

1st South Asia Economic Summit
Economic Integration in South Asia: SAFTA and Beyond
BMICH, Colombo
28 –30 August, 2008

Organized by
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) &
Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL)
in collaboration with
Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)
South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE)
The World Bank
UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo (UNDP-RCC)
Commonwealth Secretariat (CS)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

---- Programme ----

Day I: Thursday 28th August [Committee Room A]

- 8:15 – 9:00 - Registration
- 9:00 – 10:45 - Inauguration
- 9:00 – 9:15 - Welcome & Introductory Speech:
Saman Kelegama,
Executive Director, IPS
Macky Hashim,
Past President, FCCISL & SCCI
- 09:15 – 09:35 - Address by the Chief Guest:
Hon. Rohitha Bogollagama,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka
- 9:35 – 9:50 - **Book Launch: ADB-UNCTAD Study on Benefits of South Asian Economic Cooperation – Richard Vokes, Country Director (Sri Lanka), ADB**
- 9:50 – 10:20 - Remarks by:
Nagesh Kumar,
Director General, RIS
Navin Dahal,
Executive Director, SAWTEE
Sridhar Khatri,
Executive Director, SACEPS
Sadiq Ahmed,
Senior Manager, Regional Programmes, South Asia Region, WorldBank
Douglas Keh,
Country Director, United Nations Development Programme
Indrajit Coomaraswamy,
Director, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat
- 10:20 – 10:45 - Keynote Address:
“A Vision for South Asia”
Rehman Sobhan,
Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh
- 10:45 – 11:15 - TEA/Coffee [Comitee Room B]

PARALLEL SESSION (Committee Room A)

PARALLEL SESSION [Committee Room C]

11:15 –
13:00

Session I: SAFTA: Current Status & Prospects

Chairperson: Muchkund Dubey, Co-Chairperson,
South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)

Presentation by: Dushni Weerakoon, Deputy Director,
IPS

Discussants: Selim Raihan, Executive Director,
South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM),
Bangladesh

Macky Hashim, Past President,
FCCISL & SCCI

I.N. Mukherji, Professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Arif Zaman, Programme Director, South Asia Trade & Investment Network (SATIN) & Advisor, South Asia Commonwealth Business Council (CBC)

Open Forum

Promoting Tourism in South Asia

Chairperson: Bishwambher Pyakuryal, Professor of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Presentation by: Renton De Alwis, Chairman,
Sri Lanka Tourist Development Authority & Sri Lanka Promotions Bureau

Discussants: Mohamed Jaleel, Former Minister of Economy & Trade, Republic of Maldives

Maizan Omar Manik, President,
Maldives National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MNCCI)

Open Forum

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch [Committee Room B] & BOOK Launch [Committee Room D]

PARALLEL SESSION (Committee Room A)

PARALLEL SESSION [Committee Room C]

14:00 –
15:45

Session II: Trade in Services in South Asia

Chairperson: Indrajit Coomaraswamy, Director, Economic Affairs Division

Commonwealth Secretariat, UK

Presentation by: Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS

Discussants: Deshal De Mel, Research Officer, IPS

Jayanta Roy, Principal Advisor, CII

Navin Dahal, Executive Director,
South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal

Open Forum

South Asian Growth Quadrangle

Chairperson: Lok Raj Baral, Professor & Executive Chairman, Nepal Centre for Contemporary Studies

Presentation by: Rehman

Sobhan, Chairman,
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD),
Bangladesh

Discussants: Muchkund Dubey, Co-Chairperson,
South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)

Bhekh B. Thapa, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs & Finance, & Ambassador to USA & India

Kamal Hossain, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh

Open Forum

15:45 –
16:00

TEA [Committee Room B]

PARALLEL SESSION (Committee Room A)

PARALLEL SESSION [Committee Room C]

