

<b>Concept Paper</b>		
<b>Webinar to Disseminate the Study on “Infrastructure and Enabling Environment for Road Electric Transport in SAARC Member States”</b>		
<b>Webinar</b>	<b>PRG-189/2020/POSIT</b>	<b>SEC</b>

**Background:**

The world is facing the challenges of air pollution and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions due to the conventional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) based vehicles. Transport sector alone contributes 23% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As electricity is going to be largest source of energy in the future and electrification of the transport sector will help tackle air and noise pollution, besides reducing hydrocarbon fuel import bill, therefore, policy makers are now looking towards integration of Electric Vehicles (EV) in the transport sector.

One of the most essential factors to bring about a shift of conventional transport sector to electric transport in South Asia is the building and maintaining of the necessary charging infrastructures and enabling such conducive policies that will make it economically easier and viable for the consumers for massive uptake of electric vehicles. Realizing the need for thorough assessments and analysis for EV uptake, SEC conducted a study in 2018 to assess the infrastructure and enabling environment requirements for the successful and effective integration of EVs in the transport system of South Asia. A workshop to disseminate the findings of this study was scheduled in 2019 in India, however, it could not take place due to lack of requisite nomination of a Collaborating Partner organization, thus, the workshop was postponed twice. In order to disseminate the findings of that study, to get feedback from member states for value addition and to build awareness among Member States, SEC now aims to organize a dissemination webinar.

**Introduction:**

SEC, under its thematic area of “Programme on Integrated Assessments of Energy, Transport, and Environment” (PETREN), will organize a Webinar to Disseminate the Study Report of “Infrastructure and Enabling Environment for Road Electric Transport in SAARC Member States”. The webinar will be a one-day activity, and will be divided into three stages. The first stage will consist of the dissemination of study findings and results by the authors. Second stage will comprise of prominent EV technology and policy experts from within and outside the SAARC region will share their valuable experiences with the delegates and inform them of the latest trends worldwide. The third stage will consist of a feedback session to get comments and recommendations from the participants of webinar to get them incorporated in the study report, if necessary.

**Objectives:**

Following are the objectives of this Webinar:

- 1) Dissemination of the Study and its findings/recommendations to delegates from SAARC Member States
- 2) Value addition and further improvement of the Study based on feedback and comments of the delegates from each Member State
- 3) Awareness building among the stakeholders including decision makers, relevant manufacturers, private sectors, etc. for the introduction of EV transport system
- 4) Way forward and facilitation for the Member States for a future transition towards electric transport system

**Major Aspects /Topics to be covered during the Workshop**

The webinar will cover, but is not limited to the following aspects of EV infrastructure and enabling environment at the national levels:

- 1) Identification of the pre-requisite with respect to electric road transportation
- 2) Analysis of the existing EV costs, charging modes, repair & maintenance, market development and regulations
- 3) Categorization of the critical factors and the challenges
- 4) Comparison of different charging technologies available in terms of technology, availability and cost
- 5) Identification and discussion of the relevant opportunities and challenges
- 6) Estimation of investment / financing requirements and incentives
- 7) Recommendations to the SAARC policy makers, automobile manufactures, energy utility companies, and various market players on EV transformation
- 8) Knowledge sharing by EV experts from outside the region pertaining to their countries

**Relevance, Coherence and Sustainability:**

SEC aims to minimize oil imports and the negative environmental impacts from the fossil fuels combustion. Consequently, this webinar is relevant to the SEC's established objectives. It is also coherent with the SEC's past interventions like studies on Electric Vehicles and Transport Sector Efficiency. As this technology is almost mature, therefore, SEC shall organize more such events in future and shall contribute to influencing the speedy transformation of conventional transport sector to electric transport, hence the webinar is in line with SEC's Sustainability objectives.

**Potential Professional Resource**

Team of experts from India Smart Grids Forum (ISGF) conducted the study and will be invited for the dissemination purpose. Moreover, important EV and Transport Policy experts from within and outside the SAARC region will also be invited to share their research and experiences. Finally, SEC's inhouse Expert Professional will also be contributing to the webinar by sharing the technical knowledge with the participants.