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Region Shares Proven Utility Practices in South Asia



South Asia Regional Distribution Utilities Partnership executive meeting.

The South Asia Regional Distribution Utilities Partnership establishes long-term cooperative relationships among utilities in the South Asia region – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka – to discuss distribution losses and efficiency, improved management, and financial management.

Since the inception of the USEA Distribution Utilities Partnership Program a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in March 2002 by senior delegates from nine utility companies in the six South Asian countries. The purpose of the MOU is to continue their participation and to create a forum promoting regional cooperation in the energy sector. Participants shared proven practices by submitting papers of successful utility programs and practices compiled in the “Handbook on South Asia Energy Practices.”

A “Handbook of South Asian Utilities Practices” has been compiled based on voluntary submissions by participating South Asian utilities and is set to become a regional repository of best practices for efficient electric power utility management.

There has been exploration of commercial opportunities between members. Largely as a

result of the Distribution Utilities Partnership Program, utilities have begun to hold separate exchanges outside the South Asia Regional Initiative//Energy (SARI) framework such as: Nepal Electricity Authority engineers and managers received hands-on inputs on BSES’ customer service and electricity distribution loss reduction techniques; and the State Electric Company Private Limited in the Maldives and their counterparts at Lanka Electricity Company Ltd exchanged practices on billing and revenue collection.

The South Asia Regional Distribution Utilities Partnership held their sixth executive businesses meeting in Kolkata from July 23-25, 2003 to discuss and exchange proven utility practices in the South Asia region. This meeting was part of the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy (SARI/Energy) Partnership Program, a program funded under the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and organized by the U.S. Energy Association (USEA).

Mr. George Sibley, U.S. Consul General, Mr. N.V. Seshadri, Program Specialist (Energy) from USAID, and Sumantra Banerjee, Managing Director of CESC Ltd. opened the session. CESC Ltd. hosted the meetings, which included participation by distribution utility executives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.

Participants discussed restructuring in the distribution sector in South Asia with their counterparts. The program also focused on the key programs at CESC Ltd. such as billing systems, customer service practices, and maintenance practices and programs.

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