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


9:50 – 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/Cofee [Comitee Room B]
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<td>11:15 – 13:00</td>
<td>Session I: SAFTA: Current Status &amp; Prospects</td>
<td>Muchkund Dubey, Co-Chairperson, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS)</td>
<td>Dushni Weerakoon, Deputy Director, IPS</td>
<td>Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), Bangladesh; Macky Hashim, Past President, FCCISL &amp; SCCI; I.N. Mukherji, Professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; Arif Zaman, Programme Director, South Asia Trade &amp; Investment Network (SATIN) &amp; Advisor, South Asia Commonwealth Business Council (CBC)</td>
<td>South Asian Growth Quadrangle Chairperson: Lok Raj Baral, Professor &amp; 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 &amp; Finance, &amp; Ambassador to USA &amp; India; Kamal Hossain, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh</td>
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<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14:00 – 15:45</td>
<td>Session II: Trade in Services in South Asia</td>
<td>Indrajit Coomaraswamy, Director, Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK</td>
<td>Ram Upendra Das, Fellow, RIS</td>
<td>Deshal De Mel, Research Officer, IPS; Jayanta Roy, Principal Advisor, CII; Navin Dahal, Executive Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics &amp; Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal</td>
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<td>15:45 – 16:00</td>
<td>TEA</td>
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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

(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]
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
Faroq 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 Razzzaque, 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]

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
Faroq 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]
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 – Raghuvir 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