



SARI/EI Think Tank Forum India Workshop for South Asia Regional Energy Co-operation

27th October, 2016 | Hall 2000 | Hotel Le Meridien | New Delhi | India



Background Note

SARI/EI Think Tank Forum (TTF)

As a part of the SARI/EI outreach agenda, it is envisaged to establish a network of leading think tanks in each participating South Asian country for initiating a discourse on the role of Cross Border Electricity Trade (CBET) in addressing energy demands for economic development. The local think tanks will be an important channel for positioning CBET in the national priorities of respective countries. They will play a key role in engaging politicians, government institutions, media and civil society, for engraving the roles of CBET in the realm of energy security and climate change agendas of these nations.

The Launch Workshop; ‘Think Tank Forum for South Asia Regional Cooperation’ was organized on 16th, Sep 2016 at Kathmandu, Nepal. Diverse and dynamic group of participants from 13 Think Tanks and 6 South Asian countries viz., Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and India and representatives provided in-depth insights, as well as, actionable and practical suggestions which will be considered for further evolving Think Tank Forum for South Asia Regional Energy Co-operation.



Launch workshop of SARI/EI Think Tank Forum for South Asian Regional Cooperation on 16th September, 2016 at Kathmandu, Nepal

Areas of Engagement

Following are the three broad areas of engagement with the think tanks, loosely encompassing areas of energy security and climate change agendas in the realm of socio-economic development. SARI/EI welcomes comments and suggestions in putting these objectives into perspectives in context to each participating country.

- **CBET for energizing South Asia under the Climate Change and Sustainable Development agenda:** A direct impact of CBET will be the reduction in GHG emissions due to improved access to clean energy. In case of South Asia, the emphasis is on developing the region's abundant hydropower potential. How will this clean energy access translate to the country's sustainable development objectives? It would be very useful to develop relevant indicators for identifying/measuring the positive changes as a result of CBET (that can be used by various agencies).
- **CBET linkages to electricity access for livelihoods and gender mainstreaming:** The larger CBET discussions on power trade may not necessarily trickle down to the rural areas. Most of the rural areas in the region have no access and are not connected to the grid. For example, in the case of Nepal, only 63% of the population has access to grid electricity and even those with access face severe shortages due to heavy load shedding (around 12 hours per day). Taking these into consideration, how can CBET improve the linkages of energy access for rural technologies and gender mainstreaming? Has there been any changes in the lives of rural communities due to improved access to electricity as the regional grids get inter-connected.
- **Study on “transit villages” to see if they have benefited due to electricity access than the other villages in the neighboring regions:** To study the energy access impacts on villages that act as “Transit Villages” for CBET. For example: there are 2 electricity transmission links between India and Bangladesh: the Baharampur-Bheramara cross-border power transmission that supplies 500 MW of electricity to Bangladesh and the 100 MW power supply from Tripura's Palatana to Bangladesh. As electricity lines transit through these villages, a critical aspect would be to examine if these villages have benefited by achieving grid connections (improved electricity access). The survey could aim for comparative conclusions if these transit villages benefited due to better electricity access than the other villages in the neighboring regions.

Examples of activities identified are:

Policy Advocacy:

- Preparing Policy Briefs, Organizing Seminars
- Engaging parliamentarians (example: engaging Parliamentary Committees or similar forums to reach out to politicians)

Media engagement

- For policy interpretations (country specific media engagements)
- Public campaigns
- Facilitate public understanding of domestic and regional policy dynamics of CBET and prepare communication materials

Quantifying Impacts of: Surveys that results in human stories.

Project Duration

The maximum duration of the projects will be 6 months. The commencing dates will depend on how quickly the partner agencies are identified and activity areas are framed. IRADe will sign an MOU and a sub-contract with each participating agency.

