Council of Ministers upon nomination by a Member State on the basis of the principle of rotation in alphabetical order for a period of three years.

Launched in December 1985, SAARC comprises Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as its members.



H.E Mr. AMJAD HUSSAIN B. SIAL

New Secretary General of SAARC

(Joining in March 2017)

Currently Special Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan

Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial was born on August 20, 1956 and holds a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Master's Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from National Defence University, Islamabad. He joined Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1983. He represented Government of Pakistan at different international level. Mr. Sial also held various diplomatic assignments as Pakistan Missions abroad and is known for his positive and constructive contribution. He was posted in Vienna (From 1987- 1990) Harare (From 1994- 1996) & in New York (From 1996 – 2000). He also served as Director Pakistan at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu (2003-2006)

He remained Ambassador / Alternate Permanent Representative at Pakistan Mission to the United Nations, New York from July 2009 till March 2011. He then served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Tajikistan (From 2011-2014).

Mr. Sial brings with him 33 years of diversified diplomatic experience. Currently he has been nominated by Government of Pakistan and would be heading SAARC for next three years.

He served at different important assignments as Director, Director General, Additional Secretary and Special Secretary in the Foreign Office of Pakistan.

“ Mr. Sial brings with him 33 years of diversified diplomatic experience. Currently he has been nominated by Government of Pakistan to Head SAARC for next three years w.e.f 1st March 2017 ”



Mr. Muhammad Naeem Malik
Director
SAARC ENERGY CENTRE

“Mr. Malik brings with him diversified experience of upstream, midstream, downstream Oil & Gas and Mineral Sectors.”

Mr. Mohammad Naeem Malik is a Chemical Engineer by profession with 37 years of work experience in the private, public and government sectors. He has practical experience in industrial operations, regulation of upstream, midstream and downstream Oil & Gas and Mineral Sectors. He has closely been involved in policy formulation of Oil & Gas and Mineral Sectors of Pakistan, including supervising implementation of government Policies.

He started his career with the private sector petro-chemical industry and then joined the Government of Pakistan in 1981 where he worked on various important assignments and represented the Government and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources at various National and International forums. He served as Director General (Gas), Director General (Oil), Director General (Special Projects), Director General (Petroleum Concessions) and Additional Secretary Petroleum and Natural Resources.

Mr. Malik also headed Pakistan's largest exploration company (Oil & Gas Development Company Limited - OGDCL) as its Managing Director/CEO. He also remained Chairman and Managing Director of Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation - PMDC. He remained Director on the Board of Directors of almost all the public sector petroleum companies in Pakistan including SNGPL, SSGCL, Pirkoh Gas Company, PPL, OGDCL, HDIP, PMDC, MGCL and PSO etc.

Presently he is Executive Head of SAARC Environment & Energy Centre and Advisor to Mari Petroleum. Mr. Malik brings with him diversified experience of upstream, midstream, down-stream Oil & Gas and Mineral Sectors.



Mr. Shoaib Ahmad

Deputy Director
SAARC Energy Centre

“His professional strengths are in policy making, strategy formulation, organizational development, engineering design and systems engineering.”

Mr. Shoaib Ahmad joined SAARC Energy Centre as Deputy Director on 28 July, 2015. He is an aeronautical engineer, with two MS level degrees; and a PhD in technology management of renewable-energies.

Before joining SEC, Mr. Shoaib Ahmad has served in many national and international organizations as system-support engineer. He has 28 years of diversified experience in management of professional teams, engineering projects, institutional development, total quality management and integrated logistics support. He has served as a team leader for many high cost, high value projects, R&D/reverse engineering teams, and renewable energy projects (bio-ethanol, biodiesel, wind mills, solar PV, solar thermal). His professional strengths are in policy making, strategy formulation, organizational development, engineering design and systems engineering.

He has also taught in engineering universities and has three internationally published research papers to his credit. He has done various professional development courses and is a member of many professional bodies.





THE 11TH MEETING OF GOVERNING BOARD OF SAARC ENERGY CENTRE

**27-28 SEPTEMBER
2016, ISLAMABAD,
PAKISTAN**

The 11th Meeting of Governing Board of SAARC Energy Centre was held on 27-28 September 2016 in Islamabad. GB Members from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka and Mr. Ali Haider Altaf, Director (ETS) as the representative of Secretary General SAARC attended the Meeting. Mr. Qazi M. Saleem

Siddiqui, GB Member from Pakistan, was elected as new Chairperson of the GB, as Nepal completed its two-year term. Mr. Qazi M. Saleem Siddiqui in his remarks thanked Director (SEC) and his team for extending warm welcome, providing excellent hospitality and making admirable arrangements for the Meeting.

JOINT AUDIT OF SEC FOR FY 2015

**1st and 2nd
August, 2015**

A two members Joint Audit Team, Mr. Kamal Prasad Silwal, Director, Office of the Auditor General, Nepal and Mr. Muhammad Amjad Gondal, Director General, Office of the Auditor General, Pakistan audited the accounts of SAARC Energy Centre for the FY-2015 from August 1st & 2nd 2016.





Ms. Saira Ahmed
Communication Specialist
SAARC Energy Centre

“Ms. Saira is Editor in Chief of SAARC Magazines and is responsible for all external communication with the SAARC Secretariat & Member States. She has expertise in Programme Management, Humanitarian Development, Media & Communications & Gender.”

Ms. Saira Ahmed has joined SAARC Energy Center (SEC) as Communication Specialist on 22 June 2015. Graduated from International Islamic University and completed Master of Business Administration degree in Information Technology Management from Islamabad, Pakistan.

Before joining SEC, Ms. Saira has served for five years in various wings of National Disaster Management Authority in Prime Minister's Office- Government of Pakistan mainly as Programme Officer in Gender & Child Cell, Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator in DRR Wing, Focal Person of OXFAM and UN Agencies in Pakistan & Assistant Director (Assessment) in Recovery & Rehabilitation Wing; served for two years in Pakistan Television Corporation as English News Anchor & News Editor; one year as Assistant Director & Focal Person for Media at the National Accountability Bureau Headquarters, two years as Research Analyst & Editor of International Magazine in SAMENA Telecommunications Council and one year as Lecturer of Communications & Networking in International Islamic University, Islamabad. She has expertise in Programme Management, Humanitarian Development, Media & Communications & Gender. She has organized many International high level conferences in NDMA and hosted conferences of NDMA. She has participated and represented Pakistan in a number of workshops, conferences, seminars and trainings mainly in India, Kazakhstan, US, Maldives, Bhutan & Middle East. She can be contacted at +92 334-5551982 and cs@saarcenergy.org



REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MINORITIES

20-21 JANUARY,
BANGKOK, THAILAND

The Asia Foundation hosted the South Asian Forum for Minorities under the Pakistan Religious Freedom Initiative-Leaders of Influence. The conference was held in Bangkok, and discussed the situation and challenges to religious minorities in South Asia and proposes regionally integrated solutions by bringing together prominent journalists and development practitioners from the region. Participants included: activists, regional experts, journalists,

parliamentarians, government representatives, and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) delegates. Director SAARC from Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, Mr. Giyan Chand participated in the subject conference. Ms. Saira Ahmed – Communication Specialist attended the conference as Moderator for two day sessions on the invitation of Asia Foundation.

6TH ASIA ENERGY SECURITY SUMMIT



1ST-3RD MARCH
2016, GOA,
INDIA

Malik- Director SAARC Energy Centre and Ms. Saira Ahmed- Communication Specialist participated in the conference on the invitation of IPPAI.

The key global events over the past one year included a certain amount of continuity in terms of events that shaped the previous year as well as certain tectonic shifts in the geopolitical arena, which are bound to have a significant impact in the overall global energy paradigm in the coming years.

The Asia Energy Security Summit is a track II diplomacy initiative of IPPAI where government, industry leaders, regulators, policymakers, academicians and think tanks from across the world discuss and debate issues relating to the entire energy spectrum, particularly the emerging issues and challenges in the energy landscape of Asia. The proceedings from the previous conclaves are carried forward for review and discussion.

IPPAI organized the 6th Asia Energy Security Summit between March 1 and 3, 2016, at the Radisson Goa Candolim, Goa, India. Mr. Mohammad Naeem



SAARC CHARTER DAY

DECEMBER
08, 2016,
ISLAMABAD,
PAKISTAN

SAARC Charter Day on December 08, this year marks the 32nd Anniversary of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The SAARC Charter establishing the Association was signed on December 1985 by the SAARC Heads of States during their first ever Summit meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Since the establishment of the Association, the SAARC Secretariat, Member States, Regional Centers and Apex/ recognized bodies have been commemorating December 8 as the SAARC Charter Day and celebrate it

Hotels- Nazara Hall. Ms. Saira Ahmed was the Programme Coordinator for this activity.

Mr. Mohammad Naeem Malik- Director SEC, Mr. Thusantha Wijemanna - Director General SARCO & Mr. Kamran Taj – Director SAARC from Ministry of Foreign Affairs did the cake cutting ceremony on this auspicious occasion along with professionals from SAARC Member States.

On this occasion the Secretary General SAARC- Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa conveyed the message that “The primary objective of SAARC is to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life through accelerated economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region. Cooperation within the framework of the Association shall be based on respect for the principles of the sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States & mutual benefit. Such cooperation shall not be a substitute for bilateral & multilateral cooperation but shall complement them. “



with great enthusiasm by organizing events & programmes. SAARC Energy Centre (SEC) and SAARC Arbitration Council (SARCO) organized this event on 8th December 2016 in Serena



MEETINGS IN UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT & US STATE DEPARTMENT

**19 DEC, 2016,
NEW YORK, USA**

Ms. Saira Ahmed- CS took interview of Mr. Ahmed Saleem – Ex Secretary General SAARC for the last Newsletter Edition (November – March 2016). Also during her recent visit to United States of America (USA) in December 2016 she had meetings with United Nations

diplomats in United Nations Secretariat New York. She had an opportunity to take an exclusive interview of Ms. Lakshmi Puri - Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women.



**22 DEC, 2016
WASHINGTON D.C.**

Ms. Saira visited US State Department in Washington D.C and met Ms. Dinah Zeltser Winant- Democracy and Governance Professional for enhancing cooperation for potential mutual energy interventions between SEC and US State Department.



Standard time
ber 2014

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re,



Engr. Salis Usman
Programme Leader (Energy Trade)
SAARC Energy Centre

“ His areas of expertise include Knowledgebase creation and application; Developing frameworks, procedures and tools for system implementation; Designing and organizing awareness campaigns ”

Salis Usman, a professional electrical engineer, is engaged with SEC as Program Leader (Energy Trade) on deputation from Pakistan National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) since January 2016. At SEC, he is contributing for creating SAARC Market for Electricity and multilateral energy cooperation within and across SAARC by initiating, coordinating and facilitating regional/collective activities on energy. Prior to this, he has also worked as Research Fellow (Energy Efficiency) with SEC. With NTDC, his last position was meant for negotiation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of power purchase agreements of renewable energy projects (wind, solar and begasse). He has worked in different departments of NTDC and Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) including renewable energy development, Planning, Design, Purchasing and Inventory Control, and Project Monitoring.

Salis has also contributed as Advisor Business Systems, USAID Power Distribution Program in Pakistan (1989-1993) and as Senior Regulatory Analyst, Saudi Electric Company, Kingdom of Saudi Arab (2006-2011). His areas of expertise include Knowledgebase creation and application; Developing frameworks, procedures and tools for system implementation; Designing and organizing awareness campaigns; Assessing capacity needs, developing and implementing capacity building interventions; and Quality review of technical and legal documents/procedures/ codes/ agreements.

Salis has attended a number of technical and management trainings in and out of Pakistan besides conducting various training workshops/continuous professional development programs. He is a member of different engineering platforms including Pakistan Engineering Council, Institute of Engineers, Pakistan and Institute of Engineers, Pakistan (KSA Chapter) and Institution of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Pakistan.



Meeting as it has important issues to be discussed and finalized for enhancing regional cooperation.

Mr. Ali Haider Altaf, Director and representative of the Secretary General of SAARC, welcomed all the delegates to the Second Meeting of SAARC Energy Regulators and appreciated the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the Meeting and extending warm hospitality to all delegates. He apprised the Meeting about the outcome of the First Meeting of SAARC Energy Regulators and the progress made so far on the Plan of Action on Energy Regulations (Electricity).

Mr. Salis Usman, Program Leader (Energy Trade), SAARC Energy Centre (SEC) on behalf of Director, SEC delivered a brief presentation on the activities of the Centre and the Way Forward. In his presentation, he apprised the Meeting about the ongoing and planned activities of the Centre. During the Meeting, he also circulated a short term study conducted by SAARC Energy Centre for designing of the “Management and Monitoring Framework for Regulatory Compliance by Power Transmission Utilities in the SAARC Region”.

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ENERGY REGULATORS OF THE SAARC MEMBER STATES

8-9 FEBRUARY
2016, COLOMBO,
SRI LANKA

The Second Meeting of the Energy Regulators of the SAARC Member States was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 8-9 February 2016. SAARC Energy Centre was represented by Mr. Salis Usman, Program Leader (Energy Trade). The Meeting was inaugurated by Mr. M I M Rafeek, Secretary, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Government of the Sri Lanka. In his inaugural statement, he extended warm welcome to the delegates from SAARC countries and other Energy Related Institutions.

