

<b>Concept Paper</b>		
<b>Webinar on “International Protocols Related to Emissions from Thermal Power Plants”</b>		
<b>Webinar</b>	<b>PRG-224/2021/PETREN</b>	<b>SEC</b>

**Background:**

The energy supply sector is the largest contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. The amount and nature of air emissions from thermal power plants depends on factors such as the fuel, the type and design of the combustion unit, operating practices, emission control measures, and the overall system efficiency. For example, natural gas-fired plants generally produce negligible emissions than those from coal plants.

In 2010, power sector was responsible for approximately 35% of total anthropogenic GHG emissions. Despite the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, GHG emissions grew more rapidly between 2000 and 2010 than in the previous decade. The main contributors to this trend were a higher energy demand associated with rapid economic growth and an increase of the share of coal in the global fuel mix<sup>1</sup>.

**Introduction:**

Air pollution has been a major focus of international environmental agreements, and since 1970s over 60 multilateral treaties, protocols, and amendments have been put in place to address this issue. Such as Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) Framework was the first attempt being made in 1979 to deal with problems of air pollution on a broad regional basis, followed by the 1985 Helsinki protocol (on SO<sub>2</sub>), the 1988 Sofia protocol (on NO<sub>x</sub>), the 1991 Geneva protocol (on VOCs) and Paris Agreement during Conference of Parties (COP21) in December 2015 on global warming to limit the temperature rise.

In order to discuss international protocols related to emissions from thermal power plants, SEC under its thematic area “Programme on Integrated Assessments of Energy, Transport, and Environment (PETREN)” is organizing a webinar on “International Protocols Related to Emissions from Thermal Power Plants”.

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<sup>1</sup> Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—Climate Change 2013 / 2014

**Objectives:**

The objective of the webinar is to discuss various thermal related environmental emissions, relevant international protocols and their effectiveness in reduction of emission.

**Major Aspects /Topics to be covered during the Webinar:**

The following major areas/ topics shall be covered in this Webinar:

1. International protocols on emission from thermal power plants
2. Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Thermal Power Plants
3. Emission Regulation for Thermal Power Plants in SAARC
4. Paris Agreement and thermal power plants

**Venue of the Webinar:**

The Webinar shall be broadcasted from the office of SAARC Energy Centre (SEC), Islamabad.