Expected Outcomes

- Evidences to quantify that CBET has created (or can create) positive impacts for socio-economic development
- Informed civil society and media: Advocating policy changes, organizing media events, news articles, enabling discussions
- Evidences of country government plans to widen/improve energy access especially with CBET interventions
- Surveys and human stories that indicate the benefits of CBET for socio-economic development
- Knowledge products necessary for bringing change on the ground in the favour of CBET

Small Grants Program

- There is no fixed grant size.
- An average grant size foreseen is within the range of INR 300,000 to INR 500,000
- Project objectives and activities identified should justify the size of the grants
- A single entity can apply for two consecutive grants that will aid the results of the work
- Each grant should justify the specific set of activities and deliverables.
- If two consecutive grants are applied for, they should be complimentary in their objectives

Criteria for Grant Recipients

- Should be legally established non-governmental organizations
- Have the requisite approval under each country's regulations that define accessing foreign funds (for example, like the FCRA in India)
- Have 'Energy' as one of the primary focus and have prior experience of similar work, preferably with crossover linkages in the areas of Climate change, Environment, Gender etc
- Should be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action and not acting as an intermediary;
- Are planning to take up activities that would be significantly enhanced by a small grant
- Willing to collaborate with local and regional networks of like-minded organizations.
- Actively seek to include the perspectives of those served by or benefiting from its activities (especially in the case of specific benefits of CBE)
- Recipients that are able to leverage other resources will be given a preference.

SARI/EI Think Tank Forum India Workshop

for

South Asia Regional Energy Co-operation

27th October, 2016 | Hall 2000, Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, India

Workshop Agenda

9:15 am – 9:30 am	Registration @ Hall 2000, Hotel Le Meridian
9:30 am - 9:35 am	Welcome Remarks & Participant introductions Mr. Rohit Magotra, Asst. Director, IRADe
9:35 am – 9:45 am	Opening Remarks Ms. Monali Zeya Hazra, Regional Energy Manager and Clean Energy Specialist, USAID/India
9:45 am – 10:10 am	Keynote address on the need for Think Tank Forum & Engagement Strategy Prof. Jyoti K Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe Q&A
10:10 am- 10:40 am	Overview of SARI/EI programme Mr. V K Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI Q&A
10:40 am – 12:15pm	Discussions on engagement and presentation of concepts for TTF Moderator – Prof. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe
10:45 am – 12:15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic impact of South Asia Electricity Trade Dr. Sanjib Pohit, Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), India • Policy Engagement Strategy for enabling South Asia Electricity Trade. Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Parliamentarians for consensus building and policy initiatives Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society) • Enabling policy environment for South Asia Power Trade. Lydia Powell, Head, Centre for Resources Management, Observer Research Foundation (ORF)
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Moderator -Ms Meera Shankar, Former Ambassador of India to US</p>
	<p>Priority Engagement Areas to be addressed by Indian Think Tanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to prioritize stakeholders that need to get engaged in order to smoothen the pathways towards CBET and how? eg: MEA, Other Ministries, Local Affected Communities, Parliamentarians, Private Sector etc. • Do we need to carry out risk assessment? <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) • Dr Gaurav Kapoor, Principal Research Scientist, Center for Study of Science, Technology & Policy (CSTEP) • Ms. Monali Zeya Hazra, Regional Energy Manager and Clean Energy Specialist, USAID/India • Prof. Jyoti K Parikh, Executive Director, IRADe
1:00 pm- 1:05 pm	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p>Mr. V K Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI</p>
1:05pm - 1:45 pm	<p>Lunch</p>

