Background:

Oil transport refers to the various methods of transportation used to move oil from one location to another. Many forms of transportation are used to move these products to marketplaces, such as pipelines, rail, shipping, and trucking; but pipelines remain one of the safest, most efficient and economical ways to move these natural resources. Member States Bangladesh, India and Pakistan have indigenous production of petroleum products to satisfy their partial requirements, while they meet their remaining requirement through imports. The rest of the Member States import petroleum products for their entire needs. Hence, the transportation of oil is a major activity throughout SAARC countries.

SAARC Energy Centre had previously conducted a study on "Assessment of Pipelines as Preferred Mode of Movement of Crude / Oil Products Within SAARC Member States". The study explored the regulatory, technical, geographical issues; cost comparison of different transport modes, and other issues associated with transport of Crude/Oil Products through Pipelines within the region. A workshop to disseminate the findings of this study was scheduled in Nepal. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, it is not possible to conduct the same. In lieu of the workshop SAARC Secretariat has directed to carry out the activity through video conference on the study, to get feedback from member states for value addition and to build awareness among Member States.

Introduction:

SEC, under its thematic area of "Programme on Energy Trade between SAARC Countries (PENT)", is undertaking a Dissemination Video Conference on the Study Report of "Assessment of Pipelines as preferred Mode of Movement of Crude/Oil Products within SAARC Member States". The video conference will be a one-day activity and will be divided into three stages. The first stage will consist of the study dissemination by the authors of the study report. While in the second stage, prominent experts in transportation of petroleum products from within and outside the SAARC region will share their valuable experiences and inform them of latest
trends and preferred mode of transportation worldwide. The third stage will consist of feedback session to get comments and recommendation from participants of the Video Conference to get them incorporated in the study report, if necessary. It will help in boosting regional cooperation in the oil and petroleum product sector among SAARC Member States.

Objectives:

Following are the objectives of this Video conference:

1. Knowledge sharing, Dissemination of the Study report and its findings to participants from SAARC Member States;
2. Value addition and further improvement of the Study based on feedback and comments of the participants from each Member State;
3. Awareness building among the stakeholders including decision makers, relevant manufacturers, private sectors, etc.;
4. Recommendations and way forward for Member States.

Major Aspects /Topics to be covered during the Video Conference:

The conference will cover, but is not limited to the following aspects of the Crude/Oil Products transportation in and between SAARC Member States:

1. Review of existing arbitration laws, policies & regulations of Member States relevant to Cross Border Energy Trade;
2. Propose new/amendments in existing laws & regulations of Member States in light of successful examples in the world;
3. Existing Crude/Oil products pipeline network operating inside and within Member States;
4. Assessment of future consumption and import of Oil products in all Member States;
5. Futuristic requirement of Crude/Oil Products in SAARC Member States;
6. Political, Geographical, Financial and other important barriers in Pipeline Oil transportation among SAARC Member States;
7. Pipeline Technologies and its various aspects including Design, Infrastructure and Operations;
8. Financing modalities and Private sector participation in build/operate Oil Pipeline
network;

9. Case studies on Oil Pipeline network across similar trade regions;

10. Advantages and Disadvantages of different transportation means of Crude/Oil products;

11. Conclusions and Recommendations.

Relevance, Coherence and Sustainability:
The proposed study is relevant to the formation of petroleum pipe links that serves as a part of energy ring among the SAARC member states. One objectives of SEC to promote activities towards efficient energy production and transportation systems in the region. It is also coherent to the past efforts of SEC on promotion of Trans-Border Business of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products in the SAARC Region. Moreover, the study is in line with petroleum products trade among the member states using an efficient means of transportation technology.

Potential Professional Resource:
Team of experts from M/S CRISIL Limited, India who conducted the study and peer reviewer will be invited for the dissemination purpose. Effort will be made to engage experts or firms from outside the region to share their experience. They shall deliver their presentations during the Video Conference and respond to questions by the participants. SEC Program Coordinator will finalize the event program in close coordination with the speakers.

Venue:
The Video Conference shall be hosted on August 31st 2020 from the office of SAARC Energy Centre.