



## Tenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES X)

Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia

14-16 November 2017

Hyatt Regency Kathmandu, Nepal

Organizers: National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal; Ministry of Commerce, Government of Nepal, and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)

### Tentative Programme Agenda

Day I:		14 November 2017
<b>14:30-15:30</b>	<b>Registration and Tea/Coffee</b>	
<b>16:00 – 17:45</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	
16:00	<i>Arrival of the Chief Guest and National Anthem</i>	
	Lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest: Hon'ble Mr. Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Minister for Finance, Government of Nepal	
16:00 – 16:10	<b>Welcome and Introductory Address</b> Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal	
16:10 – 16:55	<b>Special Remarks by Hon'ble Ministers</b> Hon'ble Mr. Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister for Economic Affairs, Government of Bhutan Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Latheef Mohamed, Minister of State for Economic Development, Government of Maldives Hon'ble Mr. Meen Bahadur Bishwakarma, Minister for Commerce, Government of Nepal	
16:55 – 17:12	<b>Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest</b> Hon'ble Mr. Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Minister for Finance, Government of Nepal	
17:12 – 17:25	<b>Chairperson's Remarks</b> Hon'ble Dr. Swarnim Waglé, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal	
<b>17:25 - 17:45</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	
<b>17:45 – 18:45</b>	<b>Plenary I</b>	
THEME:	HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON SOUTH ASIAN INTEGRATION: COLLAPSE OR REJUVENATION?	
	<b>Panellists:</b> Hon'ble Mr. Syed Naveed Qamar, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan Hon'ble Dr. Swarnim Waglé, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh	
	<i>Open discussion</i>	
	<b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Kanak Mani Dixit, Founding Editor, Himal Southasian, Nepal	
<b>19:00 – 22:00</b>	<b>Musical Gala and Welcome Dinner</b>	
	<b>19:00</b>	<b>Musical performance starts</b>
	<b>19:30 – 20:00</b>	<b>Snacks served</b>
	<b>20:30 – 22:00</b>	<b>Welcome Dinner</b>

**08:30 – 09:00**     **Registration and Tea/Coffee**

**09:00 – 11:00**     **Plenary II**

THEME:                WHITHER SAARC? THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA

**Keynote Speech:**

Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**Panellists:**

Hon'ble Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Member of Parliament, India

Hon'ble Mr. Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, Parliamentary Secretary for Finance, National Assembly of Pakistan

Amb. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal

Mr. Nazir Kabiri, Advisor to the Ministry of Finance, Government of Afghanistan

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamabad

*Open discussion*

**Chair:** H. E. Prof. Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Ambassador of Nepal to Sri Lanka and Maldives

**11:00 – 11:15**     **Tea/Coffee**

THEME: UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF INTRAREGIONAL TRADE	THEME: SDGs AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN SOUTH ASIA	THEME: REGIONAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	THEME: ASSESSING E-TRADE READINESS IN SOUTH ASIA
<b>Chair:</b> Mr. Chandra Ghimire, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission of Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Mr. Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET), Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), WTO, Geneva
<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Prof. Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Bangladesh	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Mr. Matthew Hammill, Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Dr. Simrit Kaur, Professor, University of Delhi, India	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Mr. Manohar Bhattarai, Former Vice Chairman, High Level Commission for Information and Communication Technology (HLCIT), Government of Nepal
<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India	<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India	<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Dr. Arnico Panday, Senior Atmospheric Scientist and Acting Regional Programme Manager for the Atmosphere Programme, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu	<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Mr. Sonam Tenzin, Director, Department of Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government of Bhutan
<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Ahmad Tariq Mateen, Head of Regional Trade Agreements, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Afghanistan	<b>Panellists:</b> Ms. Dechen Pelmo, Sr. Planning Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission, Bhutan	<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Nitya Nanda, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India	<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Toya Narayan Gyawali, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Nepal
Dr. Ramesh Paudel, Visiting Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, Canberra	Dr. Ganga Tilakaratna, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Colombo	Dr. Manoj Thibbotuwawa, Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Colombo	Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
Mr. Adnan Rasool, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Public Policy & Governance, FC College, Pakistan	Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, Director of Social Affairs, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu	Ms. Aisha Niyaz, Aishaniyaz Consulting, Maldives	Mr. Ahmed Imthinan, Programmer Specialist, Ministry of Economic Development, Maldives
Mr. Asish Subedi, Senior Programme Officer, SAWTEE, Kathmandu  <i>Open discussion</i>	Dr. Syed Nuruzzaman, Former Chief, Countries with Special Needs Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangladesh  <i>Open discussion</i>	Dr. Aneel Salman, Department of Economics, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Pakistan  <i>Open discussion</i>	<i>Open discussion</i>
<b>13:00 – 14:00 Lunch</b>			

14:00 – 15:45 Parallel Sessions V-VII		15 November 2017
THEME: UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF INTRAREGIONAL INVESTMENT	THEME: REGIONAL COOPERATION ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	THEME: SOUTH ASIA'S POSITION IN UPCOMING WTO MINISTERIAL
<b>Chair:</b> Prof. Atiur Rahman, Chairman, Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh	<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Jagadish C. Pokharel, Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission of Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), India
<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Prof. I. N. Mukherji, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Mr. Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET), Nepal	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Mr. Rabi Shankar Sainju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Nepal	<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Dr. Golam Rasul, Theme Leader-Livelihoods, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu	<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Dr. Paras Kharel, Research Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu
<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari, Chief Executive Officer, Investment Board of Nepal, Kathmandu	<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Shafqat Munir, President, Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR), Pakistan	<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Toya Narayan Gyawali, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Nepal
Ms. Selima Ahmad, Founder President, Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh	Mr. Hassan Ziyau, Senior Editor, Public Service Media, Maldives	Mr. Asjadul Kibria, Planning Editor, The Financial Express, Bangladesh
Mr. Tandin Wangchuk, Vice President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Thimphu	Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Professor of Accounting & Public Policy, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh	Mr. Mahtab Uddin, Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Mr. Kithmina Hewage, Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Colombo  <i>Open discussion</i>	Mr. Md. Jahid Ebn Jalal, Research Associate, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Dhaka  <i>Open discussion</i>	<i>Open discussion</i>
<b>15:45 – 16:00 Tea/Coffee</b>		

16:00 – 17:45 Parallel Sessions VIII-X		15 November 2017
THEME: TRADE FACILITATION, TRANSIT AND CONNECTIVITY ISSUES	THEME: EXPLORING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FROM INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES	THEME: GOVERNANCE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR PLANTS IN SOUTH ASIA
<b>Chair:</b> Mr. Shekhar Golchha, Senior Vice President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Bishnu Dev Pant, Executive Director, Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh
<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India  <b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Consultant, UNESCAP and Former Chairman and Managing Director, Container Corporation of India Ltd.	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Prof. Irudaya Rajan, Centre for Development Studies, India  <b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Dr. Kamalesh Adhikari, AIBE Research Fellow in Food Security and Member, ARC Laureate Project 'Harnessing Intellectual Property to Build Food Security', University of Queensland, Australia  <b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Dr. Krishna Ravi Srinivas, Managing Editor, Asian Biotechnology & Development Review (ABDR), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Ibrahim Shareef Mohamed, Commissioner General of Customs, Maldives Customs Service, Malé  Mr. Purushottam Ojha, Former Secretary for Commerce, Government of Nepal	<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Rezwanul Haque, Lecturer, Department of Economics, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Bangladesh  Ms. Swairee Rupasinghe, National Project Coordinator, Labour Migration, International Labour Organization Country Office for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Sri Lanka	<b>Panellists:</b> Dr. Pradyumna Raj Pandey, Senior Program Specialist (Crops), SAARC Agriculture Centre, Dhaka  Ms. Sabnam Shivakoti, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Government of Nepal
Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh	Mr. Chandan Sapkota, Former Research Officer at SAWTEE, Nepal	Ms. Dinushika Dissanayake, Executive Director, Law and Society Trust, Sri Lanka
<i>Open discussion</i>	Dr. Prista Ratanapruck, Economic Anthropologist, Kathmandu  <i>Open discussion</i>	Dr. Md. Haurnur Rashid, Principal Scientific Officer (Crops), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dhaka  <i>Open discussion</i>
<b>19:00 – 21:00 Reception Dinner</b>		

**09:00 – 11:00 Plenary III**

THEME: EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF SAARC OBSERVERS IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**Keynote Speech:**

Amb. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal and Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

**Panellists:**

Hon'ble Mr. Choida Jamtsho, Member, National Assembly of Bhutan  
Hon'able Dr. Najma Afzal, Member, Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Pakistan  
Amb. Madhu Raman Acharya, Former Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal  
H. E. Ms. Veronica Cody, Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Nepal

*Open discussion*

**Chair:** Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, Bangladesh and Former Bangladesh Ambassador to WTO and UN Offices in Geneva

**11:00 – 11:15 Tea/Coffee**

THEME: STRENGTHENING RURAL ECONOMIES THROUGH INNOVATION AND SMES	THEME: ISSUES IN ENERGY COOPERATION	THEME: HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION	THEME: IMPROVING ECONOMIC MEASUREMENT
<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Suroj Pokhrel, Secretary, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Hon'ble Dr. Arbind K. Mishra, Member, National Planning Commission of Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Bina Pradhan, Gender and Socio-economist, Nepal	<b>Chair:</b> Amb. Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission of Nepal
<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Mr. William Sparks, CoP Feed the Future Asia Innovative Farmers project, Winrock International	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Mr. Dipak Gyawali, Former Minister for Water Resources, Government of Nepal	<b>Country presentations:</b> Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Deputy Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan	<b>Thematic Presentation 1:</b> Dr. Martin Rama, Chief Economist, South Asia Region, World Bank, New Delhi
<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Ms. Neelu Thapa, SAWTEE, Nepal	<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Dr. Atul Kumar, Associate Professor, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India	Dr. Dilli Raj Khanal, Former Member, National Planning Commission of Nepal	<b>Thematic Presentation 2:</b> Dr. Abraham George, Director, Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance (ISDG), India
<b>Thematic Presentation 3:</b> Ms. Moushumi Shrestha, Entrepreneur and Founder, Shree Kisan Innovation Hub Nepal and Director Shree Nagar Agro Group, Nepal		Mr. Manab Majumdar, Deputy Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India	
<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. Kamal Khokhani, Naireeta Services, India	<b>Panellists:</b> Mr. V. K. Kharbanda, Project Director, South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration, Integrated Research and Action for Development, India	Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh	<b>Panellists:</b> Dr. Hom Moorti Pant, Advisor, National Planning Commission of Nepal and Visiting Fellow, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University, Canberra
Mr. Chatura Rodrigo, Head of Business Development, BIOMASS Supplies (Pvt), Ltd, Sri Lanka	Mr. S. C. Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer, SJVN Arun-III Power Development Company, Kathmandu		Mr. Suman Raj Aryal, Director General, Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal
<i>Open discussion</i>	Ms. Avia Nahreen, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG), Bangladesh		Dr. Biswo Poudel, Senior Economist, National Planning Commission of Nepal
	Mr. Pramod Rijal, Senior Economist, Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Kathmandu	<i>Open discussion</i>	Mr. Zubair Faisal Abbasi, Impact Consulting, Pakistan
	<i>Open discussion</i>		<i>Open discussion</i>

THEME: SPECIAL SESSION IN MEMORY OF SAMAN KELEGAMA—WAY FORWARD FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION AGENDA

**Keynote Speech:** Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh

**Panellists:**

Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh

Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan

Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok

*Open discussion*

**Moderator:** Dr. Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Colombo

**16:00 – 16:15 Tea/Coffee**

**16:15 – 17:25 Closing Session**

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| 16:15 – 16:30 | <i>Presentation of the Conference Summary</i><br>Dr. Paras Kharel, Research Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal    |
| 16:30 – 16:35 | <i>Remarks by the Organizer-designate of SAES XI</i><br>Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan |
| 16:35 – 16:45 | <i>Remarks</i><br>Mr. Bishnu Prasad Lamsal, Member Secretary, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal   |
| 16:45 – 16:55 | <i>Special Remarks</i><br>Hon'ble Dr. Swarnim Waglé, Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal   |
| 17:05 – 17:15 | <i>Vote of Thanks</i><br>Mr. Khomraj Koirala, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal  |
| 17:15 – 17:25 | <i>Chairperson's Concluding Remarks</i><br>Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal                |