Mr. Danitha Kumarasingha, Director General, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, in his welcome address extended warm welcome to all delegates. In his remarks, he underlined the significance of the



STRATEGY WORKSHOP ‘ENERGIZING SAARC: CREATING SYNERGIES’ ORGANIZED BY THE SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

**8-9 FEBRUARY
2016, COLOMBO,
SRI LANKA**

Engr. Salis Usman, Program Leader (Energy Trade) attended one day strategy workshop ‘Energizing SAARC: Creating Synergies’ held in Nepal on November 14, 2016. The event was organized by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) in collaboration with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) and in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation. Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General, SAARC graced the workshop as Chief Guest. During the session, Minister for Energy, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal delivered keynote speech. A number of stakeholders from Member

States including Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and representatives from Asian Development Bank and USAID SARI/EI joined on this occasion. During this strategy workshop vitality of energy access and security with respect to economic growth in South Asia was highlighted besides assessing the efforts of SAARC Member States in meeting the growing energy demands. Program Leader (Energy Trade) delivered a presentation to communicate the workshop with the SEC efforts and future plans for mitigating the energy poverty in the region.

SAARC Study on Impact Assessment of SEC's Initiative and the Way Forward

While developing the first strategic and operational plan (2008-13) for the Centre, there was a consensus among the stakeholders that SEC should be an organization that undertakes high-quality analyses on important energy issues facing the region, rather than just be a clearing house for information and a convener of conferences and workshops. This view was also implicit in the statement by the Energy Ministers of the SAARC member countries that SEC be a 'Centre of Excellence'.

Launching of Short Term Study on Impact Assessment

It is considered that a period of over six years of performance is a reasonable timeframe on the part of SEC to make its impact with respect to influencing the regional policy makers, International Funding Institutions (IFIs) and various other entities working in the same domain in South Asia. Keeping in view this understanding and the expectations by the SAARC leaders, the Governing Board of SEC in its 9th Meeting held on 11-12 September 2014 advised to assess the impacts of the activities of the SEC and specifically desired the following to be pursued:

- Review of SEC's initiatives since its inception
- Assess the impacts of the initiatives
- Propose the way forward for the future activities of SEC in line with the findings of the assessment.

For this purpose, SEC undertook short term impact study to achieve the following objectives:

- Assess the impact of SEC's interventions for defining the strategic roadmap with an improved vision and the emerging criticality in terms of regional energy security and sustainability
- Critically assess the contribution by SAARC Energy Centre in materializing the vision given by SAARC leaders' vision pertaining to SAARC Energy Ring
- Establishing SEC's Knowledge Resource Bank comprising of an up to date SEC activities and relevant data/information archive (Concept Papers; Study Reports; Reports of Workshops, Seminars, Pilot/Special Projects; Reports of SAARC Meetings including of SAARC Summit, Working Group, Expert Group, Governing Board Meetings; reports on interaction with the partner/networking organizations, etc.) to be maintained in the soft version and to be accessible to the SEC's professionals and other registered regional professionals through internet
- Review the SEC's prevailing methodology i.e. practices, standards and procedures for execution of its action plan activities including Studies, Workshops, Seminars, Pilot/Special Projects, as well as networking with relevant regional and international entities.

- Develop SEC's 5-year strategic plan based on the lessons learnt through networking, research and knowledge sharing activities conducted during the last eight years

As per rules, SEC engaged short term expert Ms. Ameena Sohial and her team comprising Irfan Shehzad, Lead Coordinator, Institute of Policy Studies, Hira Mumtaz, Research Associate, Omair Khalid, Research Associate and Waqar-un-Nisa, Project Coordinator. Mr. Salis Usman as Programme Coordinator for this study also joined the study team.

Illustrated Summary of SEC Impact Assessment Methodology

The salient features of activities undertaken for the Study are illustrated in Figure 6:

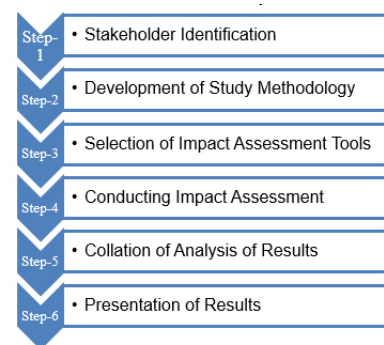


Figure 6: Flowchart of SEC Impact Assessment Methodology



Engr. Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Akhtar

Programme Leader (Technology Transfer)
SAARC Energy Centre

Dr. M. Nawaz Akhtar, is a professional Mechanical Engineer, with M.S Mechanical Engg. (Power) and Ph.D in Hydrogen Fuel Cell Technology. He has extensive experience in the designing, coordination in fabrication, installation, and commissioning of power plants. His professional strengths are mechanical designing, engineering management, Technical procurement, technical inspections, R&D in the areas of renewable technologies especially PEM Fuel Cell Technology. He first time demonstrated the production of electricity from hydrogen through the PEM Fuel Cell indigenously fabricated in Pakistan, single cell in 2003 and 5 cell stack in 2005. He holds 5 publications in national and international journals and lot of conference papers. He first time represented Pakistan in 5 international Fuel Cell forums. He is a member of many professional bodies.

Presently, he is working as Programme Leader (Technology Transfer) in SAARC Energy Centre Islamabad. He is supervising two research fellows and 9 program activities to be completed in 2017. He is going to demonstrate first time in Pakistan the production of electricity by utilizing kinetic energy of flowing water in upper Jehlum Canal.

He is always ambitious to explore, exploit and make use of untapped resources or make new utilizations of available things, especially in energy sector.

“His professional strengths are mechanical designing, engineering management, Technical procurement, technical inspections, R&D in the areas of renewable technologies especially PEM Fuel Cell Technology.”



WORKSHOP ON APPLICATION OF ON-GRID BIOGAS TECHNOLOGIES

**16-17 MAY,
2016 KABUL,
AFGHANISTAN**

16-17 May, 2016 Kabul, Afghanistan
SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad under its approved programme activity for FY 2016 organized a two day Workshop on Application of on-grid Biogas Technologies in Kabul, Afghanistan on 16-17 May, 2016. The event was arranged in Intercontinental Hotel Kabul in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy & Water, Kabul, Government of Afghanistan.

SEC especially envisaged this workshop under its thematic programme area of “Minimize Oil Imports through Improvements in Energy Efficiency and Fuel Substitution (PROMO)” aiming to create awareness as well as understanding and to sensitize the professionals and decision makers to prioritize development of Biogas projects within the SAARC Region.

The objective of the workshop was to disseminate information about commercial and structural deployment of on-grid Biogas power plants in SAARC Member States.

