MEDIUM TERM VISION FOR ENERGY CONNECTIVITY IN THE SAARC REGION

Ahmar Ismail
Director, SAARC Secretariat
Kathmandu, Nepal
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

- SAARC Members.
  - Afghanistan (April 2007)
  - Bangladesh,
  - Bhutan,
  - India,
  - Maldives,
  - Nepal,
  - Pakistan, and
  - Sri Lanka.
SAARC OBJECTIVES

• To promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;

• To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential;

• To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;

• To contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another’s problems;
SAARC OBJECTIVES

• To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;
• To strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
• To strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests; and
• To cooperate with international and regional organizations with similar aims and purposes.
SAARC Hierarchy

- Summit
- Council of Ministers
  - Standing Committee
    - Programming Committee
      - Working Groups
      - Technical Committees
      - Expert Group Meetings/
        Inter-governmental Group
        Committees/Ad hoc bodies
Sectoral (Energy) Hierarchy

Energy Ministerial Meeting

Working Group on Energy

- Expert Group on Electricity
- Expert Group on Oil & Gas
- Expert Group on Renewable Energy
- Expert Group on Technology & Knowledge Sharing
Energy Related Initiatives

- Established a SAARC Energy Working Group (2004);
- Established SAARC Energy Centre (2006);
- Conducted SAARC Regional Energy Trade Study (2010);
- Conducted Study on South Asia Regional Power Exchange (2013);
- Prepared common template for electricity grid;
- 18th Summit – Nov 2014 – signed SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity) – a major step towards establishment of Regional Power Market;
Energy Initiatives (cont’nd)

• **Energy Ring**

• The 3rd Meeting of the Energy Ministers held in Colombo in January 2009 approved the Concept paper on **Energy Ring**, 
  – decided formation of Expert Groups for different energy commodities and services.
    i) Oil and Gas
    ii) Electricity
    iii) Renewable Energy and
    iv) Technology/knowledge sharing (including energy efficiency, coal etc.).

Expert Groups have finalized their TORs and work plans. But what’s the hold-up?????
Illustrative components of “Energy Ring” in South Asia

1. **Electricity Generation and Transmission**
   - India
   - Bhutan
   - Nepal
   - Afghanistan
   - Pakistan
   - Maldives
   - Sri Lanka
   - Bangladesh

2. **Energy Technology**
   - India
   - Bhutan
   - Nepal
   - Afghanistan
   - Pakistan
   - Maldives
   - Sri Lanka
   - Bangladesh

3. **Natural Gas Transmission System**
   - Nepal
   - Afghanistan
   - Pakistan
   - Maldives
   - Sri Lanka
   - Bangladesh
   - India
   - South-East Asia

4. **Central Asia**
   - Afghanistan

5. **West Asia**
   - Pakistan

The diagram illustrates the interconnectedness of energy components across different regions in South Asia, emphasizing the flow of energy resources and technologies.
As directed by the Sixteenth Summit, the SAARC Energy Center has prepared **Action Plan On Energy Conservation (2011-12)**, which has been endorsed by the *Working Group on Energy*. SEC has also created a web page on its Website, for exchange of information and sharing past/best practices – Details by SEC
Energy Initiatives (cont’nd)

• The Concept Paper on the Road map for developing **SAARC Market for Electricity (SAME)** was circulated to Member States in May 2010. The concept paper was deliberated and revised during the second meeting of Expert Group on Electricity held in Udaipur on January 20, 2011. The Meeting recommended an Action Plan which included development of draft SAARC Inter-Governmental Agreement; and preparation of three Concept papers.

SAARC Expert Group Meeting held in 2007 in Islamabad prepared 12-point road map on energy conservation and energy efficiency for implementation in the SAARC region.

i) Study and review the national policies and legislative frameworks relating to energy efficiency and conservation to benefit from mutual experiences for formulating and/or improving their respective policy/legislative environment.
ii) Cooperate in institutional strengthening and capacity building of relevant institutions to promote energy efficiency.

iii) Share experiences, expertise and best available practices especially in industries, buildings, power, transport and agriculture sectors among Member States.

iv) Develop and harmonize standards, labeling program, testing procedures to promote energy efficiency of energy consuming equipment and appliances.
v) Launch programs for creating awareness, training and education, and outreach to promote energy management and conservation in all sectors of economy.

vi) Increase regional cooperation on developing specific programs and projects on energy conservation and efficiency.

vii) Promote public-private partnership in implementing energy conservation and efficiency practices.
viii) Develop an Energy Conservation Directory (listing sector specific energy efficient technologies adopted, and best practices followed). This task may be undertaken by the SAARC Energy Centre (SEC), Islamabad.

ix) Include a page on energy conservation and energy efficiency in the SAARC Energy Centre’s website, when launched wherein Member States may contribute their information on the subject.

x) Share experience on capacity building of Energy Managers and Energy Auditors including Certification Examination.
xi) Exchange delegations to share experience and information, especially on:

- Best management models and practices to promote energy efficiency
- Energy efficient technologies
- Energy audit methodologies
- Energy Service Companies (ESCO) concept and practice, success and failures

xii) An Action Plan on cooperation in efficient use of energy and its conservation may be prepared by the SAARC Energy Centre in collaboration with relevant institutions in the Member States.
Collaboration with UNESCAP

• SAARC signed Framework Agreement with UNESCAP in 1994
• SAARC-UNESCAP signed agreement in 2010 for a project titled “Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Support Energy Efficiency in South Asia”
• Funded by Korean Energy Management Corporation (KEMCO)
• Implementation was assigned to SAARC Energy Center.
• Overall objective was to recommend strategies and policy options for strengthening institutional support to promote energy efficiency.
Activities Undertaken

• A gap analysis study on energy efficiency & institutional capacity to assess the barriers and challenges faced in Pakistan

• A national workshop held in Islamabad to present the findings of the gap analysis study (December 2010)

• SAARC–UNESCAP Sub-regional Workshop on Strengthening Institutional Capacity to support Energy Efficiency in South Asia (Bhutan, March 2011)
I. A sub-regional project for the assessment of energy savings potentials for SAARC countries.

II. Objectives:

– To assess the energy saving potential in SAARC countries and to identify the projects and initiatives for implementation at various South Asian countries.

– To encourage SAARC countries to implement EE & EC programmes to gain the benefits from energy saving in various sectors.
Collaboration with ADB

- ADB has been extending support to the SAARC process in a number of areas of regional cooperation viz. transport, energy, trade, food security.
- The SAARC Regional Energy Trade Study (SRETS), carried out with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - 2010.
- The Study on South Asia Regional Power Exchange (SARPES) has also been concluded and published – end 2013.
Collaboration with Govt of Japan

- Laws relating to Electricity Rules & Regulations were reviewed for harmonization – 2013 (Study completed)
- Symposia held under the auspices of SAARC-Japan Special Fund (SJSF) have been a regular feature for the past few years.
PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES of
SAAC ENERGY CENTRE FOR 2015

• SEC Programmes aimed at contributing towards implementation of the Declarations of SAARC Summits, decisions and recommendations of SAARC Energy Ministers Meetings, SAARC Working Group on Energy, South Asia Energy Dialogue and follow up actions of previous programme activities.

• Programme Activities of SEC for 2015 include special projects, research studies and capacity building through training workshops.
• Will be presented separately by the SAARC Energy Centre Representative.
THANK YOU