

**MINUTES OF THE
50th GOVERNING BODY MEETING
OF
FORUM OF INDIAN REGULATORS
DATE: 25TH APRIL, 2022, MONDAY
(THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING)**

1. Hony. Chairperson, FOIR / Chairperson, CCI extended a warm welcome to all members to the virtual Governing Body meeting of FOIR. He also welcomed Shri. B. S Bhullar, Hony. Vice Chairman, FOIR/Chairperson, AERA and Shri. Ravi Mittal, Hony. Vice Chairman, FOIR/Chairperson IBBI who were attending the Governing Body meeting for the first time. Hony. Chairperson FOIR remarked that this Forum provides an excellent platform to discuss issues that fall under the domain of more than one regulator and often amicable solutions emerge on such issues. Over the years, this Forum has grown and taken up a number of capacity building programs in addition to projects that cut across several regulatory jurisdictions.

2. Thereafter, Hony. Vice Chairperson, FOIR / Chairperson, CERC welcomed the members of the Governing Body and apprised that this Forum has been quite active in the last few years. In spite of the COVID pandemic, the Forum organised all its activities, be it meetings or capacity building programs, webinars etc in online mode. He opined that such activities provide a good platform to understand each other's problems and the Forum tries to resolve them in the best possible manner for inter-sectoral collaborations. He informed the members that one of the latest issues of collaboration involves the telecom regulator and power sector regulator, relating to the rollout of 5G where the discussion was whether the power transmission and distribution infrastructure could be utilised for installing 5G optical fibres, cells, sensor boxes etc. He also apprised the Forum that the Working Group of FOIR had submitted its report on the said issue and it was also discussed in the 78th and 79th meeting of the Forum of Regulators held in March and April 2022 respectively. He

hoped that this collaboration will result in cost-effective and efficient use of existing infrastructural resources.

3. Continuing on this aspect, Hony. Vice Chairperson, FOIR/Chairperson, TRAI expressed his appreciation Chairperson, CERC and FOR for taking the initiative to discuss the report of the Working Group on 5G in the meetings of the Forum of Regulators and giving an opportunity to TRAI to present its views. He added that response of all the Chairpersons of the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions was very positive and he looked forward to take forward the matters as decided in the meetings.
4. Thereafter, the GB took up the agenda items for discussion.
5. The List of Participants is placed at APPENDIX-I.

AGENDA 1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 49TH MEETING OF GOVERNING BODY HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2022 AT NEW DELHI

Dy Chief (RA), CERC updated the GB members on the action taken on the minutes. After discussion on the action points arising from decisions taken in the 49th meeting of the GB, the minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA 2: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN FOIR BY ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

1. Deputy Chief (RA), CERC apprised the GB members that FOIR had received a request from one of the members of FOIR viz. Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission who had conveyed their request for discontinuation of membership of FOIR vide email dated April 6, 2022 as they felt that they were not finding the activities of FOIR of much importance as they are actively involved in the activities of FOR. Dy Chief (RA), CERC also informed that APERC had not participated in any events of FOIR for 2021-21 and had also not paid the membership fees.

2. The GB after discussion decided to accept the request of APERC and recommended to waive the overdue membership fees of Rs. 2 lacs since 2020-21.

3. Dy Chief (RA), CERC also informed the members that while Kerala Electricity Regulatory Commission had withdrawn from FOIR membership two years back, they have now evinced interest to rejoin FOIR due to increased activities in FOIR. Based on their request, KSERC has also paid the membership fees for 2022-23 and therefore, sought approval of the Governing Body to formally induct them into FOIR and invite them for the next General Body meeting.

4. The Governing Body recorded its appreciation on the joining back of KSERC in FOIR as it indicated that the activities of FOIR have been recognised as providing value to its members.

ITEM NO.3: ACCOUNTS RELATED ISSUES

(i) Interim Budget of FOIR for the F.Y. 2022-2023

1. Dy. Chief (RA), CERC explained the salient features of the interim budget of FOIR for FY 2022-2023 informing the members that the interim budget for 3 months was proposed within the Rules of FOIR to enable kickstarting the activities of FOIR as soon as the same is approved, because in the past, the budget was usually approved in June and the activities of FOIR could commence only in July, thus losing time for most activities. The GB appreciated the initiative taken by the FOIR Secretariat as this would enable early commencement of activities of FOIR.

2. Observing that the interim budget was a deficit budget which will lead to dipping into the reserves of FOIR, Hony. Chairperson, FOIR/CCI remarked that all programs approved by FOIR should undergo prudence check by the FOIR Secretariat as the purpose of the programs is not to exhaust the reserves in order to reduce income tax liability. He urged the members to provide their comments and suggestions on the content of the programs, before the same is executed.