A total of 58 participants including the delegates from Member States Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Pakistan; Resource Persons from Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; and staff from SEC participated in the workshop. The resource persons delivered presentations on different issues relevant to Biogas sector and existing commercial projects in Member States. The participants had a very open and interactive discussion over the existing potential, the available opportunities in the Biogas sector and other relevant aspects.



SAARC TRAINING WORKSHOP ON GEOPHYSICAL TECHNIQUES IN OIL & GAS EXPLORATION

**8 – 12 AUGUST,
2016, ISLAMABAD,
PAKISTAN**

SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad under its approved programme activity for FY 2016 organized a five day Training Workshop on Geophysical Techniques in Oil & Gas Exploration in Islamabad, Pakistan on 08-12 August, 2016. The event was arranged in The Oil & Gas Training Institute (OGTI) Islamabad. SEC especially envisaged this Training workshop under its thematic programme area of “Minimize Oil Imports through Improvements in Energy Efficiency and Fuel Substitution (POSIT)” aiming to share and enhance

the technical competence of the regional geophysicists in various skills applied in oil and gas exploration. The training was very useful for those Member States which are already engaged in Oil and Gas exploration, and others who are contemplating to launch exploration ventures in their respective Member States.



**Mr. Ahsan Javed**

Research Fellow (Renewable Energy)
SAARC Energy Centre

Mr. Ahsan Javed has graduated from National University of Sciences & Technology Pakistan in Mechanical Engineering and finished his Postgraduate studies in Renewable Energy from Carl von Ossietzky University, Oldenburg, Germany.

Previously, he had served as Manager (Engineering) at Alternative Energy Development Board and Technical Coordinator at Ministry of Climate Change. He has experience of implementing off-grid Solar PV and Wind energy projects in rural areas of Pakistan. He also worked in areas of low emission development strategies, CDM mechanism, climate change mitigation and process of developing NAMAs. He is presently working as Research Fellow (Renewable Energy) at the SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad w.e.f 25 March 2014.

“Mr. Ahsan has experience of implementing off-grid Solar PV and Wind energy projects in rural areas of Pakistan. He also worked in areas of low emission development strategies, CDM mechanism, climate change mitigation and process of developing NAMAs.”





SESSIONS ON ENERGY LAW AND POLICY REFORMS IN SOUTH ASIA AT THE THIRTEENTH SAARC LAW CONFERENCE

5-6 MARCH, 2016,
KATHMANDU,
NEPAL

Jointly organized by SAARCLAW and Asian Development Bank, the Thirteenth SAARCLAW and SAARC Tenth Chief Justices' Conference was held on 5-6 March 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal. This conference themed as "Connecting SAARC through Law, Justice, Good Governance and Development" had "Sessions on Energy Law and Policy Reform in South Asia" on 6 March 2016. The Energy Sessions were participated by

Mr. Ahsan Javed, Research Fellow (RE) and Mr. Suresh Shrestha, Research Fellow (ETE) from SEC.

An overview of the reports and experiences from the previous works done on Electricity Connectivity within the region were presented and the need for harmonization of electricity law and regulations were highlighted in the sessions.

VIDEO CONFERENCE TO DISSEMINATE THE SAARC COMPARATIVE STUDY ON “THE PREVAILING TARIFF OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN MEMBER STATES AND ASSESSING OPTIONS SUCH AS NET-METERING, BANKING AND WHEELING”



29-30 June,
2016 Islamabad,
Pakistan

SAARC Energy Centre (SEC) had conducted a “Comparative Study for the Prevailing Tariff of Renewable Energy Projects in Member States and Assessing Options such as Net-metering, Banking and Wheeling” in FY 2015. The study reviewed the existing tariff structure of Renewable Energy with specific emphasis on distributed generation projects in SAARC Member States and gave guidelines for the equipment selection, required import facilities, technology development, installation and commissioning of equipment for options such as Net-metering, Banking and Wheeling..

This year, SEC, under its approved programme, had organized a Video Conference to disseminate the findings of the study report on 29-30 June 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The participants in the video conference included policy makers, regulators, academia/researchers and other stakeholders from public and private sector. The presenters in the video conference included author and peer reviewer of the study report.

KAPSARC ENERGY DIALOGUE 2016

1-2 NOVEMBER,
2016 RIYADH,
SAUDI ARABIA

The King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) is a non-profit global institution dedicated to independent research into energy economics, policy, technology, and the environment across all types of energy. KAPSARC arranged ‘The Energy Dialogue 2016’ in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The format of the Energy Dialogue comprised four Plenary Sessions and 12 extended Roundtable Sessions which promoted in-depth discussion with the aim of shaping

solutions that could be put forward to the global energy community.

The event provided an opportunity for high level interaction on pressing energy issues. The event was attended by policymakers, researchers, practitioners and representatives of civil society from across the globe. Mr. Ahsan Javed, Research Fellow (RE) from SAARC Energy Centre attended.





Mr. Suresh Shrestha

Research Fellow (Energy, Transport & Environment)
SAARC Energy Centre

“Currently he is doing MS in Energy Management from Comsats Institute of Information Technology Islamabad.”

Mr. Suresh Shrestha is currently serving as Research Fellow in SAARC Energy Centre (SEC) in Islamabad, Pakistan. Besides Energy, Transport and Environment, another area of his focus is Energy Statistics.

Mr. Shrestha has served the Government of Nepal for more than sixteen years in different Ministries. Prior to joining SAARC Energy Centre, he was in Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS)/GoN, designated Senior Divisional Engineer, where he had been directly involved in the drafting processes of National Energy Strategy, Energy Efficiency Strategy and Biomass Energy Strategy for Nepal. While in WECS, he worked as a Programme Coordinator for Nepal-German Energy Efficiency Programme (NEEP 1) and also as a Project Counterpart for IAEA supported project “Enhancing National Capacity to Develop Sustainable Energy Policy”.

He earned a B. Sc. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Aligarh Muslim University in India and obtained an ADB Scholarship to pursue MBA from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in Pakistan. Currently he is doing MS in Energy Management from Comsats Institute of Information Technology Islamabad.





DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON STUDY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL REGIONAL HYDRO POWER PLANT IN SOUTH ASIA

09-10 MAY 2016,
KATHMANDU,
NEPAL

SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad under its programme activity for FY 2016 organized a two day Dissemination Workshop on Study for Development of Potential Regional Hydro Power Plant in South Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal on 09-10 May 2016. The event was arranged in Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza, Kathmandu in collaboration with the Department of Electricity Development, Ministry of Energy, Government of Nepal.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Suman Prasad Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Government of Nepal. The session was graced by the presence of Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Ghafoori, Director, SAARC

Secretariat, Mr. Sameer Ratna Shakya, Director General, Department of Electricity Development, Ministry of Energy, Government of Nepal and Mr. Muhammad Naeem Malik, Director, SAARC Energy Centre. The Programme Coordinator for this workshop was Mr. Suresh Shrestha, Research Fellow (Energy, Transport and Environment), SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad and the focal person from the side of the collaborating organization was Mr. Madhu Prasad Bhetuwal, Joint Secretary, Department of Electricity Development, Ministry of Energy, Government of Nepal.

TRAINING ON ENERGY STATISTICS FOR AFGHANISTAN, BHUTAN, MALDIVES AND NEPAL



“Training on Energy Statistics for Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal” is an approved programme activity of SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad for FY 2016. A two-day training on energy statistics was organized in each of the four member states mentioned.

The first training was held in Nepal on June 21-22, 2016 in collaboration with the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS), Government of Nepal. The second training was organized in Maldives on August 02-03, 2016 in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives and third in Bhutan on August 15-16, 2016 in collaboration with the Department of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan. The fourth training was held in Afghanistan on September 05-06, 2016 in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water, Afghanistan. The

fundamental objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of the member states in energy statistics.

Professionals from different energy related organizations participated in the training in each of the four countries.

There were 20, 15, 18 and 16 participants in the training in Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan respectively. Dr. Sahibzada Ali Mahmud, the Short Term Expert for SEC was the trainer, who delivered lectures on different aspects of Energy Statistics along with the hand on exercises. The training course covered the



basics of energy data including various energy types and energy flows. Deliberations were made on data collection methodologies, conversion factors and Energy Accounting Framework. The trainees were also exposed to practical exercises on energy balance builder. The trainings were coordinated by Mr. Suresh Shrestha, Research Fellow (ETE).





Mr. Mohib-ur-Rehman is deputed from Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL), a subsidiary company of Govt. owned Corporation, Petrobangla (Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources Corporation) in Bangladesh.

Before joining here he was in charge of ICT department of PGCL and previously served as head of different section in PGCL. In his last 16 (Sixteen) years he was involved in designing of Natural Gas Pipelines Networks (both Transmission and Distribution Pipelines). He was also served as a Project Engineer for several Gas Distribution Network Projects. He has long experience in Planning APP (Annual Procurement Plan), DPP/PPP, PCP, Concept Paper for New Projects and making Power Purchase Agreement with IPP and Govt. Power Generation Companies in Bangladesh.

He completed his bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh. . He is married and has one son.

Engr. S.M. Mohibur Rahman
Research Fellow (Technology Transfer)
SAARC Energy Centre

“Mr. Mohib-ur-Rehman is deputed from Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL), a subsidiary company of Govt. owned Corporation, Petrobangla (Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources Corporation) in Bangladesh.”

SAARC VIDEO CONFERENCE TO DISSEMINATE STUDY REPORT OF FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SETTING UP SAARC REGIONAL/SUB-REGIONAL LNG TERMINALS AMONG THE SAARC MEMBER STATES

16-17 AUGUST
2016, ISLAMABAD,
PAKISTAN

Under the recommendation of the first meeting of the Expert Group on Oil & Gas SAARC Energy Centre conducted a study on “Feasibility Study for Setting up SAARC Regional/ Sub-regional LNG Terminals” in



the year 2015. The Study gave brief overview of current status of natural gas reserves in the SAARC member countries with a view to identify potential areas of mutual cooperation, with special reference

to setting up Joint infra-structure projects such as a Regional/Sub-Regional LNG Import Terminals. Based on the findings in the study report SEC has also organized two-day dissemination Video Conference in 2016 to discuss the existing Gas demand and Supply situation of the Member States and discuss international practices of LNG import based natural gas distribution and power generation. The ideas for indicative cost of LNG import and re-gasification; ownership and financing options of the project and identification of suitable project sites for Regional/Sub-regional LNG Terminal(s) in SAARC Region has also discussed during the course of the Video Conference. The analysis on possibility of LNG based bulk power generation and policy options for competitive price of electricity generated; analysis on cross border pipeline and undersea natural gas pipelines from a bulk LNG receiving terminal to neighboring Member States of SAARC Region has been shared between the participants.

SAARC STUDY TO ASSESS THE PRESENT SITUATION, GAPS IN CAPACITY, TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY & REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS IN COAL SECTOR IN SAARC MEMBER STATES.



Mr. Mohib Ur Rehman RF(TT) in discussion with Coal Experts of University of Punjab Lahore

December 2016

The First Meeting of the Expert Group on Technology and Knowledge Sharing held in New Delhi recommended some activities to be undertaken by All SAARC Member States and SEC. One of the proposed activities was to assess the present situation, gaps in capacity, technology and policy & regulatory instruments in Coal sector in SAARC Member States. SEC has carried out this study in 2016.







Engr. Ihsanullah Marwat
Research Fellow (Energy Efficiency)
SAARC Energy Centre

“He had remained part of many prestigious projects through feasibility studies, economic analysis, environmental studies (EIAs & IEEs), Management and M&E.”

Engr. Ihsanullah Marwat is working as Research Fellow (Energy Efficiency) with the passion and vision of an Energy Efficient SAARC. Apart from graduation in Mechanical Engineering he has two specializations to his credit; One in Energy Management and second in Environmental Engineering. Currently he is pursuing his Ph.D. in Energy System Engineering from US – Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCAS-E), NUST in collaboration of University of Arizona USA. He is also a certified energy auditor.

Before joining SEC he was working as “Energy & Environment Expert” in Housing Department, Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Earlier he worked with an energy consulting firm as “Manager Projects”. He also worked with Private power Infrastructure Board (PPIB), MoWP, Govt. of Pakistan on a special assignment “Diversification of Fuels mix in Power Generation”. He was selected as “Principal Hydro Mechanical Engineer” by MMP Pakistan for 4th extension project of 1410 MW at world largest earth filled “Tarbela” Dam. He is having a diversified experience of about more than fifteen years in various segments of Energy Sector mainly in Hydel power generation, Solar energy, Energy Management (Demand side)/ Energy Audits and Oil & Gas particularly in CNG sector. He had remained part of many prestigious projects through feasibility studies, economic analysis, environmental studies (EIAs & IEEs), Management and M&E. He also had international trade experience with countries including China, Italy and Germany. He has a keen interest in energy policy formulation, thus having a good understanding of energy policies. He also remained editor of the quarterly newsletter of Housing Department, Govt. of K.P.