16:00 – 17:45 **Session III: Trade Facilitation in South Asia**
Chairperson: Rajiv Kumar, *Director & Chief Executive, ICRIER, New Delhi*
Presentation by: Jayanta Roy, *Principal Advisor, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)*
Discussants: Safdar Sohail, *Director General, Foreign Trade Institute of Pakistan, Ministry of Commerce*
Mustafizur Rahman, *Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh*
Sayeeful Islam, *Honorary Consul, Consulate of Federative Republic of Brazil in Bangladesh*
Open Forum

India-Sri Lanka, Pakistan-Sri Lanka Bilateral Free Trade Agreements
Chairperson: Macky Hashim, *Past President FCCISL & SCCI*
Presentation by: Deshal De Mel, *Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*
Discussants: Santosh Jha, *Counsellor (Economic & Commerce), Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka*
Mohamed Aejaaz, *Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan High Commission in Sri Lanka*
Arif Zaman, *Programme Director, South Asia Trade & Investment Network (SATIN) & Advisor, South Asia Commonwealth Business Council (CBC)*
Open Forum

Day II: Friday 29th August [Committee Room A]

- 9:00 – 10:45** **Inauguration**
Chair: Naoko Ishii, *Country Director of Sri Lanka, World Bank*
- 9:00 – 9:40** **Key Note Address: “Making Cooperation Work for the Poor in South Asia”**
Ejaz Ghani, *Economic Advisor, South Asia PREM, World Bank*
Sadiq Ahmed, *Senior Manager, Regional Programmes, South Asia Region, World Bank*
- 9:40 – 10:10** **Book Launch: South Asia Development & Cooperation Report: 2008**
(Oxford University Press for RIS)
Presentation by: Nagesh Kumar, *Director General, RIS*
Review by: Selim Raihan, *Executive Director, SANEM*
- 10:10 – 10:30** **Address by the Chief Guest:**
H.E. Alok Prasad, *High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka*

10:30 – 10:45 **Open Forum**

10:45 – 11:15

TEA [Committee Room B]

PARALLEL SESSION (Committee Room A)

PARALLEL SESSION [Committee Room C]

11:15 – 13:00 **Session IV: Investment Area in South Asia**
Chairperson: Syed Babar Ali, Co-Chairperson, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)
Presentation by: Nagesh Kumar, Director General, RIS
Discussants: Biplove Choudhary, Trade Specialist, UNDP-RCC
Farooq Sobhan, President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), Bangladesh
Prabhash Ranjan, Lecturer, WB National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Kolkata
Open Forum

Issues for Weaker Economies in South Asia
Chairperson: Navin Dahal, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE)
Presentation by: Mohammad Razzaque, Advisor, Economic Affairs, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK
Discussants: Ratnakar Adhikari, President, SAWTEE
Sonam Tobgay, Agriculture Trade Policy Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan
Ibrahim Zaki, Former Secretary General of SAARC
Open Forum

13:00 – 14:00

LUNCH [Committee Room B]

PARALLEL SESSION (Committee Room A)

PARALLEL SESSION [Committee Room C]

14:00 – 15:45 **Session V: Energy Issues & Integration in South Asia**
Chairperson: Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, SACEPS
Presentation by: Raghuveer Sharma, Senior Economist, World Bank
Discussants: Tilak Siyambalapitiya, Energy Consultant, Sri Lanka
Mahendra Lama, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University
Farooq Sobhan, President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), Bangladesh
Open Forum

ICT Sector in South Asia: Strategies for Cooperation
Chairperson: Hon. Tissa Vitarana, Minister of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Sri Lanka
Presentation by: Anil Srivastava, Executive Vice President and Head, International Cooperation & Academic Relations, Capital Technology Information Services, USA
Discussants: Kanak Mani Dixit, Editor & Publisher, Himal Southasian, Nepal
Rajiv Kumar, Director & Chief Executive, ICRIER, New Delhi
Open Forum

15:45 – 16:00

TEA [Committee Room B]

PARALLEL SESSION (Committee Room A)