Profile of Think Tanks

Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)	
 <p>Integrated Research and IRADe Action for Development</p>	<p>IRADe networks with the government, ministries/departments, international organizations, public and private sectors, academic experts, NGOs, and consultants to work on projects awarded by them. IRADe provides decision support to eleven ministries that include Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Niti Aayog (formerly Planning Commission), Ministry of Power, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Urban Development, Department of Science and Technology, Central Statistical Organization under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), etc. for many national level projects.</p> <p>At the international level, IRADe has worked with bilateral and multilateral organization like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, (WISION) Germany; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany; Rockefeller Foundation; International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria; British High Commission (BHC), Centre for Clean Air Policy (CCAP), USA; International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), South South North Trust (SSNT) etc.</p> <p>IRADe has partnered with academic, private sectors, multinational organizations, think tanks and NGOs. These include Shakti Foundation, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), SEWA, Petroleum Federation of India, Price water House Coopers, ICF International, Rockefeller Foundation, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET), Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP), Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), InsPIRE Network for Environment, Stanford University and Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) among others.</p> <p>IRADe has also developed strategic partnerships and is part of global networks like the USAID’s Low Emissions Asian Development (LEAD) program – ASIA-LEDS, ENERGIA-International Network for Gender and Sustainable Energy, Netherlands; Global Clean Cook Stoves Forum, UN Foundation; Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), Global Technology Watch Group (GTWG-DST), Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA).</p>

IRADe has carried out some pioneering work in the field of state level energy planning, city level climate resilience planning, other climate change studies and livelihood studies. IRADe has been working in multidisciplinary areas viz 1) Energy and Power Systems, 2) Sustainable Urban Development, 3) Climate Change and Environment, 4) Poverty Alleviation and Gender, 5) Agriculture and Food Security. For more details, please see the link; <http://www.irade.org/>

Participant Profile




Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director

IRADe Professor Jyoti K Parikh, Executive Director of (IRADe) was a Member of the Prime Minister’s Council on Climate Change – India and is a recipient of Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC authors in 2007. She served as the senior professor and Acting Director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai 1986-2003, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria for 8 years (1980-86, 76-78) and Planning Commission, as senior energy consultant at New Delhi (1978-80).


She has served as energy consultant to the World Bank, the U.S. Department of Energy, EEC, Brussels and UN agencies such as UNIDO, FAO, UNU, and UNESCO, Environment Consultant to UNDP, World Bank and so on. She worked as an advisor to various ministries for Gov. of India.



She obtained her M.Sc. from University of California, Berkeley, in 1964 and Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics from University of Maryland, College Park in 1967. She has guided 12 Ph.D. theses in energy, environment and climate change and given lectures in more than 40 countries around the world.



Her publications include nearly 200 project research papers and 25 books and monographs and span many areas ranging from policy

	<p>analysis of energy and environment, climate change policies, modeling, technology assessment, power sector, natural resource management, agriculture, health, poverty and gender.</p> <p>She has held national and international appointments, which includes the Technical Advisory Committee (TAG) for Energy Trust Funds Programmes of the World Bank; the advisory Board of Tyndall Center for Climate Change, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, 2001-2004.</p> <p>Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to Global Environment Facility (GEF) – 1995-1998. She was on the Board of directors of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) 2001-2004 and also National Institute of Urban affairs (NIUA), MoUD, GoI. She has served on editorial boards of several Internationals Journal E.g. Utilities Policy and Energy and as a reviewer for many other journals.</p>
<p>Participant Profile</p>	<div data-bbox="520 853 802 1174" data-label="Image">  </div> <p>Dr. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IRADe</p> <p>Professor Kirit Parikh, Chairman of IRADe was a former Member of India’s Planning Commission (2004-2009) with the status of Minister of State. He has been a member of the Economic Advisory Councils (EA C) of five Prime Ministers of India, Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar, P.V. Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.</p> <p>He was awarded “Padma Bhushan” by the president of India, the third highest civilian award in India. He was also a recipient of Nobel Peace Prize awarded to IPCC authors in 2007. He was the Founder Director (Vice Chancellor) of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India. He has a Doctor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master’s Degree in Economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and M. Tech from IIT (Kharagpur). He has been a Professor of Economics since</p>