12TH INTERNATIONAL FIRE, SAFETY, SECURITY & HEALTH EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE



1-3 MARCH 2016,
ISLAMABAD,
PAKISTAN

Mr. Ihsan ullah attended the subject conference. . The conference included speakers from the with the topics as under:

- Abduction Management
- Integration of Environmental Design into Safety and Security Systems in Pakistan.
- Emerging Surveillance Technologies
- The essential Cog turning the National wheel (Private Security in direct support)
- Emergency services role in emergency & Disaster Management
- Using Unified Communication Systems for a Safe and Secure Pakistan
- Disaster & Development
- Fight against crime and terrorism with advance technologies in policing
- Achieving Preparedness through policy and planning
- Security of Educational Institutions in Pakistan

STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL FOR ENERGY STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES IN ELECTRICITY SECTOR OF SAARC MEMBER STATES (ESTES)

NOVEMBER, 2016,
ISLAMABAD,
PAKISTAN

This short term study was conducted through team of experts, under thematic area of Programme on “Integrated Assessments of Energy, Transport, and Environment (PETREN)”.

The concept of energy storage in electricity sector in not new and is in place in many parts of the world, while further expansion in terms of capacity as well as technology is going on. It is all in one solution for the electricity sector to support existing network, facilitate efficient operation of electricity markets, improving Grid stability, support energy efficiency through demand side management and higher penetration of RE sources through grid connected.

SAARC Member States equally needs to consider a transition to power systems based on renewable energies along with energy storage options. It provides one of the options for supporting a reliable, efficient, cost-effective and sustainable power sector. This study has not only evaluated the power sector of each Member State in general and in particular with respect to potential for deployment of energy storage but also shared some success stories of the developed world in deploying various energy storage technologies in their power system.



Mr. Ram Gopal Lageju
Research Fellow (Energy Trade)
SAARC Energy Centre

Mr. Ram Gopal Lageju has joined SAARC Energy Centre (SEC) as Research Fellow (Energy Trade) on 23 February 2016. He completed Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering and Masters of Science in Water Resources Engineering from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Before joining SEC, Mr. Lageju has served for 12 years in Ministry of Energy (MOEn), Department of Electricity Development (DoED) and Water, Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) and Electricity Tariff Fixation Commission (ETFC) as Engineer and Senior Divisional Engineer. He has work experience in the field of Hydropower and Transmission Line Projects Feasibility Studies, Project Evaluations and Environmental Studies, Electricity Tariff Fixation, Budget & Programs Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation.

“He has work experience in the field of Hydropower and Transmission Line Projects Feasibility Studies, Project Evaluations and Environmental Studies, Electricity Tariff Fixation, Budget & Programs Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation.”



SAARC DISSEMINATION VIDEO CONFERENCE “OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SAARC FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON ENERGY COOPERATION (ELECTRICITY)”



**18 – 19 OCTOBER,
2016, ISLAMABAD,
PAKISTAN**

SAARC Energy Centre, Islamabad under its approved program for FY 2017 organized a 2-day SAARC Video Conference “Opportunities and Challenges for Implementation of SAARC Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation (Electricity)” SEC especially envisaged this video conference under its thematic programme area of “Energy Trade between SAARC Countries” (PENT)” aiming to create awareness as well as understanding and to sensitize the professionals and decision makers for materializing energy ring within the SAARC Region.



Ms. Lakshmi Puri
Assistant Secretary-General
of the United Nations
and Deputy Executive Di-
rector of UN Women

“Ms. Puri has received awards and accolades for her work as a human rights advocate since she first became engaged in the global development, human rights, and humanitarian discourse, policy making and norm setting.”

Ms. Lakshmi Puri (India) is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. Having joined the leadership team in 2011 at the inception of UN Women she has contributed strategically and vitally to building this new and dynamic entity. She is directly responsible for the leadership and management of the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, UN System Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships, and was the Acting Head of UN Women from March to August 2013. Ms. Puri has multifaceted experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, negotiations of international agreements and public advocacy

spanning peace and security, countering violent extremism and terrorism, human rights, key areas of sustainable development including energy, food security and agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene, trade in goods and services, investment and intellectual property rights regimes, migration and refugees, climate change and humanitarian action. She has contributed to publications and think tanks in these areas and to opinion editorials.

Q: As you joined United Nations (UN) Women in March, 2011 shortly after its creation and as a member of senior leadership team, you have actively contributed to the institutional development and consolidation of the entity. How do you think SAARC can help maintain peace and harmony in the region through economic integration and women empowerment?

A: When I joined UN Women, the organization had just become operational, and my role as the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director alongside the Executive Director, Michelle Bachelet was to build up the institution of UN Women at HQ and across the offices in over 90 countries. I am directly responsible for the leadership and management of the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, UN System Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships. I was also the Acting Head of UN Women from March to August 2013. My work in the entity has focused on positioning UN Women as the global advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly in the intergovernmental and public spheres, ensuring the prioritization of gender equality and the empowerment of women in key intergovernmental outcomes and in securing high level political commitments. Finding common ground with bilateral, multilateral and regional partners has been and remains a strong means of getting our message of inclusivity and equality across all sectors and levels of society in order to encourage progress and implement policies and practices that lead to gender equality. South Asia, while having fared well on the MDGs and experiencing high levels of growth, faces serious challenges to peace and harmony in the region due to political tension, extremism, high levels of poverty and inequality, and threats to

ecological stability. In this context, the criticality of regional cooperation is even more apparent as a means to address the grave challenges and utilize opportunities. Regional integration is the key to lasting peace and to a more prosperous future and SAARC is positioned well to take on the role of facilitating that integration, as it has through a number of initiatives such as the SAARC Development Fund, establishment of the South Asian University and Convention on Cooperation on Environment.

For maintaining peace and security in the region, an area of focus for SAARC will be ensuring that inclusive growth at the national level be balanced with regional growth. Till now, SAARC has not played a primary role in leveraging the drivers for growth through cooperation between Member States as most countries in the region have stronger partnership with governments outside of SAARC. This situation will need to change in order for regional integration to successfully help maintain peace and security.

Additionally, SAARC provides a critical intergovernmental platform for governments and other stakeholders in the region to accelerate the implementation of global gender equality commitments and regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Sustainable Development Goals and the SAARC Development Goals.

Even though all governments of South Asia have ratified international and regional human rights treaties and have made commitments to respect, promote

“ I would like to commend the SAARC Energy Centre in undertaking effective action towards ensuring energy access to the most disadvantaged communities traversing vulnerabilities of gender, caste, class and poverty. The Energy Centre is strategically placed to enable cross learning across South Asian Countries in mainstreaming gender within energy policies, programmes and schemes and it should continue playing its important role. ”

and protect women's rights and to eliminate discrimination against women, the effective translation of these commitments into national laws, policies and programmes remains a challenge. Many of the issues facing national governments in the region transcend boundaries, and therefore, need regional, rather than national solutions. SAARC has taken concrete steps in this direction by signing regional conventions, such as the one on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and another on Regional Arrangements on the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia. Subsequently, a Regional Task Force has been formed to monitor and assess the implementation of various provisions of the Conventions.

Q: As you remained as the interim head of UN women from March – August 2013, how do you think SAARC can promote in the context of peace and security, human rights and sustainable development?

