

Concept Paper		
Video Conference to Disseminate "Action Plan for Electricity Utilities of SAARC Countries to Introduce EV Charging Infrastructure"		
Video Conference	PRG-181/2020/POSIT	SEC

Background:

The conventional Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles form the backbone of the transport sector and contribute to 23% of global CO₂ emissions. These vehicles are also responsible for high levels of air pollution in large cities, leading to major health concerns. As a result, policy makers and concerned authorities are looking towards electric vehicles (EVs) to help tackle air pollution problems and the climate change issues.

According to IEA, the number of EVs in the world, virtually non-existent a few years ago, has hit 5 million mark in 2018, and is expected to grow to 125 million by 2030. A major driver for growth in EV sales is the easy access to charging infrastructure. In this regard, the electric utility and supply companies are to play a major role in planning and in providing EV charging infrastructure, as they are the enablers of this infrastructure. Electric utilities can start leveraging the existing infrastructure to find additional sources of revenues or improve the way they manage their energy grids. It is important that electric utilities act fast and tap into innovative business models to make use of this opportunity, as the existing relationship with grid customers puts electric utilities in an advantageous position.

In this context, SEC conducted a study in 2019 to coordinate with the selected electric utilities of the member states and facilitate them in formulating action plans for introducing EV charging infrastructure. In order to disseminate the findings of that study, a dissemination workshop was scheduled in 2020 in Pakistan. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, it is not possible to conduct the workshop. In lieu of the workshop, the SAARC Secretariat has directed SEC to carry out the activity through a video conference 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

Introduction:

SEC, under its thematic area of “Program to Successfully Implement Technology Transfer (POSIT)”, will organize a Video Conference to Disseminate the Study Report titled “Action Plan for Electricity Utilities of SAARC Countries to Introduce EV Charging Infrastructure”. The video conference will be a 3 hours activity and will consist of the study dissemination by the authors and the peer reviewer. Prominent EV technology and policy experts from within and outside the SAARC region shall also be invited to share their valuable experiences with the delegates and inform them of the latest trends within electric utilities in the context of EV charging infrastructure. Furthermore, a feedback session shall also be organized during the video conference to get comments and recommendations from the participants of the video conference to get them incorporated in the study report, if necessary. The video conference shall discuss in detail the medium to long term action plans of selected electric utilities including technology options under consideration, potential sites for deployment, investment outlay for potential deployment, provision of third-party investment and operation of charging stations, and business model /mode of payment for using charging infrastructure etc.

Objectives:

Following are the objectives of this Video Conference:

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 Video Conference:

The Video Conference will cover, but is not limited to the following aspects:

1. The long term and medium-term vision of the selected electric utility companies
2. The current investment outlook of the selected electric utility companies
3. Criteria discussed and agreed between the expert(s) and utility company(ies) for developing the action plan
4. Overview of meetings and discussions to make the action plan part of the long-term vision of the utility company(ies)
5. The mid to long-term action plan on introduction of EV public charging infrastructure development. Following considerations should be a part of the finalized Plan
6. Technology options under consideration
7. Potential sites for charging infrastructure deployment
8. Investment outlay for potential deployment
9. Provision of third-party private investment and operation of charging stations
10. Business model /mode of payment for using charging infrastructure
11. Commitment to carry out assessment studies for EV at organizational level
12. Organizational commitment to promote use of EV among consumers (e.g. promotional advertisement on consumer bills etc.)

Relevance, Coherence and Sustainability:

SEC aims to minimize oil imports and the negative environmental impacts from the emissions due to combustion of fossil fuels. Consequently, the video conference 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. SEC shall organize similar events in future to promote the electrification of transport sector, hence the video conference is in line with SEC's Sustainability objectives.

Potential Professional Resource:

Team of experts from CRISIL, India conducted the study and will be invited for the dissemination purpose. The study reviewer will also be invited, along with important EV and Transport Policy experts from within and outside the SAARC region to share their knowledge and experiences.

Venue of the Video conference:

This video conference shall be an online activity, hosted from the office of SAARC Energy Center.