	<p>1967. From 1997 to 1998, he was Special Economic Adviser to the Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York.</p> <p>He has been a member of many high level advisory committees spanning diverse areas such as the Indian National Committee for Environmental Planning & Coordination (1971-74), the National Committee on Science and Technology (1974-76) and the Fuel Policy Committee (1970-74).</p> <p>He chaired the Expert Committee on “Integrated Energy Policy” and also the Expert Group on “Low Carbon Strategy for Inclusive Growth” set up by the Planning Commission. He is widely recognized as the architect of India’s integrated energy policy. He also played an important role in energy policy reforms in the country.</p> <p>He has authored, co-authored and edited 29 books in the areas of planning, water resource management, appropriate technology for housing, optimum requirement for fertilizers, energy systems, national and international food policies, trade policies, general equilibrium modelling, natural resources accounting, inclusive growth and strategies for low carbon development.</p>
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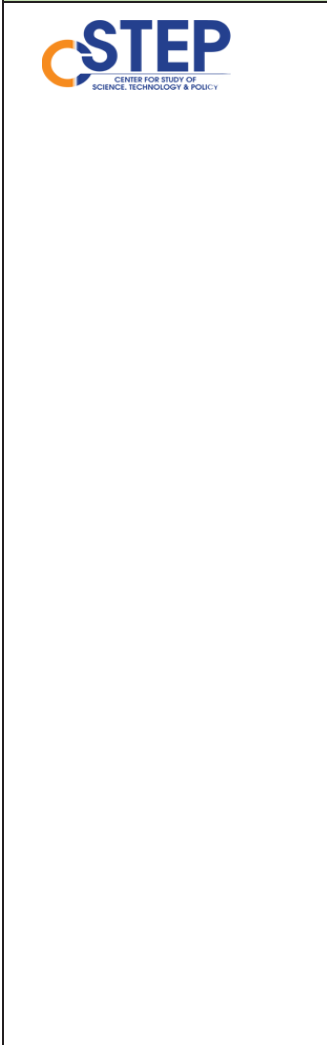
<p>Participant Profile</p>	 <p>Mr. V.K. Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI</p> <p>Mr. Kharbanda is Electrical Engineer and have done Advance Management Program and has rich experience of about 35 years working both in public and private power sector in India. Before joining Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADE) the implementing partner of USAID for the South Asia Regional initiative for Energy Integration Program, he has worked in reputed organizations such as National Hydro Electric Power Corporation, Power Grid Corporation, Power Finance Corporation (all are Govt. of India undertaking) and Lanco power Trading a private company in trading of electricity. He has diverse experience in power sector such as designing of Hydro power Projects, domestic and</p>
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	<p>international Contracts, Transmission line construction, Techno-economic appraisal of Thermal and Hydro Power Projects etc.</p>
<p>Participant Profile</p>	 <p>Mr. Rohit Magotra, Assistant Director, IRADe</p> <p>Mr. Rohit Magotra is Assistant Director, IRADe. He is Masters in Environmental Science with advanced degree in management from IIFM, Bhopal. He has 16 years plus experience working on thematic of environment, policy research, energy, urban development and ICT4 Development in South Asia.</p> <p>He has experience in facilitating co-ordination and partnerships at city, regional, national level and international level. He has managed several national, regional and international conferences on energy, environment and climate change. He has rich experience in programme management, setting multi-stakeholder consortiums and forums of government, public and private sector.</p>
<p>Participant profile</p>	 <p>Ms. Asha Kaushik, Senior Research Associate, IRADe</p> <p>Ms Asha Kaushik is a Senior Research Associate in Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe); she has more than four years of working in the areas of Renewable Energy, Sustainable Urban Development & Climate Change.</p> <p>She has been working on addressing issues related to climate resilient development in India collaborating with national institutions, state urban departments, municipal corporations, urban</p>

	<p>local bodies, non-government organizations and academia for capacity building, policy, research and stakeholder engagement.</p>
<p>US Agency for International Development (USAID)</p>	
	<p>The US Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent government agency that provides economic, development, and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. USAID’s mission is to advance broad-based economic growth, democracy, and human progress in developing countries and emerging economies. To do so, it is partnering with governments and other actors, making innovative use of science, technology, and human capital to bring the most profound results to a greatest number of people.</p> <p>For more details please check; https://www.usaid.gov/india/</p>
<p>Participant profile</p>	 <p>Ms. Monali Zeya Hazra, Regional Program Manager, USAID/SARI/EI Country Coordinator, India</p> <p>Monali Zeya Hazra, a development professional, is working as the Regional Energy Manager and Clean Energy Specialist in the Clean Energy & Environment Office (CLEEO) of USAID/India since 2009. With around 18 years of experience, she has managed several USAID’s clean energy programs with the Government of India including bilateral programs on cleaner fossil, distribution reforms, energy efficiency and smart grids. Currently, she is managing the regional energy program - South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI) and the bilateral initiative Greening the Grid that focuses on large-scale integration of renewable energy.</p> <p>Prior to joining USAID, Monali led the Industry and Environment team at Delhi based public research organization, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). While at CSE, Monali worked extensively on reviewing the environmental performance of energy intensive</p>

sectors such as Pulp & Paper, Cement, Chlor-Alkali, Automobile, and Mining Industry. She was also responsible for developing and imparting CSE’s training program on environmental compliance. She was one of the lead authors of 6th State of India’s Environment report, “Rich Land, Poor People” and has authored number of other publications including detailed reports on pulp and paper sector, cement sector, chlor-alkali sector, etc. She also briefly worked in a Delhi based environmental consultancy on solid waste management and urban development and is a post-graduate from IISWBM, Kolkata.

Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)



Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is an Indian not-for-profit research organisation incorporated in 2005 u/s 25 of The Companies Act, 1956. The mission of CSTEP is to enrich policy-making with innovative approaches using science and technology for a sustainable, secure and inclusive society. CSTEP has grown to become a multi-disciplinary policy research organisation in the areas of Energy, Infrastructure, New Materials, Climate Adaptation and Security Studies.

CSTEP is recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. CSTEP is supported by the grants from domestic and international foundations, industry trusts and governments. Grants and donations made to CSTEP are eligible for exemptions u/s 80 (G) of the Income Tax Act,1961. CSTEP is also registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

CSTEP has on its Board people from various back grounds and with relevant and rich experience. CSTEP has built a multi-disciplinary research capacity to include economists, policy specialists and social scientists, IT experts, etc. to ensure that the research conducted have a long-term impact and have meaningful outcomes by incorporating social and economic perspectives to a scientific solution. CSTEP constantly aims at science and technology enabled policy options for an inclusive and equitable economic growth. For more details please see the link; <http://www.cstep.in/>

Participant Profile**Dr. Gaurav Kapoor, Principal Research Scientist, CSTEP**

Dr. Gaurav Kapoor is a Principal Research Scientist involved in the development of Information Technology tools for policy making. He works in the domains of Energy, Infrastructure and Security Studies at CSTEP. He holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems from the University of Florida. Professionally, he has 3 years of experience in the Information Technology Industry, 2 years of experience in teaching at Business Schools in the US and for the last 3 years he has been working in the policy space.

Participant Profile**Mr. Milind Ravindranath, Research Engineer at CSTEP**

Mr. Milind Ravindranath is a Research Engineer at CSTEP, working on smart grids, power system modelling, and electrical demand characterization. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from National Institute of Technology Karnataka, and a Master's Degree in Computational Science from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He has worked under leading researchers at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada as a Visiting Scholar under the Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship Programme. His work was based on model reduction of large VLSI interconnects for optimised circuit simulation. His research interests include power system optimization, numerical methods, transactive energy, and mathematical modelling and simulation.

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)



Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is an organization that specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on international economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South- South Cooperation and assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives. RIS is providing analytical support to the Government of India in the negotiations for concluding comprehensive economic cooperation agreements with partner countries. Through its intensive network of policy think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues. For more details please see the link; <http://www.ris.org.in/>


Participant Profile



Dr. Ram Upendra Das, Professor, RIS

Dr. Ram Upendra Das is Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He is also Honorary Fellow, Academy for World Watch, Shanghai, China; Non-Resident Fellow, Hazar Strategy Institute (HASEN), Istanbul; Honorary Professor, New Delhi Institute of Management and Member, Academic Advisory Council, Birla Institute of Management and Technology. His broad areas of specialization include international economics and development policy.

With over 25 years of research experience, Dr. Das has contributed to various studies, including inter-governmental Joint Study Groups (JSGs), and international negotiating processes on behalf of Government of India in the context of India’s economic engagements with other countries. He also represented India in the Track II study group of the CEPEA under the East Asia Summit process. He contributed to the drafting of the SAFTA Treaty and

	<p>SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) for the SAARC Secretariat. Additionally, he has also contributed to resolving complex issues during the India-ASEAN trade negotiations.</p>
<p>CUTS International (Consumer Unity & Trust Society)</p>	
	<p>CUTS is a leading think-tank working on economic and public policy issues. It is a leading Southern voice and face of consumer empowerment through its rights-based approach and activities for influencing the process and content of inclusive growth and development. Presently, its work spans a multi-pronged agenda targeted to the realization of CUTS’ Vision of ‘Consumer sovereignty’ and its Mission of ‘consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice, economic equality and environmental balance, within and across borders’. Consumer interest is the <i>raison d’etre</i> of all economic transactions. In practice, that does not happen more often than not and particularly in the developing world because consumers are either less informed about their rights and responsibilities and/or on account of the fact that consumer movements in developing countries have weakened over time.</p> <p>Over the last three decades, CUTS has experienced an organic and evolutionary growth – marked by a refreshing spontaneity in responding to the need of the hour, particularly those of the developing world, by addressing contemporary and emerging issues of economic governance at national, regional and international-level through cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences of state and non-state actors.</p> <p>What started as a consumer protection organisation in its traditional sense, CUTS has attained uniqueness through the realization that the consumer needs to be economically, politically and socially empowered via diverse channels such as ‘Good Governance’, ‘Effective Regulation’ and ‘Rules-based Trade’, so that consumer rights (from basic needs to safety, choice, information, consumer education, redressal, representation and healthy environment including sustainable consumption) are embedded in the quest of achieving sustainable development and to make economic growth more inclusive. For more details please see the link; http://www.cuts-international.org/</p>

Participant Profile



Mr. Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International

Mr. Pradeep S Mehta (68) is the founder Secretary General of the Jaipur-based Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), a leading economic policy research, advocacy and networking, non-governmental group in India, with offices in Nairobi, Lusaka, Hanoi, Accra and Geneva. CUTS was established in 1983 and has completed 30 glorious years.

In April, 2012, Mehta has been nominated to the High Level Stakeholders Panel of WTO on Defining the Future of Trade. He serves on several policy-making bodies of the Government of India and Inter Governmental Organisations related to trade, investment, competition, environment and consumer affairs.

A prolific writer, gifted speaker, skilled trainer and organizer in the social science field, Mehta has been named as one of the 30 most famous columnists in India by a leading newspaper in India. He has published/edited several books and papers on trade, investment, competition and development.

Participant Profile



Mr. Udai S Mehta, Assistant Director & Centre Coordinator, CUTS

Mr. Udai S Mehta is Assistant Director & Centre Coordinator – CCIER at CUTS International. Coming from a law background,

Udai Singh Mehta did his LLM in International Economic Law from The University of Warwick, UK, while doing his LLB from University of Calcutta.