A: UN Women has had the privilege and honour of working closely with SAARC for promoting the gender equality and women empowerment agenda. We worked together on the SAARC Gender InfoBase initiative; and SAARC has chaired the concluding session of six of the seven ministerial level Beijing Biennial Regional Reviews (1998 – 2010) organized by UN Women in partnership with different governments of the region.

At the 17th SAARC Summit in 2011, leaders directed convening of an inter-governmental expert group meeting to discuss the establishment of a regional mechanism to ensure empowerment of women and gender equality in the region, with focus on national legislations, including timely realization of the MDGs and SDGs. The SAARC Gender Policy Advocacy Group (SAARC-GPAG) was set up in 2013 at the expert group meeting and had its first meeting in 2016. The Group, consisting of senior policy level officials and academia or civil from each member state, is well placed to transform women's lives in the region.

Despite committed work by Member States and civil society organizations, challenges to gender equality in the region continues. National reports during the review of the implementation of the BPfA indicated that one of the major reasons for the lack of progress in many countries has been inadequate financing. Therefore, a significant increase in investment is necessary, not only to meet the funding gap but also to meet the aspirations of the sustainable development agenda. This, therefore, calls for a stepping up of budgets and enhanced and dedicated financing for gender equality. The work of the GPAG is

strategic, driven by considerations of efficacy, efficiency and value addition. It will ensure that greater investments are made in women in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. While advocacy is being undertaken at the regional level, outcomes will be reflected at national levels and reflected in strong national institutions and policies for women's empowerment. With regards to peace and security

infrastructure and energy, etc. This provides an important opportunity to promote women's leadership and equal and full participation in development programmes especially in regions affected by different forms of conflict. Member states of the SAARC have also entered into cooperation through mechanisms such as the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism (1987), Additional



concerns in the region, the SAARC provides a critical platform to mainstream the WPS agenda in all ongoing development programmes. The WPS agenda may be understood as extending beyond issues of inter-state and intra-state conflict to include local and global challenges to sustainable peace and security, such as violent extremism, mass displacement and climate change. For example, at the Kathmandu Summit (2014), member states committed to strengthening regional integration to institutionalize peace and development through greater cooperation in sectors such as trade,

Protocol on Terrorism (2004) and the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (2008).

Q: How do you view the role of SAARC Energy Centre in realizing Energy Efficiency? and Renewable Energy development through women empowerment in 2017 and beyond?

A: I would like to commend the SAARC Energy Centre in undertaking effective action towards ensuring energy access to the most disadvantaged communities traversing vulnerabilities of gender, caste, class and poverty. The global development community



acknowledges access to energy as the catalyst for change, evident through the launch of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative in 2012 as a crucial step to strive for universal access to sustainable energy.

The United Nations reverberates and reaffirms this commitment through SDG 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy that advocates the inclusion of “access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.”

The burden for today is however to understand the intersection and integration needed in our approach to achieving two important Goals, Goal 7 and Goal 5, on achieving gender equality.

For this I must reflect on the nuances of the gender-energy poverty nexus and how it manifests for women and girls. Lack of access to energy compounds multi-dimensional poverty and exclusion that women face leading to unfavourable and irreversible outcomes for the environment and the economy. In most developing countries including in South Asia, women to a large extent are responsible for

household and community energy provision. Available data show that women and girls, globally, spend up to 5 hours a day in time-consuming and physically draining tasks of collecting biomass fuels, which constrains them from accessing decent wage employment, educational opportunities and livelihood enhancing options, as well as limits their options for social and political interaction outside the household. According to a recent study, empowering women to participate in the global economy on an equal basis to men would add a staggering \$12 to 14 trillion by 2025.

At the same time, cooking from biomass is particularly detrimental to the health of women and children. Globally, around 4.3 million – mainly women and children – die prematurely every year due to household air pollution caused by traditional fuels. In addition, use of biomass for cooking has irreversible consequences for the environment. In developing countries 730 million tons of biomass are burned each year, emitting soot and carbon dioxide that contribute to climate change and drive deforestation and the loss of ecosystem services that

forests support. Up to 25% of black carbon emissions are attributed to cooking smoke.

Further, women’s economic contribution to the energy sector, such as fuel collection, is mostly unpaid, unrecognized and undervalued; and women’s engagement in providing and using energy sources for domestic and productive consumption in agriculture and micro-enterprises, where majority of rural women in South Asia are concentrated, are often not reflected in national statistics. In addition, few women are engaged as stakeholders and decision-makers in policy processes in the energy sector; and there is need to strengthen gender-integration in energy policies and their planning, execution, financing and monitoring.

Since women play a significant role in energy provisioning at household and communities, women’s integration and involvement in the various steps of the energy value chain can expand both the scale and the quality of sustainable energy initiatives and leverage sustainable outcomes.

SAARC Energy Centre has an important role to play in advocating that the National Governments intentionally and not incidentally invest in dismantling the links in the gender-energy poverty nexus. It should continue to advocate for inclusion of women in energy policies and programmes as leaders and decision makers; for improvements in gender statistics and sex-disaggregated targets, indicators and data collection to promote enhanced accountability and transparency; and ensuring that gender equality in energy access is



an explicit principle and component of energy governance.

I am glad to share that the UN Women launched its multi-country Flagship Programme on “Women’s Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy” at COP 21 at Paris with UNEP across five countries, including India. The Programme will address gender specific barriers faced by women and women entrepreneurs in their participation and leadership in energy policies, programmes and schemes. The

India Programme was launched at COP 22 in Marrakesh, Morocco together with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The objective of the Programme is to identify and remove structural gender-specific barriers facing women entrepreneurs, enhance women’s productive use of sustainable energy, and increase women’s participation and leadership in gender-responsive energy policy-making. The Programme will be implemented in 2017 and will build technical

and entrepreneurial skills of 100,000 rural/semi-rural women in establishing and managing efficient renewable energy enterprises in select states in India.

The Energy Centre is strategically placed to enable cross learning across south Asian countries in mainstreaming gender within energy policies, programmes and schemes and it should continue playing this important role.

