

Concept Paper		
Video Conference to Disseminate Study on "Challenges in Financing of Utility-Scale Clean Energy Projects in SAARC Countries"		
Video Conference	PRG-214/2021/PROMO	SEC

Background:

Clean energy projects bring far reaching benefits in terms of health, energy access, environmental protection and the response to climate change, along with the potential to create new jobs. Energy through clean resources such as Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) have become increasingly cost-competitive with fossil fuels, even amid low global oil prices. Clean Energy projects especially in developing countries are facing multiple challenges at market and project level. These include lack of market transparency, lack of financing and experience in project development, and lack of relevant information on regulations, markets and resource availability. This has led to dearth of bankable projects, making it difficult for investors to identify attractive projects, and therefore reducing available capital for serious projects.

While the investment in these projects has seen steady growth over the last decade, a more rapid scaling-up is necessary in developing countries to meet climate and sustainable development goals. Yet global investment in clean energy projects has remained less than its potential. This investment shortfall reflects enduring market barriers and perceptions of high risk that deters private investors and financiers. To increase flow of investment for clean energy projects, SEC conducted a study on “Challenges in Financing of Utility-Scale Clean Energy Projects in SAARC Countries” in FY-2020.

Introduction:

To disseminate the findings of the study, get feedback from Member States for value addition, and build awareness among Member States, SEC is organizing a video conference to disseminate the Study Report “Challenges in Financing of Utility-Scale Clean Energy Projects in SAARC Countries”. This video conference is a knowledge sharing event where the study authors will share their experiences with the audiences and inform them about findings of the study.

Objectives:

Following are the objectives of this event:

1. Dissemination of the contents of study report
2. Value addition and further improvement of the study report based on feedback and comments

3. Assessment of challenges in financing of utility-scale clean energy projects in SAARC countries and ways to overcome them
4. Create awareness among the stakeholders including decision makers, regulators, project developers, private sectors, etc. on increasing investment flow for utility-scale clean energy projects
5. Provide recommendations to policy makers, regulators, private sector and industry through best practices for financing utility-scale clean energy projects in SAARC countries

Major Aspects /Topics to be covered:

The event will cover, but is not limited to the following aspects of challenges in financing of utility-scale clean energy projects:

1. Existing and projected clean energy markets in the SAARC Member States;
2. Identifying risks and barriers to finance clean energy projects;
3. Available local/regional and international financing instruments;
4. Existing Carbon Financing mechanisms;
5. Enabling policies and regulation to improve investments in clean energy projects;
6. Investment risks and their mitigation;
7. Facilitation of investments from private sector and financial institutions;
8. Recommendations and conclusions.

Venue of the Event:

The event shall be broadcasted from office of the SAARC Energy Centre on Monday 12th April, 2021 at 1000 – 1130 hours Pakistan Standard Time (PST).