

Concept Paper

PRG-138/2018/POSIT

Dissemination Webinar on the Study “Review of Existing Feasibility Study of Karnali Chissapani Hydro Power Project (10,800 MW) for Defining the Way Forward to Materialize its Development as a Regional Hydro Power Project”

Background

Energy is the prime mover of almost all economic and technological advancements across the globe and consequently plays a crucial role in the development of human life. Economic growth in South Asia can only be ensured by making energy accessible, affordable and reliable. A holistic view of the energy situation in South Asia reveals that optimal utilization of indigenous resources of the Region needs to be prioritized since it would ensure and endure energy security and maximize the socio-economic benefits for the people of this region.

Huge gap in power demand and supply in South Asia asks for new approaches, aggressive policy decisions as well as huge investments in the power generation and infrastructure development projects. In addition to short term initiatives such as on strict governance, energy efficiency and conservation, off-grid and on-grid renewable energy projects, SAARC Member States are also required to seriously focus on strategic power generation and cross border power procurement projects.

Introduction

The SAARC Regional Energy Trade Study (SRETS), carried out (2008-2009) with financial assistance of the Asia Development Bank (ADB), recognized the benefits of establishing a regional power market and development of regional power plant for enhancing regional energy trade in the SAARC region. SEC, therefore, proposes development of a large, regional hydro power plant in South Asia; focusing on the over 80,000 MW hydropower, potential of Nepal. The power generated in Nepal may be transmitted to India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, establishing and strengthening a great bond, based on the mutual interest, between the four Member States where India, Pakistan and Afghanistan would be benefited with the cheap hydropower, and Nepal would earn precious foreign exchange owing to its potential. Of course India and Pakistan would also be benefitted in terms of power wheeling.

In year 2017, SEC conducted a study on latest feasibility study (of year 1989) of Karnali Chissapani Hydro Power Project of 10,800 MW, in Nepal; to define the terms of reference for updating the existing feasibility study. The study was conducted under thematic area “Programme on Successfully Implement Technology Transfer (POSIT)”. The study outcome, apart from other aspects, includes the way forward to undertake the project as a regional power project benefitting multiple Member States.

The dissemination webinar on this study “Review of Existing Feasibility Study of Karnali Chissapani Hydro Power Project (10,800 MW) for Defining the Way Forward to Materialize its Development as a Regional Hydro Power Project”, carried out in FY-2017 by SEC.

Objectives

The objective of this webinar is to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the study report among the stakeholders for adding value and making consensus of the terms of reference for updating the existing feasibility study.

Key Performance Indicators

The study was directly related to the implementation of SAARC Energy Ring (Electricity) envisioned by the SAARC Leaders and the very basis for the establishment of SAARC Energy Centre. Due to the direct interest of Member States i.e. Afghanistan, Nepal, India and Pakistan, and the huge quantum of hydro power capacity, the concept is expected to sustain the interest and stake of the concerned Member States as well as the international financial institutions.

The report thus fits well for promoting the cross border electricity trade in South Asia and is important for dissemination to the stakeholders through Webinar. The input and feedback from SAARC member states will further enhance the value before consideration for implementation by the stakeholders.

Potential Professional Resource

The author and peer reviewer(s) of the study shall deliver presentations on knowledge generated, findings and recommendations of the study. Beside efforts will be made to engage few other relevant experts from region or outside region for their expert opinion on the subject.

Venue of the Webinar:

Conduct of webinar will be organized at SEC office, Islamabad.