

Concept Paper	
Video Conference on “Promotion of Net-Metering in SAARC Member States”	
Tuesday, 8th September, 2020	1100 - 1400 hrs (Pakistan Standard Time PKT)

Background:

According to US Department of Energy, net metering is the “the practice of using a single meter to measure consumption and generation of electricity by a small generation facility (such as a house with a wind or solar photovoltaic system). The net electricity produced or consumed is purchased from or sold to the electricity utility, respectively.” Thus, when these customers who generate their own electricity have generated more power than they are using, they are able to sell back their excess electricity to the utility that controls the transmission and distribution system to which they are connected. In this way, a net metering scheme provides an incentive to consumers to install decentralized renewable energy systems and sell the excess electricity to the utility.

Net metering is among the most important policy schemes driving Renewable Energy deployment around the globe. In the SAARC region, the Indian Government has set a target of 100 GW of Solar by 2022, with 40 GW coming from the Rooftop Solar.¹ In South Asia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have introduced policy on net metering and other SAARC countries are on the way to formulate policy. So, Promotion of net-metering is very important for the SAARC Member States. It will facilitate them to achieve their national targets of renewable energy production.

Introduction:

SAARC Energy Centre will be conducting a Video Conference on “Promotion of Net Metering in SAARC Member States” on Tuesday, 8th September, 2020 from 1100 – 1400 hrs (Pakistan Standard Time PKT). The Video Conference will discuss in detail the regional net metering status, policy regime, regulatory mechanism, technology, tariff policy, financing etc. The Video Conference will share with the participants as to how net metering has been successfully incentivized by various Governments across the world, and how SAARC region can catch up with rest of the world in terms of better policy formulation and planning for net metering. As Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have already implemented net metering regulations, so their comparative analysis for other SAARC member states shall also be presented for mutual learning purposes.

Various key success factors such as awareness among the potential customers, technical standards and processes, and a viable business case shall also be discussed in the Video Conference for a holistic understanding of net metering implementation. In this Video Conference, the regional utility perspective on net metering will also be shared with the participants.

¹ Global Market Outlook 2019-2023, Solar Power Europe

Objectives:

Following are the objectives of this Video Conference:

1. Awareness building among the stakeholders including public decision makers, private sector, NGOs and individuals etc. on the benefits of net metering.
2. Giving the policy makers holistic understanding of how to gain maximum benefit out of net metering technology through user friendly regulations.
3. Disseminating key learnings from the Global/SAARC success stories and case studies.
4. Way forward and facilitation for the Member States for a future transition towards clean energy in South Asia.

Broad Contents of Video Conference:

The Video Conference will cover, but is not limited to the following aspects:

1. Benefits of net metering;
2. Current policy regime on net metering;
3. Technical requirements;
4. Key success factors;
5. Market barriers, challenges and solutions;
6. Role of financial institutes in speeding up net-metering;
7. Effective regulatory mechanisms;
8. Success stories within and outside SAARC region;
9. Effective marketing strategies of Net-Metering among consumers.

Potential Professional Resource:

Energy Experts, Policy makers, and development sector Experts having a background in Distributed Energy Generation/Net Metering and having experience of Net Metering Regulations/Policies will be invited as Resource Persons. They shall deliver their presentations during the Video Conference and respond to questions by the participants.

Venue:

The Video Conference shall be hosted from the office of SAARC Energy Centre.