



**Indian Institute of
Corporate Affairs**
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Program Name: Virtual Colloquium for the serving Chairpersons of the Central Sector Regulatory Member Organizations of FOIR

Program Date: 23rd of March, 2021

Program Theme: Stakeholders Engagement in Regulatory Decision Making

Online Session: Blackboard (LMS)

No. of participants: 5

Participant Profile: Serving Chairpersons of the Central Sector Regulatory Organizations of FOIR.

PROGRAM OUTLINE:

The Forum of Indian Regulators Centre at Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs has successfully organized virtual colloquium for the serving Chairpersons of the Central Sector Regulatory Member Organizations of FOIR on the theme “Stakeholders Engagement in Regulatory Decision Making” on 23rd of March, 2021 over Blackboard LMS. The session was scheduled from 2:30 PM onwards. The program provided a platform for the chairpersons to indulge in discourse on various aspects of stakeholder’s engagement in regulatory decision making, challenges faced therein and a way forward to it. The FOIR Center duly acknowledges the coordination and support received from FOIR Secretariat and CERC officials.

The panel in the colloquium comprised of, Mr. P.K Pujari, Chairperson, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC); Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairperson, Competition Commission of India (CCI); Dr. P. Vaghela, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI); Shri. T. S. Balasubramanian, Chairman in-Charge, Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) & Shri Satpal Garg, Member, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Body (PNGRB). FOIR in association with IICA had previously organized Colloquium in February, 2020 on the theme, “Ensuring transparency and accountability in regulatory framework” in furtherance to the previous theme the current colloquium was designed to discuss and deliberate on, “Stakeholder’s engagement in decision making process”.

The guest speaker for the day was, Mr. Andrew Williams-Fry, Director, Economic Regulation (Interim), Thames Water & Board Member, Regulatory Policy Committee, London, UK.

PROGRAM FLOW:

At the outset Dr. Abha Yadav, Associate Professor, School of Competition Law & Market Regulations & Director welcomed the panelists and the guest speaker, Mr. Andrew Williams

followed by a brief background of the Colloquium on the theme ‘Stakeholder’s engagement in decision making process’. The panel discussion began with the introduction & opening points on the theme by Mr. Andrew Williams, moderator for the panel discussion. Mr. Williams began with his presentation by discussing the importance of stakeholder’s engagement in a regulatory set-up. Two major reasons that Mr. Andrew identified while elaborating on the importance of stakeholder’s engagement were, ‘democratic process’ which allows the people to decide the outcome and ‘technocratic process’ to create a policy path to those outcomes. In line with the purpose of the colloquium, Mr. Andrew brought to the table Scottish Government’s 2019 guidelines on different forms of engagement followed by a detailed elaboration on risk involved in stakeholder’s engagement and a way forward to these challenges. Post completion of the presentation, the moderator, Mr. Andrew kept some relevant points of discussion across the table and opened the floor for discussion. Some major points of discussion kept forth by the moderator were, stakeholder’s engagement practice in Indian regulatory structure; challenges faced by regulators in conducting stakeholder’s consultation; routes explored to come over those challenges. All the panelists shared their views on the current regulatory mechanisms for stakeholder’s engagement prevalent in their respective sectors. The panelists discussed how several kind of biasness prevails during process of collecting stakeholder’s opinion and how the process has evolved with time to fight such challenges.

The panelist appreciated the efforts put together by the team. The guest speaker in his concluding remarks expressed his observations on the practice being followed by regulators across globe and expressed his willingness for further collaboration. The program was convened by Dr. Abha Yadav, Director FOIR Centre (IICA) & Associate Professor, School of Competition Law and Market Regulations.

Images of the participants and speakers during the online program:

