

**A PILOT PROJECT ON CAPACITY BUILDING ON ELECTRICITY
REFORMS IN NEPAL, BANGLADESH AND INDIA
(WEST BENGAL & RAJASTHAN) – RESA Project**

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

**Friday, 9 April, 2010 – Saturday, 10 April, 2010
Kolkata, West Bengal, India**

AGENDA

FRIDAY, 9TH APRIL 2010

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 – 11:00 **Opening Session**

Opening remarks by *Pradeep S. Mehta*, Secretary General, CUTS International, India

Welcome address by *Malay Kr. De*, MD & Chairman, West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL), India

Aslak Brun, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Norway, New Delhi, India

Syed Masud Mahmud Khandaker, Deputy High Commissioner, Bangladesh

Keynote address and Release of Report, “Consumer Empowerment in Electricity Reforms – A Review from South Asia” by *Nirupam Sen*, Minister in Charge, Department of Power & NES, Government of West Bengal

11:00 – 11:15 Tea Break

11:15 – 13:00 **Session I: Panel discussion on “Power Sector Reforms in Asia”**

Panel discussion would focus on economic, social, legal and political issues pertaining to power sector reforms in Asia. Panellists are requested to share their respective country experiences, challenges and lessons learnt.

Chair: S L Rao, Chairman, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), India

Panellists:

- Parno Isworo, Independent, Power Sector Expert, Indonesia
- Kanchana Siriwardena, Senior Professional (Tariff), PUCSL, Sri Lanka
- K Ramanathan, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India

- Samai Jai-Indr, Energy Standing Committee, House of Representatives, Thailand
- Sher Sing Bhat, Director, System Operation, Nepal Electricity Authority, Nepal

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

Session II: Key Findings of the RESA project (Country Presentations)

Chair: Allan Asher, CEO, Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), Australia

Presenters:

- Chinmoy Mutsuddi, Nodal Person, RESA Project, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh
- Dhrubesh Regmi, Programme Director, SAWTEE, Nepal
- Keya Ghosh, Head, CUTS Calcutta Resource Centre, India

Discussants:

- Salahud Din Ahmed, Member, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), Bangladesh
- P N Bhandari, Former Chairman, Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB), India

16:00 – 16:15

Tea Break

16:15 – 18:00

Session III: Consumer Empowerment in Power Sector Reforms

This session will focus on relevant case studies on effective consumer empowerment in the power sector highlighting international as well as regional best practices.

Chair: Prasad Ranjan Ray, Chairperson, West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission, India

Presenters:

- Huzna Zahir, Yayasan Lembaga Konsumen Indonesia (YLKI), Indonesia
- M. Shamsul Alam, Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET), Bangladesh
- Asoka Abeygunawardana, Executive Director, Federation of Electricity Consumer Societies Energy, Sri Lanka

Discussants:

- Prititosh Ray, Former Member, West Bengal Electricity Regulatory Commission, India
- K L Vyas, Member, Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC), India

20:00 – 23:00

Reception followed by dinner at Hotel Hyatt Regency

SATURDAY, 10th APRIL 2010

09:00 – 10:30

Session IV: Emerging Issues in the Power Sector and Role of Consumers

The session will have two separate presentations on energy efficiency (overview, regulatory dimension and role of consumers, etc) and renewable resources (opportunities, regulatory environment, forthcoming initiatives, etc) with the key focus on the role of consumers.

Chair: M. Fouzul Kabir Khan, Ex Power Secretary, Bangladesh

Presenters:

- Anuradha Bhattacharji, Manager (Strategy & HR), Bureau of Energy Efficiency, India
- S P Gon Chaudhuri, Managing Director, West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited (WBGEDCL), India

Discussants:

- Wanun Permiphikul, Renewable Energy Institute, Thailand
- Ramesh Chandra Paudel, Economist and Central Member, Forum For Protection of Consumer Rights, Nepal

10:30 – 10:40

Tea Break

10:40 – 12:00

Session V: Panel discussion on “Role of Institutions in Power Sector Reforms in Asia”

The panel discussion will focus on the importance of institutions (such as consumer organisations, governments, regulators, utilities, etc) in facilitating power sector reforms in Asia.

Chair: J. L. Bajaj, Distinguished Fellow, TERI, India

Panellists:

- Allan Asher, CEO, Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN), Australia
- Armando Job Bordamonte, Programme Staff, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Philippines
- Anjali Garg, Energy Specialist, World Bank
- G D Gautama, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Power & NES, West Bengal, India
- M. Fouzul Kabir Khan, Ex Power Secretary, Bangladesh
- Dilip Samajpati, Senior Manager, Customer Relations, CESC, India

12:00 – 12:30

Closing Session

- Pradeep S. Mehta, CUTS International, India
- Malay Kr. De, MD & Chairman, West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL), India

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch and departures