Background:
Realizing the benefits of trans-border business of crude oil and petroleum products in the SAARC region, SAARC Energy Centre had carried out a study in the year 2018 to focus on the opportunities and challenges associated with energy trade related to crude oil and petroleum products in SAARC region. During the study, prevailing trade regimes and the relevant regulatory and legal frameworks of the SAARC Member States were reviewed. The relevant international and regional best practices and their relevance as well as applicability to the region and the various technological, financial, and commercial options for promoting trade of crude oil and petroleum products in the region were also covered in the study. Hence, in order to disseminate the study findings and recommendations given by the expert and to get feedback from member states for value addition & finalization of the report, SEC plans to organize a dissemination workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Introduction:
The dissemination workshop will be a 2-days activity and will be divided into three stages. The first stage will consist of the respective country presentations on their existing rules, regulations and procedures related to trans-border business of crude oil and petroleum products from the SAARC delegates. In the second stage, the study report will be disseminated by the Experts and the Peer Reviewer. The third stage will consist of discussion of study findings and recommendations, getting feedback from the delegates and experts.

The workshop will facilitate increased cooperation in the energy sector among SAARC Member States to ensure national energy security, reduce the costs of energy supplies, and minimize adverse impacts from energy price volatility. The workshop will give opportunity to regional institutes/forums for sharing knowledge and experience widely available within the
region. It will boost the regional cooperation in the oil and petroleum products sector among SAARC Member States.

**Objectives:**

Followings are the objectives of this Dissemination Workshop:

- Dissemination of the Study and its findings/recommendations to delegates from SAARC Member States
- Value addition and further improvement of the Study report based on feedback and comments of the delegates from each Member State
- Awareness building among the stakeholders including decision makers, relevant petroleum exporters/importers, private sector businesses as well as other stakeholders in the region.

**Major Aspects to be covered in the Workshop:**

The workshop would cover, but not limited to, following areas:

- Country presentation on existing rules, regulations and procedures related to trans-border petroleum business for the respective member states.
- Sharing of some success/failure stories in the region and beyond that are described in the study
- An overview of international practices related to crude oil and petroleum products around the world and their relevance and applicability to SAARC region.
- Challenges/Barriers in SAARC regional transborder business of oil
- Role of private sector in transborder business of oil
- Discussion on study findings and recommendations
- Way forward for harmonizing the various existing rules, regulations and procedures in the SAARC Member States.

**Venue of the Workshop**

The dissemination workshop will be organized on 28-29 November, 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal.