

## Concept Paper

### **Video Conference to Disseminate Study on “Technical Issues and Financial Viability of Net-Metering Mechanisms from the Perspective of Distribution Utilities”**

#### **Background:**

Net-Metering schemes have proven successful in attracting demand-side investment in distributed renewable generation due to their simple and understandable form. However, these schemes also pose business and technical challenges to utilities and regulators. On technical front, any fault in net-metering equipment may cause issues with grid and/or distribution system of the utilities. Some electric utilities complain about loss of revenue with net-metering schemes in their jurisdiction.

In SAARC Region, several countries such as India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have already introduced and experienced net-metering schemes, while others such as Bangladesh and Nepal have very recently introduced net-metering mechanisms in their countries. It has been witnessed that the cumulative number of distributed renewable generation systems availing net-metering schemes have increased very rapidly in countries where it was introduced.

SEC in the year 2020, had carried out the study on investigation of these Technical and Financial issues faced by Distribution Utilities. This study had thoroughly explored and discussed post net-metering financial and technical challenges faced by distribution utilities of SAARC, grid operators and other relevant stakeholders. The viable and proven solutions from other parts of the world to solving these challenges were also included in the study.

#### **Introduction:**

SEC, under its thematic area of ‘Program to Successfully Implement Technology Transfer’ (POSIT), is conducting a video conference to disseminate the findings of the study report. The video conference will aim to disseminate the findings of the study, get feedback from Member States for its value addition, and impress the importance of net-metering upon the delegates from respective Member States. Moreover, the target audience including policy/decision makers, electric utilities/regulators and other stakeholders in the region will be provided an opportunity to suggest changes/ improvements to the report. The resultant outcome will eventually be made part of the study report for its final printing and dissemination.

**Objectives:**

Followings are the objectives of this video conference:

1. Dissemination of the study and its findings/recommendations to participants from SAARC Member States;
2. Value addition and further improvement of the study report based on feedback and comments of the participants;
3. Awareness building among the stakeholders including policy/decision makers, electric utilities/regulators, private sector businesses as well as other stakeholders in the region.

**Major Aspects /Topics to be covered:**

The event will cover, but not limited to the following areas:

1. Projected penetration of net-metering in the SAARC region;
2. Existing technical and financial challenges posed by net-metering to the utilities;
3. Safety standards and operating environment for net-metering equipment;
4. Interconnection standards and quality assurance;
5. Net-Meter standard specifications, testing and calibration;
6. Energy accounting and commercial settlements;
7. Grid operation and other prevalent technical issues of distribution utilities;
8. Cost-benefit analysis of Net-Metering with utility perspective;
9. Short and long-term Implications of net-metering on utilities;
10. Opportunities for distribution utilities from net-metering;
11. Solutions and best global/regional practices to safeguard distribution utilities; and
12. Conclusions and recommendations.

**Potential Professional Resource:**

Authors of the study will disseminate the study report.

**Venue of the Event:**

The video conference shall be broadcasted from the office of the SAARC Energy Centre, Pakistan.