3. As regards membership fee, Hony. Vice Chairperson FOIR/CERC stated that for the past few years, especially post retainership to IICA, the number of programs had increased considerably and FOIR has been incurring the costs by utilising the accumulated reserves. It was due to the level of reserves that the membership fees were not charged for a couple of years and then scaled down considerably from the initial membership fees. Hence, he proposed that FOIR may review the demand for programs/studies in FOIR based on comments from its members after a year and thereafter decide on the membership fees and capacity building program fees.

4. Hony. Chairperson, FOIR/CCI appreciated this suggestion and added that once the corpus funds/reserves of FOIR are exhausted, the FOIR can explore the possibility of charging for the programs and also reverting to the previous membership fees structure to build its reserves

5. With respect to topics to be taken up in the capacity building programs, Member, PNGRB suggested that thrust should be given to regulatory issues as all the Members of FOIR are Regulators. He added that a group comprising members of infrastructure and industries in the power, oil and gas sector should be formed so as to have more interaction with stakeholders and address regulatory issues, regulatory conflicts, desired changes in regulations etc

6. Hony. Vice Chairperson, FOIR/TRAI suggested that FOIR may come out with a White Paper on common issues among the Members of FOIR and thereafter explore conducting a seminar on the issues. He added that in addition to the suggestions, the seminars can stress on the latest trends in regulations, technical disruptions, conflicts in regulatory set up and curate context-based programs. In this regard, assistance may also be taken from academicians, industry experts etc.

7. Hony. Chairperson, FOIR/CCI appreciated the suggestions and stated that FOIR Centre at IICA may be instructed to evaluate as to which capacity building programs are in demand amongst the members so that more such programs can be

conducted by the Forum. While he stated that there may not be a need of organising seminars, as FOIR is already conducting various webinars online, FOIR Secretariat at IICA may do further research on issues which need more deliberations and discussions in FOIR. In this regard, as already indicated earlier, IICA should consult all regulators for suggestions and ideas and thereafter engage with experts in those sectors to curate programs which will be mutually beneficial to all Members.

8. With the above suggestions, the GB approved the interim budget for 2022-23 and directed the FOIR Secretariat to propose the full budget in the forthcoming General Body and Governing Body meeting.

(ii) Opening of new savings bank account with Punjab National Bank, Connaught Place, New Delhi

1. Deputy Chief (RA), CERC apprised the members that the account of FOIR is currently with Union Bank of India and that it was proposed to shift the same to Punjab National Bank to avail facilities which are better than those extended by the Union Bank of India. She added that CERC had also shifted its account to Punjab National Bank.

2. The GB approved the proposal of opening new saving bank account with Punjab National Bank, and also endorsed all the resolutions in this regard.

At the end of the meeting, Hony. Chairperson, FOIR/CCI thanked all the members of the GB for giving their valuable suggestions during the meeting. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Hony. Chairperson, FOIR

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
50TH GOVERNING BODY MEETING OF "FOIR"
HELD ON FRIDAY, THE 25TH APRIL, 2022
{ THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING }**

S. No.	Name	Designation & Organization
01.	Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta	Chairperson, CCI & Hony. Chairman, FOIR
02.	Shri P.K. Pujari	Chairperson, CERC & Hony. Vice-Chairman, FOIR
03.	Shri B S Bhullar	Chairperson, AERA & Hony. Vice-Chairman, FOIR
04.	Dr. P.D. Vaghela	Chairperson, TRAI & Hony. Vice-Chairman, FOIR
05.	Shri Ravi Mittal	Chairperson, IBBI & Hony. Vice- Chairman, FOIR
06.	Shri T.S. Balasubramanian	Member Finance, TAMP & Hony Vice-Chairman, FOIR
07.	Shri A.K.Tiwari	Member, PNGRB
08.	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh	Member, HPERC & Hony. Member, FOIR
09.	Shri Mukul Dhariwal	Member, MPERC & Hony. Member, FOIR
10.	Shri I.M. Bohari	Member, MERC & Hony. Member, FOIR
11.	Shri Indu Shekhar Jha	Member, CERC & Hony. Secretary, FOIR
12.	Shri Arun Goyal	Member, CERC & Hony. Treasurer, FOIR
13.	Shri Harpreet Singh Pruthi	Secretary, CERC & Executive Secretary, FOIR
14.	Dr. Sushanta K. Chatterjee	Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC
SPECIAL INVITEE		
15.	Shri Pravas Kumar Singh	Member , CERC
FOIR SECRETARIAT		

16.	Ms. Rashmi Somasekharan Nair	Dy. Chief (Regulatory Affairs), CERC
17.	Shri Rajiv Kumar	Executive Treasurer, FOIR
18.	Shri Sanjeev Tinjan	Asst. Chief (RA), CERC
19.	Shri Nilesh Diwan	Accounts Officer, FOR
20.	Shri Manvendra Pratap	Research Officer, CERC
21.	Shri Kushal Pal	Research Associate, SAFIR
22.	Shri Sushil Kumar Arora	Administrative Officer, SAFIR