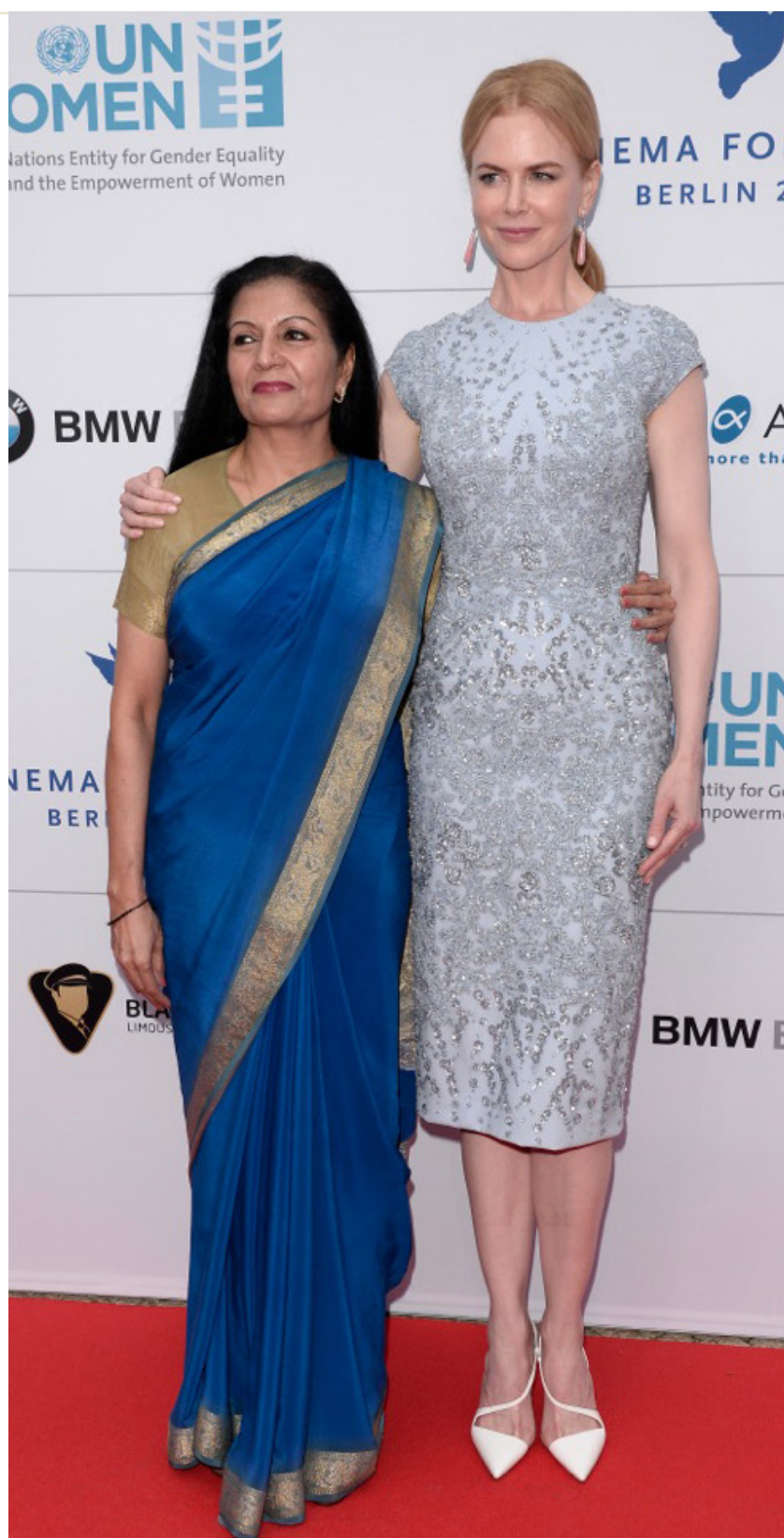
Q: How do you think that UN-Women and SAARC Energy Centre can achieve mutual cooperation on energy & environment through mainstreaming gender?

A: The international community understands how critical energy is in today's world. World leaders reaffirmed this commitment through SDG 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy that advocates for the inclusion of "access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030." The possibilities of collaboration are endless, from joining forces on gender-responsive energy policies to ensuring effective implementation of policies and action which ensure energy access to the most disadvantaged communities, many of whom are often women and girls in rural areas.

In the IPoA the LDCs have committed to providing appropriate new technology. Clean energy will be a driving force of powering new technology and improving the lives of millions of people the world over who do not have access to affordable clean energy.

Q: What message would you like to convey to the people of South Asia through this Annual Edition of SAARC Energy Centre?

A: Women can power the journey towards a cleaner future and a sustainable world for all. Women are primary managers of energy at the household and communities. However, there is a need for a paradigm shift where women are considered as agents of change in scaling up the transition to sustainable energy and its productive uses. What is required is to address two neglected but very important issues in energy policies: the time poverty experienced by women, the loss of productivity and the under-utilization of their entrepreneurial abilities towards windows of new opportunities, including access to modern means of communication and information, new livelihood and training options and even leisure time. Initiatives by SAARC Energy Centre are concrete steps towards this direction.



Ms. Lakshmi Puri with Ms. Nicole Kidman - Goodwill Ambassador of UN Women

¹ http://www.se4all.org/2015_09_24_new-global-energy-goal-is-key-to-sustainable-development-across-the-board

² Ibid

³ <http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/sdgs-should-tackle-energy-access-to-boost-gender-equality>

⁴ <http://cleancookstoves.org/impact-areas/environment/>

Bilateral



Meetings

SKYPE MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SDMC- DR. SANTOSH KUMAR



Mr. Mohammad Naeem Malik – Director SEC and Ms. Saira Ahmed – CS had a first skype meeting with Executive Director of SAARC Disaster Management Authority (SDMC) – Dr. Santosh Kumar on 10 October 2016.

Prof. Santosh Kumar, a Disaster Risk Reduction, Policy Planning and Capacity Development expert with 25 years of experience in different positions in the Development Planning and DRR Sector. A PhD. in Economics, he studied Gender & Development in IDS, Sussex UK and got professional training in Disaster risk Management. Backed with International exposure at World Bank and Government exposure in different capacities working at the national and state levels, he is an experienced hand in designing, Planning and implementing mitigation and long term disaster recovery plan and projects.

Matters of mutual cooperation between both the centers were discussed. It was discussed that SEC & SDMC for the first time will cooperate on next year programme activity "Regional Cooperation & Capacity Building Programme for Sharing Information on Energy, Environment & Disaster Risk Management in Collaboration with SDMC (3 days- India). SDMC also shared their study on "Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation in SAARC Region" with SEC.

SKYPE MEETING WITH ASEAN

The first Skype meeting with ASEAN Headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia was held on 4th November 2016. Mr. Mohammad Naeem Malik- Director SEC and Ms. Saira Ahmed- CS attended the meeting from SEC. Mr. Sanjayan Velauthan- Executive Director ACE, Mr. Christopher Zamora- APEC Manager and Mr. Atchariya Jangehay- Technical Officer from ASEAN participated in the skype meeting.

It was discussed that the MoU between ASEAN & SEC is valid until 2019 and it was mutually decided that publications & reports will be shared. ACE| conducts Energy Ministers meeting and will invite SEC in 2017 meeting. SEC agreed to share 2017 programme activities with ACE.



Mr. Atchariya Jangehay



Mr. Christopher Zamora



Mr. Sanjayan Velathan



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