

Concept Paper		
Webinar on "Energy Planning for Cities of SAARC in Future"		
Webinar	PRG-184/2020/POSIT	SEC

Background:

Cities consume approximately 70% of global energy. With the increasing urbanization worldwide and their large energy footprint, cities are well positioned to have significant impacts on energy use. A transition to cleaner forms of energy may result in energy sustainability, energy reliability, increased energy access, cleaner air and water, and adaption to climate change. Cities around the world are increasingly taking action to improve the sustainability through clean energy and energy efficiency measures. There is a need to explore how energy data is incorporated in decision making processes related to future cities in terms of their planning, evaluation, execution and implementation.

Many of the world most polluted cities are in South Asia. It is important for SAARC countries to focus on reducing carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency across sectors and increasing use of renewable energy. In coming times, Governments, regulators and consumers will have even greater role if the region must achieve the goal of the sustainable development. In cities of future, system must be made which on average release much lower levels of greenhouse gases for each unit of energy used. Good planning which reduces the need to travel around the cities, together with effective public transport will make the difference. Wider use of electric, hydrogen or natural gas-driven vehicles will significantly contribute to sustainability of the cities. The goal for SAARC countries should be to focus on reducing carbon emissions from transportation, improving community wide energy efficiency, increase renewable energy and develop infrastructure for biking and walking.

Introduction:

With a view to bringing about energy planning for the future cities of SAARC, SEC, under its thematic area of “Programme to Successfully Implement Technology Transfer (POSIT)” is conducting a webinar on “Energy Planning for Cities of SAARC in Future”.

Through this webinar, SEC targets participants from municipalities/urban bodies/city planners of the SAARC Member States. Member States would be requested to encourage participation of large number of relevant professionals from all states/cities/municipalities/ urban local bodies. The proposed webinar will be a three-hour long activity, and relevant experts will be invites as resource persons to share the experience of energy planning for cities and appraise the participants about the importance of such planning in SAARC region.

Objectives:

The objective of the webinar is to educate the participants on the energy planning for the future cities of SAARC. Experts will share best practices for energy planning in urban municipalities. The webinar will share suitability, viability and other aspects of such plans and programs with reference to businesses, Government officials, investors, and project developers.

Major Aspects /Topics to be covered during the Webinar:

The following aspects of Energy Planning for the future cities of SAARC countries shall be covered in the

webinar:

1. Best practices, frameworks and support for clean energy program
2. Identifying the sources of clean energy for cities
3. Identify methodologies for implementation
4. Improve energy efficiency
5. Increase renewable energy
6. Creation of sustainable energy and climate plans for cities
7. Reduction of greenhouse gases
8. Expected Challenges

Relevance, Coherence and Sustainability:

SEC, in the past, had conducted number of studies related to SAARC countries on energy efficiency, battery electric vehicles, solar, wind, hydropower, LNG, Gas, Coal, etc. Through this webinar, SEC shall enhance knowledge of participants and how the future cities of SAARC should look like. This will in turn give multiple benefits i.e., overcoming energy shortage, reduction of greenhouse gases, planning, implementation and evaluation etc. Moreover, the webinar is in line with SEC's sustainability objectives because SEC aims to conduct more activities with regards to energy efficiency, environment aspects and emissions controls.

Potential Professional Resource:

The experts/speakers having experience working in energy planning of cities in the SAARC and other countries shall be engaged during the webinar. Effort will be made to engage experts or firms from outside the region to share their experience. They shall deliver their presentations during the webinar and respond to questions by the participants. SEC Program Coordinator will finalize the event program in close coordination with the speakers.

Venue of the Webinar:

The Webinar shall be broadcasted from office of SAARC Energy Centre on 12th May 2020.