PARALLEL SESSION [Committee Room C]

16:00 – 17:45 Session VI: Managing the Food Prices Crisis in South Asia
Chairperson: Biplove Choudhary, Trade Specialist, UNDP-RCC
Presentation by: Richard Vokes, Country Director – Sri Lanka Resident Mission Asian Development Bank
Discussants: Sonam Tobgay, Agriculture Trade Policy Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan
Mahmoud Saikal, Advisor to UNDP Afghanistan National Development Strategy
Ejaz Ghani, Economic Advisor, South Asia PREM, World Bank
Open Forum

Labour Migration issues in South Asia
Chairperson: Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan
Presentation by: Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)
Discussant: Dilli Raj Khanal, Chairman, Institute of Policy Research & Development, Nepal
Athula Ranasinghe, Senior Lecturer Department of Economics, University of Colombo
Open Forum

17:45 onwards

Visit SAARC Trade Fair

Day III: Saturday 30th August [Committee Room A]

9:00 – 10:45 Inauguration

Chair: Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade & Investment Division, UNESCAP

9:00 – 9:40 Launch of World Bank Reports:

South Asia Growth & Integration – Ejaz Ghani, Economic Advisor, South Asia PREM, World Bank

South Asia Report on Transport – Marianne Kilpatrick, Senior Transport Specialist, South Asia Sustainable Development, World Bank

South Asia Report on Energy – Raghuveer Sharma, Team Leader, World Bank

9:40 – 10:00 Address by the Chief Guest:

To be Announced

10:00 – 10:20 Key Note Address: Road Map for South Asia

Akmal Hussain,

Professor of Economics, Beaconhouse National University

& Senior Fellow, Pakistan

Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)

10:20 – 10:45 Open Forum

10:45 – 11:15

TEA [Committee Room B]

PARALLEL SESSION (Committee Room A)

PARALLEL SESSION [Committee Room C]

11:15 – 13:00 **Session VII: Transport issues & Integration in South Asia**
Chairperson: Ejaz Ghani, *Economic Advisor, South Asia PREM, World Bank*
Presentation by: M. Rahmatullah, *former Director, Transport & Infrastructure, UNESCAP, Bangkok & currently Transport Policy Advisor, TSMR Programme, Bangladesh Planning Commission*
Discussants: Prabir De, *Fellow, RIS*
Amal Kumarage, *Professor of Civil Engineering, Department of Transport & Logistics Management, University of Moratuwa*
Marianne Kilpatrick, *Senior Transport Specialist, South Asia Sustainable Development, World Bank*
Open Forum

Bringing the 'IPL spirit' to Saarc
Chairperson: Pradeep Mehta, *Secretary General, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International, India*
Presentation by: Shekhar Shah, *Regional Economic Advisor - South Asia, World Bank*
Discussants: Nitya Nanda, *Fellow, Centre for Global Agreements, Legislation & Trade, TERI, New Delhi*
Deshal De Mel, *Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*
Farooq Sobhan, *President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), Bangladesh*
Akmal Hussain, *Professor of Economics, Beaconhouse National University & Senior Fellow, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE)*
Open Forum

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH [Committee Room B]**

14:00 – 15:45 **Session VIII: Strengthening the SAARC Process**
Chairperson: Muchkund Dubey, *Co-Chairperson, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)*
Presentation by: Mahendra Lama, *Vice Chancellor Sikkim University*
Discussants: Ibrahim Zaki, *Former Secretary General of SAARC*
Nihal Rodrigo, *Former Ambassador & Secretary-General of SAARC*
Rehman Sobhan, *Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh*
Open Forum

15:45 – 16:15 **“The Outcomes & Follow-Up”**
Chair: Rehman Sobhan, *Chairman, CPD*
Speakers: Ejaz Ghani, *Economic Advisor, South Asia PREM, World Bank*
Saman Kelegama, *Executive Director, IPS*
Nagesh Kumar, *Director General, RIS*