



8th SAFIR Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation

1st – 8th April 2007 at Kalutara, Sri Lanka



Introduction

For the 8th consecutive time, the South Asian Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) is pleased to announce its Core Course on Infrastructure Regulation.

The residential program offers participants the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of regulations pertaining to infrastructure industries and regulatory economics as well as topical issues attendant to those industries, to share their experiences, to develop practical solutions to regional problems.

Organized by LIRNEasia, the course maintains the tradition of teaching excellence which is a hall mark of the annual SAFIR Core Course.

What's New?

Modular design

Four thematic modules, each with a series of lectures that progressively give participants deep insight into the key and latest issues in infrastructure regulation.

Assignment on Regulator Performance

How to manage expectations amongst stakeholders and how to handle the media through analysis, group work and simulated press conferences

4 Thematic Modules address the fundamentals of infrastructure regulation



1 Reform and Competition in Infrastructure Sectors

To increase the cohesiveness of the content, the Course is designed around 4 Thematic Modules that are designed to provide a thorough grounding on issues related to overall infrastructure regulation.

This module will review almost two decades of international experience of restructuring infrastructure sectors. Aspects of private participation, commercialization, and liberalization of infrastructure and their impact on sector performance will be analyzed. Emphasis will be placed on the institutional dimension of reform in South Asia, where the participants will exchange their experience in this regard. This module will also review the role of the regulator as a catalyst in commercializing the traditional state owned infrastructure sector and in managing competition in and for the market. Sessions in this module will also explore the design options for regulatory agencies and the institutional relationship between the regulator and the policymaker. Most importantly alternatives to privatization and public provisioning of infrastructure will be discussed in the context of public-private-partnerships, design and implementation of concessions and related regulation.

2 Price and Financial Aspects of Regulation

Starting with an in depth examination of the financial analysis underpinning price regulation, the module will cover important issues such as the treatment of depreciation, asset valuation and the cost of capital. A particular focus will be on the technical aspects of a price review. The *Price Control Case Study*, successfully used in previous SAFIR courses will be used again, to provide hands-on experience to participants. Underlying this module is the regulators role in providing a frame work conducive to investment.

3 The Regulator's Performance and Legitimacy

How does a regulator measure its own success? How does it build legitimacy in the eyes of the stakeholders and how should the regulator handle or manage its relationships, expectations and perceptions with regards to stakeholders, including the media. What indicators should it be monitoring and influencing to achieve its aims? The module includes a hands-on assignment, similar to a case study (details below), that will give participants experience in playing the multiple roles a regulator needs to play in today's world.

4 Other Topics in Infrastructure Regulation

This module will include several topics that are important in the regulatory context, such as issues related to universal service policy/obligation, approach to the implementation of quality of service standards and experience of using small scale and decentralized service providers as a solution to the infrastructure gap between urban and rural areas.

In-depth analysis into 4 sectors: Electricity, Telecommunications, Transport and Pipeline Industries



The course presents nearly 1.5 days of breakout sessions organized into 4 sectors: Electricity, Telecommunications, Transport including Highways, and Pipeline Industries (oil, gas, water). Content within each sector is designed to ensure the balance between theory vs. practice, and international vs. regional experience.

Electricity

The sessions will begin with examining the key considerations in creating well functioning whole sale electricity markets. International practical experience and the theoretical grounding of privatizing electricity utilities versus public ownership will be examined. Regulation as a means of disciplining and improvement of utilities will be at a theoretical level, supplemented by case studies from Indian electricity regulators' performance contracts. Possibilities of regional energy trade in the SAARC region will be discussed, as well as multi-year tariff regimes.

Telecommunications

The focus is on in-depth exploration of several key issues facing South Asian and other telecom regulatory agencies. The perennially important issue of interconnection will be addressed as will issues that are relatively new to the regional such as auction design as an integral element of regulatory practice. The most important discussion of extending service to under-served and under-served populations will draw from recently concluded research on policy interventions using "smart subsidies."

Transport

There is significant private presence in the region in highways, ports, airports, bus services, and now, even in rail transport. While there is some commonality across countries in the manner in which transport safety is overseen, the approach to economic regulation of transport varies considerably across countries and across sub-sectors. In many of these sectors, regulation is by contract rather than by agency. The focus will be on the relative merits of the two approaches, their applicability to the different sub-sectors with special reference to universal service obligations.

Pipeline Industries

These sessions will focus on regulatory issues in industries with similar physical and economic characteristics such oil, gas, water – i.e. all of which depend heavily on a network of pipeline infrastructure. Sessions will focus on principles applicable across these industries, but may draw on case studies or examples from one particular industry. Regulatory frameworks for Pipeline Industries, institutional reform as a way of improving accountability in service delivery of pipeline utilities like urban water and sanitation, sustainable use of ground water, policies surrounding the construction of pipelines for the supply of gas in urban areas are some of the issues that will be addressed.

