



**CAREC Electricity Regulators Forum  
Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic  
15-19 September 2008**

**Summary of Proceedings**

1. The Fourth Annual Meeting (the Meeting) of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Electricity Regulators Forum (CERF) was held in the Kyrgyz Republic on 15-19 September 2008. The regional capacity building event was cohosted by the State Department for Regulation of Energy and Fuel Complex of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
2. The role of the energy regulators has become more challenging with the unfolding of many developments in the energy sector from climate change to energy efficiency to energy sustainability. The theme for the Meeting was Independent Energy Regulation in the Promotion of Private Sector Participation, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The Meeting consisted of a two day annual plenary session and a three-day training workshop on public-private partnerships and regulators response to renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, and tariff setting principles and practices.
3. 39 participants participated in the Meeting activities: (i) electricity regulators from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China (PRC), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; (ii) international energy regulation experts, and (iii) representatives of public and private electricity companies. The agenda of the Meeting and list of participants are shown in Appendix 1 and 2.
4. During the annual plenary session, the participants made presentations on the progress of regulatory reforms in each of the CAREC countries and provided updates on key regulatory developments such as electricity tariff rates and other changes in the power sector. The participants also led an open session on the planning of future activities, and shared their views on how CERF can serve its members' needs more effectively in the coming years. The participants reiterated that the Forum was effective and functional. The exchange of ideas during workshop was valuable and that should be continued, as it fosters active cooperation amongst experts and regulators, and builds professional relationships between the CAREC region's regulatory bodies. The participants also discussed the need and possibility of creating a regional association for energy regulators.
5. The Meeting also showcased the experience of the Kyrgyz Republic in restructuring and unbundling of the power sector. Representatives from both public and private power generation, transmission and distribution utilities from the Kyrgyz Republic participated in the annual plenary session and provided perspectives as regulated entities in the electricity market.
6. At the conclusion, the country delegations found the Meeting proceedings successful and the presentations by the speakers useful and directly related to the regulatory situation in their respective countries. Second, the delegates reemphasized the value that CERF adds to the process of developing the capacity of the regulators and the regulatory bodies. Third, the delegates also expressed their satisfaction in the interactions both formal and informal with the resource persons. They were able to clarify and discuss in-person and in-detail the issues of interest.

7. For the 2009-2010 work program, the country delegations advised CERF to (i) strengthen the platform for promoting independent energy regulation in the CAREC region; (ii) continue providing capacity building programs to its members on specific regulatory topics such as economic regulation, and unbundled tariff setting practices; (iii) focus on using regional experts in future programs; and (iv) consider bilateral exchange programs for regulators.

8. The country delegations requested ADB and other Multilateral Institutions participating in CAREC to continue financing the CERF activities in 2009-2010. ADB informed the CERF participants that the regional technical assistance (financed by the PRC Fund for Regional Cooperation and Poverty Reduction Fund) for supporting the CERF program in 2007-2008 is concluding. The country delegations expressed their gratitude to ADB in its role as the CERF Secretariat, and unanimously requested ADB to continue this role and host the Fifth Annual Meeting of CERF in its headquarters in the Philippines.