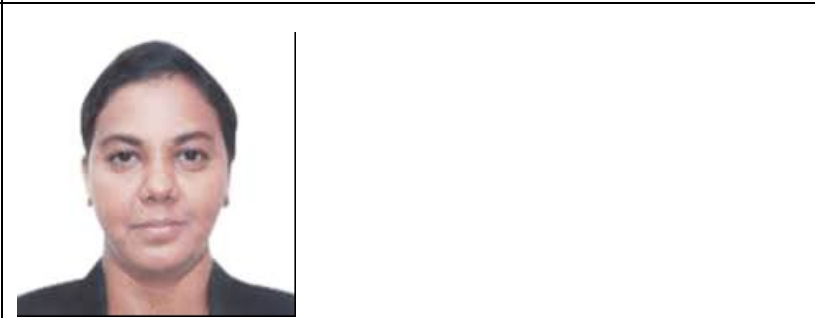
Udai has worked in the area of Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Law. Before joining CUTS, Udai worked for a law firm based in India on Corporate and Intellectual Property Right matters. He is also responsible for monitoring national and international policies on competition and regulatory issues, assisting in organizing and attending project related events and contributing to general fundraising.

Centre for Resource Management, Observer Research Foundation (ORF)



ORF was established in 1990, it seeks to lead and aid policy thinking towards building a strong and prosperous India in a fair and equitable world. It helps discover and inform India’s choices, and carries Indian voices and ideas to forums shaping global debates. ORF provides non-partisan, independent analyses and inputs on matters of security, strategy, economy, development, energy, resources and global governance to diverse decision-makers (governments, business communities, academia, civil society). ORF’s mandate is to conduct in-depth research, provide inclusive platforms and invest in tomorrow’s thought leaders today. For more details please see the link; <http://www.orfonline.org/>

Participant Profile

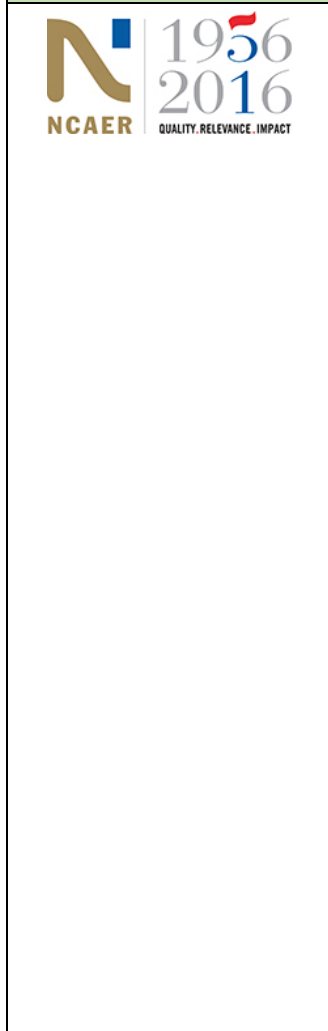


Ms. Lydia Powell, Head, Centre for Resources Management, Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

Ms. Lydia Powell has been working with the ORF Centre for Resources Management for over eight years wherein she is involved in policy issues in Energy and Climate Change. Her most recent paper ‘Climate and the Clash between the Diversely Developed’ was published in the December 2010 volume of the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region. She edits the ORF Energy News Monitor which is in

its seventh year of publication and routinely contributes articles on Energy Policy, Energy Pricing and Regulation, Climate and Equity. She has represented ORF at a number of conferences on India's Energy Policy and Climate Change and also authored a number of reports on the same topics. Her current interests include Energy Poverty, Energy Security, Energy Security Index for India, Resource Based conflict with particular reference to Energy and Water, Commercially viable Renewable Energy Pricing Policies and Pricing & Regulatory Issues in Nuclear Energy. She was selected as Congressional Fellow with three-month residency at the East West Centre, Washington following which she authored a book on 'Oil in US Energy Policy: Searching for Clues of Influence.

National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), India



Established in 1956, NCAER is India's oldest and largest independent, non-profit, economic policy research institute. Six decades in the life of a nation is a long time. It is even longer in the life of an institution. But the promise of NCAER—to ask the right questions, gather good evidence, analyse it well, and share the results widely—has endured. India has achieved much, and much remains undone. As the economy has changed, so too has NCAER, to continue to help understand India's rapid economic and social transformation. As newer and more complex economic challenges emerge, NCAER will have to do more to keep its promise. To do this well, that is NCAER's promise renewed. NCAER's work falls into four thematic areas:

- Growth, Macro, Trade, and Economic Policy
- Investment Climate, Industry, Infrastructure, Labour, and Urban
- Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resources, and Environment
- Poverty, Equity, Human Development, and Consumers

The focus of NCAER's work in these areas is on generating and analysing empirical evidence to support and inform policy choices. It is also one of a handful of think tanks globally that combine rigorous analysis and policy outreach with deep data collection capabilities, especially for household surveys. For more details, please see the link; <http://www.ncaer.org/>

Participants Profile



Mr. Sanjib Pohit, Senior Fellow, NCAER

Sanjib Pohit is a Senior Fellow at NCAER. Previously he joined the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies as Professor, AcSIR, and Senior Principal Scientist. Sanjib has been a visiting scholar on four occasions at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor working with Alan Deardorff and Robert Stern on the NCAER-Michigan Global Trade Model. He has also worked at the Conference Board of Canada on expanding the NCAER Macro Model. Sanjib has been a key member of the Climate Change Modelling group of the Ministry of Environment & Forests in the Government of India, a Council Member of the Gerson Lehrman Group (a membership network for 1-on-1 professional learning), and consultant to various national and international bodies, including the World Bank, TERI, OECD, CUTS, Price Waterhouse Coopers, and RIS. Sanjib is an accomplished CGE modeler in the areas of trade and the environment with over 20 years of modelling experience. He has earlier worked in institutional economics, transport economics, input-output models, FDI, informal trade, the automobile industry, and South Asian integration. He has co-authored eight books, and has published more than 80 articles in journals and edited volumes. Sanjib did his B. Stat (Hons) from ISI Calcutta, M. Stat from ISI Calcutta and Delhi and a PhD in Economics from ISI Delhi.



About SARI-EI

Over the past decade, USAID's South Asia Regional Initiative/Energy (SARI/E) has been advocating energy cooperation in South Asia via regional energy integration and cross border electricity trade in eight South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives). This fourth and the final phase, titled South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI), was launched in 2012 and is implemented in partnership with Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) through a cooperative agreement with USAID. SARI/EI addresses policy, legal and regulatory issues related to cross border electricity trade in the region, promote transmission interconnections and works toward establishing a regional market exchange for electricity.

About USAID

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent government agency that provides economic, development, and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States. USAID's mission is to advance broad-based economic growth, democracy, and human progress in developing countries and emerging economies. To do so, it is partnering with governments and other actors, making innovative use of science, technology, and human capital to bring the most profound results to a greatest number of people.

About IRADe

IRADe is an independent advanced research institute which aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organizations, corporations, academic and financial institutions. Energy, climate change, urban development, poverty, gender equity, agriculture and food security are some of the challenges faced in the 21st century. Therefore, IRADe research covers these, as well as policies that affect them. IRADe's focus is effective action through multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder research to arrive at implementable solutions for sustainable development and policy research that accounts for the effective governance of techno-economic and socio-cultural issues.

IRADe was established under the Society's Act, in 2002 at New Delhi. It is certified as a Research & Development Organization by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST). It has also been selected as a Centre of Excellence by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) for urban development and climate change. In addition, it provides expertise to other ministries, national and international institutions and partners with other reputed organizations.

For more information on
the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI) program,
Please visit the project website:www.sari-energy.org