**A combination of teaching formats:
to enhance collaboration, open discussion and thorough
grounding in the fundamentals of infrastructure
regulation.**

**Plenary sessions for
lectures within the
Thematic Modules**

Teaching methods utilize multiple formats (lectures in plenary session, sectoral breakouts, case studies, team work)

- The core content is arranged into 4 thematic modules
- Each module contains a series of lectures that progressively deepens the participants' understanding of the key issues.
- These lectures are taught in a plenary format, where open discussions and questions are encouraged
- Over 21 lectures are included within the 4 Thematic Modules

**Sectoral Break Outs
delve deeper into issues
specific to sectors**

- Participants select the sector that is most relevant to them
- Over 6 sessions in each sector, spanning a day and a half of sector specific topics

**Price Control Case study
to give hands on techni-
cal experience**

- Specifically developed to give practical and realistic experience in setting price controls
- Incorporates the various concepts covered in the lectures

**Regulatory Performance
Activity to give partici-
pants experience in
stakeholder and expecta-
tion management**

- Participants work in small teams, over the period of a week and finally make presentations to a panel of regulators or practitioners from the region
- New activity designed to give participants experience in engaging with their stakeholders
- Series of group work activities including analytical work, presentations and handling of a simulated (and videotaped) press conference
- Takes place over 5 days

World Renowned Faculty

World renowned faculty comprised of regulatory practitioners, academics and private sector participants involved in infrastructure regulation issues will teach the course. This year the course brings back some of the best received/ most popular speakers of past courses, along with a number of new faculty who are at the cutting edge of infrastructure regulation issues. A partial list of faculty members is given. A more updated version is available on the websites.

- Dr. Rakesh Mohan – Reserve Bank of India
- Dr. Martin Rodriguez Pardina – Macro consulting S.A
- Prof. Anton Eberhard – University of Capetown
- Prof. Rohan Samarajiva – Executive Director of LIRNEasia, past Director General of Telecom Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka
- Prof. Priyantha Wijeyatunga - Director General, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka
- Abdul Rahim Khan – NEPRA, Pakistan
- Payal Malik - University of Delhi and National Council for Applied Economic Research, India
- Dr. Partha Mukhopadhyay - Center for Policy Research, India
- Dr. Harsha De Silva – Lead Economist, LIRNEasia
- Dr. Ian Alexander – Cambridge Economic Policy Associates
- Chulie De Silva – World Bank
- Dr. Joseph Wilson – Lahore University of Management Science
- Anup Wadhawan, Water & Sanitation Program, World Bank, New Delhi
- Amir Zia – NEPRA, Pakistan
- Sohail Hasnie, Asian Development Bank
- Vivek Sharma, CRISIL
- Prof. Amal Kumarge, University of Moratuwa

It is expected senior regulators from the region, representing each sector will participate in a number of panel discussions. These names will be added to the list on an ongoing basis, once confirmations are received.

Who Should Participate?



The Course is designed for 70 – 80 mid-career and senior professionals who are involved in utility regulation. Utility regulators, executives from utility companies, persons engaged in legal and strategic activities related to utilities will benefit from the course.

Past courses have had participants from across the globe, though there is a heavy representation of professionals from the South Asian region.

What is your investment?

The Core Course is priced at US\$ 2000.

The fee covers program tuition, living accommodation (arrival Saturday 31st March, Departure Sunday 8th April afternoon), all meals inclusive of special dinners/banquets, reading and classroom material, and a mid-week tour to a site of cultural/academic interest.

Extended stays at the hotel or additional guests can be accommodated at an extra cost, at rates negotiated specially for SAFIR.

About LIRNEasia

LIRNEasia is a research and capacity building organization, based in Sri Lanka but working across South and South East Asia. LIRNEasia and its partners have organized a multitude of courses over the years that have brought together regulators, private sector and civil society to explore cutting-edge issues in regulation within the reality of developing-country practice. Its courses have been offered in four continents making use of LIRNEasia's extensive network of reflective practitioners and policy-engaged academics. Drawing from the most recent research and allowing for interactive debate as well as involvement in assignments that are directly relevant to regulatory practice and building on the successes of previous SAFIR courses, LIRNEasia will offer you an intense and exciting opportunity to advance your understanding of the key issues in infrastructure regulation and equip yourself to solve the real-world problems of South Asian (and similar) infrastructure industries.



Ideal location for a Residential Course



- The course will be held at the beautiful Mahaweli Reach Hotel which is tucked away in Kandy, the ancient hill capital of the island and along Sri Lanka's longest river, the great Mahaweli.
- The hotel which is located a little over two hour's journey from Colombo offers boating trips, pool, gym, swedha karma massages and local and international cuisine with a personal touch and a variety of wonderful entertainment.
- Kandy is home to the famous Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic dating back to the 16th Century AD and rituals accompanied by flute/trumpet playing and drumming are enacted daily in the temple to venerate the relic.
- A few minutes away from the city of Kandy, the hotel is within a couple of hours from the Pinnawela Elephant orphanage, Sigiriya rock fortress (often referred to as the eighth wonder of the world) and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya.

Website: <http://www.mahaweli.com/>

How to register

Those interested in attending the course should contact LIRNEasia. Registration form (below) can be downloaded from the SAFIR or LIRNEasia websites. Completed applications should be faxed or emailed to LIRNEasia at the following number/address:

Contact information:

Email: safir@lirne.net

Telephone: +94-11-439992

Fax:: +94-11-2675212

Website: www.safirasia.org and

www.lirneasia.net/projects/current-projects/safir

Mail: LIRNEasia, 12 Balcombe Place, Colombo 08, Sri Lanka

A course schedule and updated faculty listing will provided (and regularly updated) on the websites.

Registration form
8th Safir Core Course on infrastrucutre regulation
at Kalutara, Sri Lanka 1st – 8th April 2007

Please fill in the following information, and either fax to: + 94 11-2675212 or email to safir@lirne.net. Logistical information on payments, airport pick-up details etc., will be communicated once this form is received.

Name: Mr./Ms. /Dr.

Designation:

Organization:

Address:

E-mail address:

Phone number,
inclusive of country and city codes

Fax number(s)

Sectoral Break Out you will be attending
(please tick ONE only)

- Electricity
- Telecom
- Transport
- Pipeline Industries (oil, gas, water)