

Concept Paper

Video Conference to Disseminate Study on “Energy Efficiency Improvements in Power Generation and Distribution Sectors of SAARC Countries”

Background:

Along with commendable achievements in meeting national generation targets by some Member States; the power generation, transmission and distribution sectors of majority SAARC Member States are marred with inefficiency and reliability issues. For example, India's T&D losses are almost 20% of generation with most of the generation coming from thermal power with low efficiency¹. In the same way Pakistan has had its own struggles with losses in power system. Power generation companies (GENCOs) according to the national electricity regulatory body have lost more than 15 billion units of electricity in the last two years – notwithstanding the overall 10-15 % losses in the transmission and distribution system with a financial cost of US \$17.7 billion in the year 2015-16². Likewise, the Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC) has received a cumulative fine of about Tk 8.4 billion during 2013-17 due to its failure to keep up with the efficiency standards³. Similarly, in the power generation sector, dominated by gas-fired power plants, with reported efficiencies in the range of 30-42 %, and 50% for combined cycle technology, ample opportunities exist for improvement⁴.

Keeping in view this background, a study was conducted on “Energy Efficiency Improvements in Power Generation and Distribution Sectors of SAARC Countries” in 2020. The objective of this research study was to serve as a guideline for energy efficiency improvements in the power generation and distribution sectors of SAARC countries.

Introduction:

SEC under its thematic area of “Program to Minimize Oil Imports through Improvements in Energy Efficiency and Fuel Substitution (PROMO)”, is conducting a dissemination video conference for the study report on “Energy Efficiency Improvements in Power Generation and Distribution Sectors of SAARC Countries”. The video conference will aim to disseminate the findings of the study, get feedback from Member States for value addition, and impress the importance of energy efficiency upon the participants from respective Member States.

During the video conference, the study authors will present the analysis and conclusions of the study report. The video conference will be an interactive session, allowing the attendees to directly

¹ Lori Aniti, “India aims to reduce high electricity transmission and distribution system losses”, in *EIA USA*. October 22 2015, <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=23452>

² Fan Zhang, “In the Dark: How Much Do Power Sector Distortions Cost South Asia”, in *The World Bank*. December 12, 2018, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/sar/publication/in-the-dark-how-much-do-power-sector-distortions-cost-south-asia>

³ “DPDC fined for providing poor quality electricity”, in Dhaka Tribune. 2018, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2018/03/19/dpdc-fined-not-providing-quality-electricity>

⁴ Dr. K.G. Moazzem, “The Power and Energy Sector of Bangladesh: Challenges of Moving beyond the Transition Stage”, in Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Bangladesh. March 10 2019, <https://cpd.org.bd/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/The-Power-and-Energy-Sector-of-Bangladesh.pdf>

converse with the presenters and share their opinions. In this way, the target audience, including policy / decision makers, planners and other stakeholders of generation and distributions sectors in the region, will be provided an opportunity to suggest changes/ improvements to the report.

Objectives:

The objectives of the dissemination video conference are delineated as follows:

1. Dissemination of the study and its findings/recommendations to wider audience including policy/decision makers, planners and other stakeholders of generation and distribution sectors.
2. Value addition and further improvement of the study based on feedback and comments of the participants from each Member State.
3. To make the professionals working in power sector realize the importance of measures to promote energy efficiency on technical, policy and administrative level.
4. To develop a way forward to reduce losses in generation and distribution sectors through knowledge sharing.

Major Aspects/Topics to be Covered:

The video conference will cover, but not limited to the following aspects of energy efficiency improvements in generation and distribution sectors:

1. General overview of the state of power generation facilities and distribution systems of SAARC Member States.
2. An empirical assessment of the opportunities of improvement in the generation of electricity and its distribution in SAARC Member States.
3. Identification of low hanging fruits pertaining to energy efficiency in the power generation and distribution network: a roadmap for economically viable implementation of resource saving measures.
4. Impact of the energy efficient practices uncovered during the study on the overall operation of the power sector.
5. An overview of ways in which power sector regulators can facilitate the adoption of energy efficiency in the sector.

Relevance, Coherence and Sustainability:

The video conference is covered under the thematic area of “Program to Minimize Oil Imports through Improvements in Energy Efficiency and Fuel Substitution (PROMO)”. The event is relevant to the SEC’s objective to promote more efficient use of energy within the SAARC region.

Potential Professional Resource:

Team of experts from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Private Limited India, who conducted the study will be invited for the dissemination purpose.

Venue of the Video Conference:

This video conference shall be broadcasted from the office of SAARC Energy Centre, Pakistan.