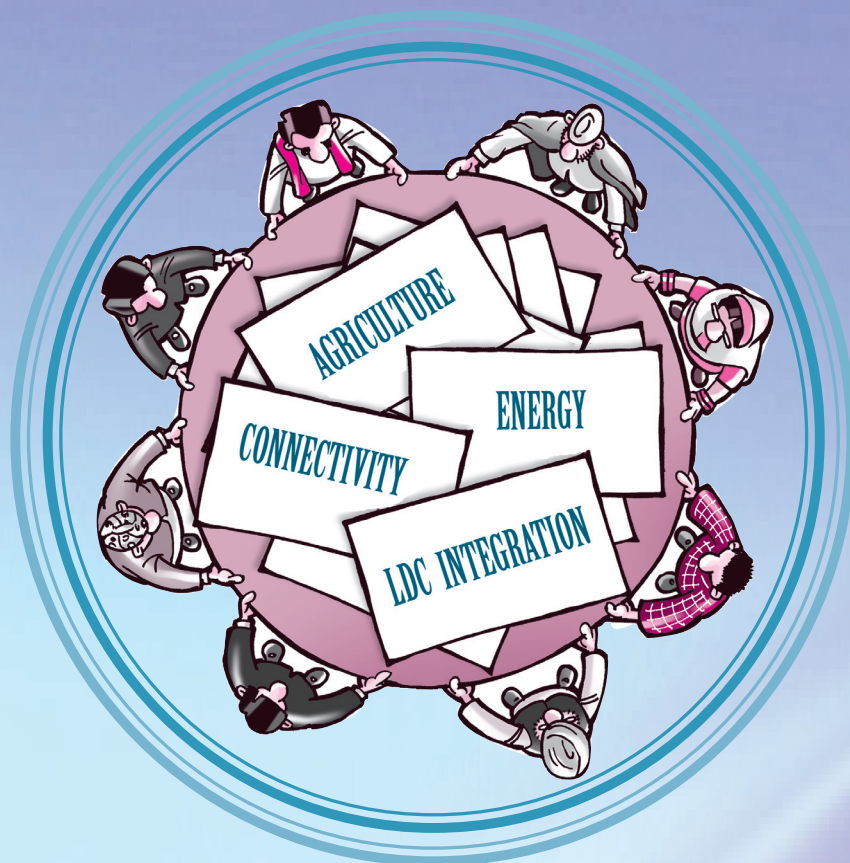




Regional Economic Integration, Climate Change and Food Security Agenda for the Decade 2011-2020

17-19 December 2010, Kathmandu



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE AND BRIEF BIOS

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Day I: (Friday, 17 December 2010)	
1630 – 1700 Registration and Tea/Coffee	
1700 – 1900 Inaugural Session (Regency Ballroom)	
<p>Chairperson: Prof Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Kathmandu</p> <p>Welcome and Introductory Address: Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu</p> <p>Special Remarks: Dr Sekhar Bonu, Director, Country Coordination & Regional Cooperation Division, South Asia Department, Asian Development Bank, Manila</p> <p>Special Remarks: Mr Robert Piper, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Kathmandu</p> <p>Special Remarks: H.E. Dr Sheel Kant Sharma, Secretary General, SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu</p> <p>Special Remarks: Dr Gowher Rizvi, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Dhaka</p> <p>Special Remarks: Hon'ble Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Inauguration and Inaugural Address: Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal</p>	
1900 – 2100 Welcome Dinner	
Day II: (Saturday, 18 December 2010)	
0830 – 0900 Registration and Tea/Coffee	
0900 – 1100 Plenary session (Regency A+B)	
<p>THEME: EMERGING ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND POLICY CHALLENGES FOR SOUTH ASIAN ECONOMIES</p> <p>Chair: Prof Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka</p> <p>Presentation I: Emerging economic outlook and policy challenges for Asia-Pacific: A South Asian perspective – Dr Nagesh Kumar, Chief Economist and Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok</p> <p>Presentation II: Regional integration in South Asia: Problems, challenges and outlook – Dr Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), Colombo</p> <p>Panelists: Dr Atiur Rahman, Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka Dr Yubaraj Khatiwada, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank, Kathmandu Mr Annisul Huq, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamabad Dr Akmal Hussain, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore Prof I.N. Mukherji, Senior Consultant, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi</p> <p>Floor Discussion</p>	
1100 – 1115 Tea/Coffee	
1115 – 1300 Parallel Sessions	
Regency A+B	Regency C
<p>THEME: ENHANCING MERCHANDISE TRADE IN SOUTH ASIA</p> <p>Chair: Mr Pradeep Mehta, General Secretary, CUTS International, Jaipur</p> <p>Presentation I: Pruning the sensitive lists in SAFTA – Dr Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on</p>	<p>THEME: REGIONAL COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE</p> <p>Chair: Hon'ble Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, Member of Parliament and Constituent Assembly, Nepal, and IUCN Regional Councillor for South and South-east Asia, Kathmandu</p> <p>Presentation: Climate change, agriculture and biodiversity – Dr S. Bala Ravi, Advisor, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation</p>

<p>International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi</p> <p>Presentation II: Addressing non-tariff barriers – Dr Mustafiz Rahman, Executive Director, CPD, Dhaka</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Dilli Raj Khanal, Chairman, Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD), Kathmandu 2. Mr Jagadish Prasad Agrawal, Chairman, Nimbus International Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu 3. Dr Akmal Hussain, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore <p>Floor Discussion</p>	<p>(MSSRF), Chennai</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Charitha Herath, Chairman, Central Environment Authority (CEA), Government of Sri Lanka, Colombo 2. Mr Chandan Sapkota, Research Officer, SAWTEE, Kathmandu 3. Mr Shafqat Munir, South Asia Centre for Economic Journalists, Islamabad <p>Floor Discussion</p>
<p>1300 – 1400 Lunch</p>	
<p>1400 – 1545 Parallel Sessions</p>	
<p>Regency A+B</p> <p>THEME: SERVICES TRADE IN SOUTH ASIA</p> <p>Chair: Dr Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, IPS, Colombo</p> <p>Presentation: Contours and modalities of services trade liberalization – Prof Rajan S Ratna, Professor, Center for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE, Kathmandu 2. Mr Sumith Nakandala, Director General of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka, Colombo <p>Floor Discussion</p>	<p>Regency C</p> <p>THEME: TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES FOR SOUTH ASIA</p> <p>Chair: Ms Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, SAARC Secretary General Designate, Male</p> <p>Presentation I: WTO and UNFCCC Negotiations: South Asian Agenda – Mr Nitya Nanda, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi</p> <p>Presentation II: Trade in environmental goods and services – Dr Fahmida Khatun, Additional Director, Research, CPD, Dhaka</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Biplove Choudhary, Programme Specialist, Poverty Reduction Team, UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, Bangkok 2. Mr Bharath Jairaj, Senior Associate, World Resources Institute, Washington, DC. 3. Mr Paras Kharel, Senior Programme Officer, SAWTEE, Kathmandu 4. Mr Alope Mookherjea, Past Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Eastern Region, and Chairman, Flakt India Ltd., Kolkata <p>Floor Discussion</p>
<p>1545 – 1600 Tea/Coffee</p>	
<p>1600 – 1745 Parallel Sessions</p>	
<p>Regency A+B</p> <p>THEME: TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY ISSUES IN SOUTH ASIA</p> <p>Chair: Prof Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, SACEPS</p> <p>Presentation I: Air services liberalization in South Asia – Mr Anushka Wijesinha, Research Officer, IPS, Colombo</p> <p>Presentation II: Improving transport connectivity in South Asia – Dr M Rahmatullah, Visiting Fellow, Centre for Policy</p>	<p>Regency C</p> <p>THEME: FOOD SECURITY AGENDA FOR SOUTH ASIA</p> <p>Chair: Mr Purushottam Ojha, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu</p> <p>Presentation I: Climate Change and food security, operationalization of the SAARC Food Bank, and the conceptualization of the SAARC Seed Bank – Mr Kamalesh Adhikari, Research Director, SAWTEE, Kathmandu</p>

<p>Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka and Former Director (Transport) UNESCAP, Bangkok</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Ghulam Samad, Senior Research Economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad 2. Mr S K Agarwal, Member, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) SAARC Forum and Director, Vimal Organics Ltd., Ghaziabad <p>Floor Discussion</p>	<p>Presentation II: Intra-regional trade of agriculture and food products – Dr Upali Wickramasinghe, Regional Adviser on Poverty Reduction and Food Security, UNESCAP-CAPSA, Bogor</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr Krishna P. Pant, Senior Agricultural Economist, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Nepal, Kathmandu 2. Mr Sherab Wangchuk, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Thimpu 3. Mr Arif Naveed, Research Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad <p>Floor Discussion</p>
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1900 – 2100 Dinner

Day III: (Sunday, 19 December 2010)

0900 – 1100 Parallel Sessions

Regency A+B

THEME: ACTION PLAN ON ENERGY COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA

Chair: Prof Upali Wickramasinghe, Regional Adviser on Poverty Reduction and Food Security, UNESCAP-CAPSA, Bogor

Presentation I: Political economy of energy cooperation in South Asia – Prof Mahendra Lama, Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University, Gangtok (Presentation made by Dr Shanker Krishna Malla, Former Member Secretary, National Planning Commission, Kathmandu)

Presentation II: Political economy of energy cooperation in South Asia – Ms Olivia Gippner, Energy Policy Analyst, Kathmandu

Discussants

1. Mr Chhewang Rinzin, Managing Director, Druk Green Power Corporation Limited, Thimpu
2. Mr Siddhartha SJB Rana, Chairman, Bhote Koshi Power Company Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu
3. Mr Dipak Gyawali, Research Director, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Kathmandu

Floor Discussion

Regency C

THEME: LABOUR MIGRATION AND POLICY CHOICES FOR SOUTH ASIA

Chair: Amb. Farooq Sobhan, President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI), Dhaka

Presentation: Impact on South Asian migrant workers in gulf countries – Dr Irudaya Rajan, Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Kerala

Discussants

1. Prof Sridhar Khatri, Executive Director, SACEPS, Kathmandu
2. Mr Yarendra Basnett, Ph.D Candidate, University of Cambridge, Cambridge

Floor Discussion

1100 – 1115 Tea/Coffee

1115 – 1300 Parallel Sessions

Regency A+B

THEME: TRADE FACILITATION AND INTEGRATION IN SOUTH ASIA

Chair: Dr Mustafiz Rahman, Executive Director, CPD, Dhaka

Presentation I: Role of infrastructure in trade facilitation – Dr Selim Raihan, Executive Director, South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), Dhaka

Regency C

THEME: INTEGRATION ISSUES FOR SOUTH ASIAN LDCs

Chair: Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, Dhaka

Presentation I: LDC issues for UNLDC IV – Dr Mohammad Razaque, Advisor, Economic Affairs, Commonwealth Secretariat, London

<p>Presentation II: Role of government regulations in trade facilitation – Dr Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar, Chairman, Nepal Bank Limited, and Former Member, National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Manish Mohan, Additional Director and Head– South Asia, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI), New Delhi 2. Prof Abdul Wassay Haqiqi, CEO, Haqiqi Auditing and Consulting Company, and Lecturer, American University in Afghanistan, Kabul 3. Ms Suwendrani Jayaratne, Research Officer, IPS, Colombo <p>Floor Discussion</p>	<p>Presentation II: LDC Integration Fund – Mr Ratnakar Adhikari, General Secretary, SAWTEE, Kathmandu</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof I.N. Mukherji, Senior Consultant, RIS, New Delhi 2. Prof Biswambher Pyakuryal, Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu 3. Hon'ble Choida Jamtsho, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Bhutan, Thimpu 4. Dr Muhammad Hussain Malik, Economic Affairs Officer, Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, UNESCAP, Bangkok <p>Floor Discussion</p>
<p>1300 – 1400 Lunch</p>	
<p>1400 – 1600 Plenary Session (Regency A+B)</p>	
<p>THEME: ROLES OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION</p> <p>Chair: Mr Chakra Prasad Banstola, Former Foreign Minister, Government of Nepal, and Former Nepalese Ambassador to India</p> <p>Presentation I: Role of people's representatives in strengthening the regional cooperation process in South Asia – Amb. Nihal Rodrigo, Former SAARC Secretary General, and Former Foreign Secretary, Government of Sri Lanka</p> <p>Presentation II: Role of the private sector in strengthening the regional cooperation process in South Asia – Dr Anura Ekanayake, Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Colombo</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Hon'ble Anisul Islam Mahmud, Member of Parliament and Former Foreign Minister, Bangladesh, and Managing Director, Shasha Denims Ltd., Dhaka</p> <p>Hon'ble Rajendra Kumar Khetan, Member of Parliament and Constituent Assembly, Nepal, and President, Khetan Group, Kathmandu</p> <p>Hon'ble Arifa Khalid Parvez, Member of Punjab Assembly, Lahore</p> <p>Floor Discussion</p>	
<p>1600 – 1615 Tea/Coffee</p>	
<p>1615 – 1800 Way Forward and Closing (Regency A+B)</p>	
<p>Chairperson: Dr Posh Raj Pandey, Executive Chairman, SAWTEE, Kathmandu</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Prof Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD, Dhaka</p> <p>Hon'ble Dr Ram Sharan Mahat, Member of Parliament and Constituent Assembly, and Former Finance Minister, Government of Nepal</p> <p>Mr Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Special Envoy to the President of the Maldives, and Former SAARC Secretary General, Male</p> <p>Mr Prem Shankar Jha, Managing Editor, Financial World, New Delhi</p> <p>Mr Pradeep Shrestha, Vice President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamabad</p> <p>Closing Remarks: Chairperson</p>	

**BRIEF
BIOGRAPHIES**



Prof Rehman Sobhan is the Chairman of Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka. He is a prominent Bangladeshi economist and civil society leader. Previously, he was a member of the first Planning Commission in Bangladesh, and Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. He has served as a Visiting Fellow, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford; Member, of the Advisory Council of the President of Bangladesh; Executive Director, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS); Visiting Scholar, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University; and Senior Research Fellow, Ash Institute of Democratic Governance, Harvard University. Professor Sobhan has held a number of important professional positions which include President, Bangladesh Economic Association; Member, U.N. Committee for Development Planning; Member, Governing Council of the U.N. University, Tokyo; Member of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva; Member of the Executive Committee of the International Economic Association; Member of the Group of Eminent Persons appointed by the SAARC Heads of State to review the future of SAARC; and Chairman of the Board of Grameen Bank. He is currently a member of the Board of SACEPS, and Chairman of the Pratichi Trust (Bangladesh) set up by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen. He has published a large number of books, research monographs and articles published in professional journals, relating to the political economy of development, public enterprise and privatization, foreign aid, petro politics, agrarian reform, regional cooperation in South Asia, democracy and governance. His latest book is titled *Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Agendas for Inclusive Development in South Asia*.

Dr Nagesh Kumar is the Chief Economist and Director of Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division of UNESCAP, Bangkok. During 2002-09, he was Director-General of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He has also served on the faculty of the United Nations University-Institute for New Technologies, Maastricht, the Netherlands (1993-98). Dr Kumar has served on the boards of the Exim Bank of India, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva; the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS); and as a consultant to the World Bank, ADB, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UN-DESA, the Commonwealth Secretariat, among others. A PhD in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics (1988), Dr Kumar has published over 15 books and over 90 research papers.



Dr Saman Kelegama is the Executive Director of Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) of Sri Lanka. He received his Doctorate (D.Phil.) in Economics from University of Oxford, U.K. Dr. Kelegama is a Fellow at the *National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka* and was the President of the *Sri Lanka Economic Association (SLEA)* during 1999-2003. He has published extensively on Sri Lankan and regional economic issues in both local and international journals. His latest books are: *Trade in Services in South Asia* (Sage: 2009), *South Asia in the WTO* (Sage: 2007), *Development under Stress: Sri Lankan Economy in Transition* (Sage: 2006), and *Contemporary Economic Issues: Sri Lanka in the Global Context* (SLEA: 2006). He is also the co-editor of the *South Asia Economic Journal* (Sage Publication) and also serves in a number of government and private sector Boards as an

independent member.

Dr Atiur Rahman is the Governor of Central Bank of Bangladesh. After obtaining his M.A. in Economics from Dhaka University, he pursued studies in the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London under a Commonwealth scholarship, securing M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics (1983). He was also awarded a Commonwealth Development Fellowship at the University of Manitoba in Canada (1989), a Ford Foundation Post Doctoral Fellowship at the University of London (1991-92), and a Visiting Research Fellowship at the Institute of South-East Asian Studies, Singapore



(1998-99). Dr. Rahman has won many awards and Gold Medals for his outstanding contribution in various developmental fields. Besides publishing numerous papers in national and international journals, he has published 45 books in English and Bengali.



Dr Yubraj Khatiwada is the Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank. Previously, he was the Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal. He has also served as the Senior Economist in the UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo; Head of the Economic Research Department of the Nepal Rastra Bank; and a visiting faculty member at Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University, among others. He received a PhD in Monetary Economics from Delhi School of Economics in 1991. Dr Khatiwada has carried out a considerable amount of research and has authored and co-authored many books and articles.

Mr Annisul Huq is the President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also the Chairman and CEO of Mohammadi Group. He was the former President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and also the President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturer and Exporter's Association. Having represented Bangladesh in WTO conferences as a key business leader, Mr. Huq has been actively involved in the promotion of Bangladeshi garment industry.



Dr Sayed Akmal Hussain is a Distinguished Professor of Economics, Beaconhouse National University; Member, Governing Board, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS); and Senior Fellow, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. Dr. Hussain has a B.A. Honors Degree in Economics and Politics from Cambridge University and a PhD in Economics from Sussex University. Besides having taught in a wide range of academic and professional institutions at home and abroad, Dr. Hussain has undertaken research on Economic Policy, Poverty Alleviation and Regional Cooperation in South Asia. He has also helped to establish civil society institutions for poverty alleviation, has been engaged in advocacy for Regional Cooperation in South Asia at the national and international levels, and has contributed to national economic policy as an independent economist.

Mr Pradeep Mehta is the General Secretary of Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), a leading economic policy research, advocacy and networking, non-governmental group in India. Mehta serves on several policy-making bodies of the Government of India, related to trade, investment, competition, environment and consumer affairs, and has been Honorary Adviser to the Commerce & Industry Minister of India and NGO Adviser to the WTO Director General, Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi. He chairs the advisory committee of the South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Kathmandu. In the past, he has served on the governing boards of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ITCSD); Geneva, Consumer Coordination Council, New Delhi and on the Global Policy and Campaigns Committee on Economic Issues of Consumer International, London. Mehta has been named as one of the 30 most famous columnists in India by a leading newspaper in India. He has published/edited several books and papers on trade, investment, competition and development.





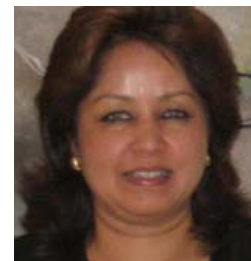
Dr Nisha Taneja is a Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi. She has worked extensively on South Asia, particularly on trade and transport facilitation, non-tariff barriers and informal trade. She has also worked on various aspects of India-Pakistan trade, Indo-Nepal trade and India-Sri Lanka trade. She has published several research papers which have been disseminated in India and abroad at various policy, business and academic forums. She is currently leading a project on Trade Facilitation in South Asia involving national and international consultants. She is also steering a project on Pruning the Sensitive Lists under SAFTA with a team of consultants in South Asia. She has served on several committees set up by the Government of India and has also served as a Consultant with the World Bank on trade and transport competitiveness studies.

Dr Mustafizur Rahman is the Executive Director of Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka. He holds his Ph.D degree in Economics from Moscow State University, and was a Post-doctoral Visiting Fellow at Oxford University, UK and a Senior Fulbright Fellow at Yale University, USA. Dr. Rahman is also a Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka. His current research interests include areas such as trade policy in developing countries, regional integration in South Asia, export sector competitiveness, WTO negotiations and LDCs interests and have published extensively on related issues. He is a member of the Panel of Economists for the Sixth Five Year Plan and Participatory Perspective Plan of Bangladesh.



Dr Dilli Raj Khanal is the Chairman of Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD), Kathmandu. He is also a Visiting Professor at Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University. He has a PhD in Economics from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Dr Khanal has served in a number of policymaking bodies, including National Planning Commission and Nepal Rastra Bank. He has published in a range of economic issues in various regional and global journals, and is also author of several books.

Hon'ble Dr Arzu Rana Deuba is a Member of Parliament and Constituent Assembly, Nepal, and IUCN Regional Councilor for South and South-east Asia. Previously, she was the Environmental Advisor at the Canadian Cooperation Office and has worked as freelance gender consultant for various organization including UNDP, GTZ, USAID, UNFPA, UNICEF, CEPAD and the Ministry of Water Resources. Dr Deuba is the founding member of SAMANTA, Nepal Civil Society for Disaster Relief, and Rural Women's Development and Unity Centre (RUWDUC). She has published on environmental and gender issues. She has a PhD in Organizational Psychology from Punjab University.



Dr Sekhara Pillai Bala Ravi is an Advisor at MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai. His areas of interest include poverty alleviation through community participatory, conservation in agro-biodiversity, hotspots and creating awareness among farmers, Panchayat Raj Institutions and civil society on the intellectual property rights related to agriculture and related Indian legislations on farmers' rights and biodiversity. He served as a resource personnel to FAO on biosafety and is a member of FAO expert team on Seed Treaty. Previously, he served in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for 30 years as a scientist and science administrator and retired as the Assistant

Director General (Intellectual Property Rights). He has been associated with the legislation of Indian Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Act. He has bred improved varieties and hybrids of yams, pigeon pea and sweet sorghum and published more than 100 research, review and policy papers. He is trained in agriculture with specialization in Genetics & Plant Breeding.

Mr Charitha Herath is the Chairman of Central Environment Authority (CEA), Government of Sri Lanka. He is also a consultant at Ministry of Mass-media and Information, and a senior lecturer at Department of Philosophy & Psychology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. His research interests are social and political philosophy, ethnic studies cultural psychology, and government and politics in South Asia. He holds a MA from Ohio University, USA.



Mr Chandan Sapkota is a Research Officer at South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE). He is a columnist for *Republica* daily and also a national consultant at the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, the Government of Nepal. Previously, he was a Junior Fellow for Trade, Equity and Development Programme at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C. He was also a Research Assistant at Asia America Initiative, Washington, D.C. He was awarded with Financial Executive International (FEI),

Pennsylvania Chapter, Outstanding Student Award in 2009. He is a graduate from Dickinson College with honors in economics and mathematics. He has a number of publications on macroeconomic issues, mostly on trade policy, political economy and economic growth.

Mr Shafqat Munir is a journalist, campaigner and researcher by profession. He has long been associated with SAWTEE network and South Asia Centre for Economic Journalists. He has done his post graduation in Political Science and Journalism. Currently, he is a PhD scholar at the Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad. He has been a visiting faculty at the same university.



Mr Rajan S Ratna is a Professor at Center for WTO studies of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi. He has served the Government of India in various capacities for more than 21 years, focusing on international trade policy formulation and implementation. Prof Ratna did his M.Sc. from Banaras Hindu University and M.Phil from Jawaharlal Nehru University. He has also done courses on Foreign Trade Policy from IIFT and on Negotiating Strategy from Harvard University. Prof Rajan has written papers and made presentations on several issues relating to trade policy formulation and trade policy

of India. He has also published articles and papers for UNCTAD, UNESCAP, Commonwealth Secretariat and some of the leading periodicals of India on issues dealing with regional trade agreements, preferential rules of origin, and trade liberalization, among others.

Dr Posh Raj Pandey is the Executive Chairman of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal. Dr Pandey holds a PhD in economics from Punjab University in India and an M.B.A. from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

He has 17 years of experience on managing economic development, trade policy formulation and implementation. He was a Member, responsible for macroeconomic policies, including fiscal and trade policies, of the National Planning Commission (2006 – 2008). He served as National Program Manager for various UNDP projects, overseeing program implementation and collaborating with diverse teams of local and international consultants, government officials and international aid organizations. An integral part of Nepal's Accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Program (1998-2002) and the Multilateral Trade Integration and Human Development Program (2003-2004), Dr Pandey worked with the Government of Nepal to identify negotiating positions and negotiate with WTO members, prepare the requisite documents and formulate trade and investment policies in context with the WTO membership. Later, serving as the National Program Manager for the Trade Related Capacity Project, Dr Pandey worked with the government to develop institutional capacity and the legal framework for several WTO agreements.



Mr Sumith Nakandala is Director General of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka. Previously, he was Sri Lanka's Deputy High Commissioner in the UK; Second Secretary to the Maldives; and First Secretary and Counselor at Sri Lanka's High Commission in New Delhi.

Ms Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed is the SAARC Secretary General Designate, The Maldives. Previously, Ms Dhiyana was Attorney General of the Maldives.



Nitya Nanda is a Fellow at the Centre for Global Agreements, Legislation and Trade at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi. Nitya has more than a decade's experience in research and teaching on international trade, investment and development issues. Prior to his engagement with TERI, he worked with CUTS International, Jaipur; National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi; and Council for Social Development, New Delhi. An economist by training, his current areas of interest are: international trade, intellectual property rights, resources, energy and environment issues including the relevant legal and political economy dimensions. He has published several articles and papers on these issues in professional journals, edited volumes and has written several columns for newspapers and magazines. He has also authored a book titled "Expanding Frontiers of Global Trade Rules: The Political Economy Dynamics of the International Trading System", published in 2008 by Routledge, London.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is an Additional Director of Research at Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka. Prior to joining CPD she worked as a Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies; as an Environment Specialist for UNDP; and as an Economist for the USAID Mission in Bangladesh. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University College London, University of London, UK. She has taught economics at universities in Bangladesh and England. She was a Visiting Fellow at the Christian Michelsen Institute, Norway. She is also a Director of Janata Bank Limited, the second largest state owned bank of Bangladesh. Dr. Khatun has undertaken research for several international organizations including UNDP, FAO, ODI in London, Harvard Business School, UNEP, DFID, Oxfam GB, North-South Institute of Canada, Adelaide University, ICTSD in Geneva, and the Asian Development Bank. Her areas of research include macroeconomic growth and stability, monetary policy, resource mobilization, remittances, international trade and WTO issues, and climate change. A commentator on development issues on the national and international media, Dr Khatun has published on a range of issues such as environmental goods, services, labor, aid effectiveness, and trade, among others.



Dr Biplove Choudhary is a Programme Specialist at UNDP Regional Center, Bangkok. He is a development economist with over 11 years of experience at the policy, research and grass-roots levels, he has been working with UNDP since 2007. Before joining the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok, he was posted at the Regional Centre in Colombo. Earlier, he headed CENTAD, the Trade and Development arm of Oxfam in South Asia and had been an advisor to civil society organizations, national governments and international agencies such as Commonwealth Secretariat-DFID, and UN agencies. Biplove holds a Ph.D. in international trade and development from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has published extensively on poverty, inclusive globalization and growth in academic journals, books and mainstream media.

Mr Bharath Jairaj is a Senior Associate at World Resources Institute (WRI) and works specifically with the Institutions and Governance Program at WRI. He has previously worked with environmental and consumer advocacy groups in India including WWF-India, Toxics Link and Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group (CAG). He was the Director of CAG till 2008, and worked on issues ranging from access to information and improving urban governance to consumer protection and public interest advocacy campaigns for enforcement of environmental laws. At WRI, Mr Jairaj works with civil society partners and governments in South Asian and South East Asian country partners to improve governance processes and regulatory substance in the electricity sector. He has a law degree from the National Law School of India University, a Masters in Law from the National University of Singapore and a Masters in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore.



Mr Paras Kharel is a Senior Programme Officer at South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTE), Kathmandu. An M.A. in Economics from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, he is a trade economist whose major research interests includes regional integration, competitiveness, trade facilitation, services trade, and trade issues of landlocked developing countries and has authored a number of papers in these areas.

Mr Alope Mookherjea is the Chairman of Flakt India Ltd. and Vice-Chairman of Meredian Medical Research & Hospitals Ltd. He is also the Director of Titagarh Bio-tec Ltd, Titagrh Wagons Ltd, and Woodlands Medical Centre, and Senior Advisor to Ernst & Young. Previously, he was Chairman of WEBEL Group; Director of South Asia Board of ABB (Asea Brown Boveri Ltd); Consultant to UNIDO in Vienna & UNEP in Nairobi, and Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Eastern Region. He has represented India in various conferences, including Zero Emission Research Initiative of the United Nations.. Mookherjea was also a member of Supreme Court appointed committees on Industrial Compliance. He was also the immediate past president of Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI).



Mr Anushka Wijesinha is a Research Officer at the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) of Sri Lanka, Colombo. His key area of research is on taxation policy, and is seconded as the Research Officer to the Presidential Commission on Taxation. He previously worked as the Assistant Director, Economic Affairs, at the Government Peace Secretariat, where he was involved in identifying key opportunities and constraints in the conflict-affected economies of the North and East, and promoting private sector enterprise. He has also worked as a short term consultant at the World Bank, Sri Lanka, in the South Asia Finance and Private Sector Development section. Mr Wijesinha has a MA in Economics from University of Leeds, the UK.

Dr M Rahmatullah is a Visiting Fellow at Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dhaka. Previously, he was the Director of Transport and Infrastructure Development at UN-ESCAP, Bangkok, and retired in June 2000, after 22 years of service with the United Nations (UN). He is an internationally reputed Transport Specialist with over 45 years of experience in Bangladesh and abroad. Dr Rahmatullah was a founding faculty member of Urban and Regional Planning Department at EPUET (BUET) in Bangladesh. He was also the Joint Chief/Joint Secretary (Transport) Planning Commission, which he left in 1978 to join the UN-ESCAP. He has published various issues related to the transportation sector. He holds a PhD in Transportation Planning from the University of Liverpool, the UK.



Mr Ghulam Samad is a Senior Research Economist at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad. He was Research Officer at Planning Commission of Pakistan and Research Associate/Lecturer at International Islamic University, Islamabad. Mr. Samad has served as a consultant for a number of national, regional and international organizations. His various publications are on the issues of IPR, FDI, and technology transfer. He did his M.Phil in Economics from International Islamic University, Islamabad.

Mr Shrawan Kumar Agarwal is a Member of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) SAARC Forum and Director of Vimal Organics Ltd., Ghaziabad. He is also a Fellow Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He has been associated with the FICCI SAARC FORUM for about 15 years. He was Executive Committee Member of SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the years 2005-2007. Agarwal has been actively involved with trade negotiations with all the SAARC countries. He has a M.B.A. from the Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University.



Mr Purushottam Ojha is the Secretary at Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal.

Mr Kamalesh Adhikari is the Research Director and Editor of Trade Insight at SAWTEE. He has been working on trade, intellectual property rights and farmers' rights issues and has a number of publications in these areas. Mr. Adhikari has done Masters in Rural Development from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu and is also affiliated with National College Centre for Development Studies as a faculty member. He is also a member of the Curriculum Development Committee of the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Nepal. He has worked as a consultant for several national, regional and international organizations including the Government of Nepal, UNDP Nepal, UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.



Dr. Upali Wickramasinghe is a Regional Adviser on Poverty Reduction and Food Security attached to the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA, a regional institute of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Dr Wickramasinghe has held several positions in the past including a Policy / Programme Development Consultant at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand; Professor of Economics of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in Sri Lanka; Economic Adviser of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal; Senior Economic Adviser of The Asia Foundation in Sri Lanka. He has also worked with a number of national and international organizations such as UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank, the Sri Lanka Export Development Board and the Department of Commerce of Sri Lanka. Dr Wickramasinghe has written on household coping strategies, food security, agricultural markets, economic growth and development and regional cooperation, resulting in research papers published in journals, periodicals and books, and as monographs. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA.

Mr Sherab Wangchuk is a Planning Officer at Policy and Economic and Planning Division of Ministry of Agriculture & Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan. Previously, he was Assistant Agricultural Economist/Assistant Research Officer at RNR-RC, Jakar. Wangchuk has attended several trainings related to poverty reduction, regional food security, and agriculture and has a number of publications on these issues. He is a graduate of Sherubtse College, Kanglung, Bhutan.



Mr Arif Naveed is a Research Associate at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad. His research focuses on the issues of human development and application of Sen's capability approach, particularly to poverty, education and health. Previously, he worked with the Mahbub-ul-Haq Human Development Center Islamabad, where he was team leader for the Pakistan chapter of the DFID funded, Research Consortium on Educational Outcomes and Poverty. He contributed in the 2008 South Asia Human Development Report on Technology and a textbook on human development and capability approach, "An Introduction to Human Development and Capability Approach: Freedom and

Agency". He also worked with the National Rural Support Programme and implemented several large scale rural development and poverty reduction projects in Pakistan. He holds a Master's degree in Economics from the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and a Master of Research in International Development from the University of Bath, UK.

Prof Mahendra P Lama is the founding Vice Chancellor of Sikkim University. He is presently a Member of the prestigious National Security Advisory Board of Government of India. Previously, he was Professor of South Asian Economies and the Chairman of the Centre for South, Central, South East Asia and South West Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He also served as the Chief Economic Adviser in the Government of Sikkim with a Cabinet Minister rank for seven years since 2000. Central to his intellectual pursuits is development and cooperation in South and South East Asia. He was nominated by the Government of India in the Independent Expert Group set up by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 1997. He has a number of publications and regularly writes for national dailies.



Mr Chhewang Rinzin is the Managing Director of Druk Green Power Corporation Limited, Thimpu. Previously, he was Managing Director of Bhutan Power Corporation Limited (T&D utility), and Kurichhu Hydro Power Corporation Limited & Kurichhu Project Authority. Rixin has served in different positions at the Department of Power, Bhutan. He has Bachelors and Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Wisconsin, USA.

Mr Siddhartha S J B Rana is the Chairman of Bhote Koshi Power Company Pvt. Ltd., Tara Management Private Limited, Amravati Group of Companies, Himal International Energy Private Limited, and Sipradi Group of Companies. He is also the Director of Surya Nepal Private Limited. Previously, he was the Chairman of SR Holding Private Limited, Tara Fund Private Limited, and Surya Fund Private Limited. He worked in various capacity at organizations such as Lawrie Group PLC, UK, Barclays Global Services, City of London, UK,



Nepal Grindlays Bank Limited, and Nepal Arab Bank Limited. Rana holds a MBA Degree from Henley School of Management, UK.



Mr Dipak Gyawali is a Research Director of Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Kathmandu and former Minister for Water Resources. He is also Pragma (academician) of the Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology. His research focuses on the interface between technology and society and on issues of water and energy in particular.

Ambassador Farooq Sobhan is the President and Chief Executive of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI). Mr. Sobhan was Executive Chairman, Board of Investment and Special Envoy to the Prime Minister 1997-1999; Foreign Secretary 1995-1997, High Commissioner to India 1992-1995; Ambassador to China 1987-1991; High- Commissioner to Malaysia 1984-1987; and Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations 1981-1984. He served as Chairman of the Group of 77 at the UN 1982-1983, and was Chairman, UN Commission on TNCs 1991-1992. Mr. Sobhan is a Member of the International Research Committee of the Centre for Security Studies, Colombo. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) and was the Co-Chairman of the Coalition for South Asian Co- operation (CASAC) from 1994-2001. He was a visiting professor at the Elliott School for International Affairs at George Washington University in 2003, where he taught a post graduate course on South Asia. He has written extensively on the subject of regional co-operation in South Asia and is currently involved in a number of initiatives in the region.



Dr Irudaya Rajan is the Chair Professor, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) Research Unit on International Migration at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He has more than two decades of research experience in Kerala; has coordinated six major migration surveys (1998, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010) in Kerala (with Professor K C Zachariah), Goa Migration Survey 2008; and has published books and articles on social, economic and demographic implications on international migration. He is member of the National Migration Policy drafting group appointed by the MOIA and is also the editor of the Annual Series India Migration Report brought out by Routledge.

Prof Sridhar Khatri is the Executive Director of South Asia Center for Policy Studies (SACEPS). Professor Khatri was formerly the Executive Director at the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) in Colombo, Sri Lanka; and Executive Director, Institute of Foreign Affairs, Kathmandu, Nepal. He has published on issues such as regional security, energy policy, political economy, and labor migration, among others. Professor Khatri has taught and worked in various capacities at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, for over 27 years. He has degrees from City College of New York and School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York, and was a visiting scholar at the London School of Economics in 1989–1990.





Mr. Yurendra Basnett is a PhD candidate in political economy of development at the University of Cambridge, UK. His research focuses on historical and contemporary institutions of international labour migration. He holds a master's degree from the London School of Economics. Prior to pursuing his PhD he was a fellow at the Overseas Development Institute U.K. and worked as a trade economist for the Government of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. He advised Vanuatu on trade policy and continues to be involved in Vanuatu's 'Enhanced Integrated Framework' process and WTO accession negotiations. He has also worked as a trade advisor to numerous developing country governments in Asia and Africa. He is currently a trade adviser and consultant to the Overseas Development Institute, United Nations Development Programme, Enhanced Integrated Framework Secretariat of the World Trade Organisation, Pacific Institute of Public Policy, Australian Aid Programme and Adam Smith International.

Dr Selim Raihan is the Executive Director of South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), Dhaka. He is also a faculty member of the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. Dr. Raihan's research works focus on issues related to international trade, macroeconomic policies, and poverty. Dr. Raihan possesses expertise in micro- and macro-econometric modeling techniques and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models. He is author of several books, book chapters and journal articles. He has worked for several international organizations including Asian Development Bank, UNDP, World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, ILO, IDRC, European Commission, IFPRI, UNCTAD and UNESCAP, and has also presented his analytical works in a number of international conferences. He holds a PhD from the University of Manchester, UK.



Dr Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar is the Chairman of Nepal Bank Limited and a former Member of National Planning Commission. He was the Executive Director of Institute for Policy Research; Deputy Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank; Advisor to FNCCI; and Member of Board of Directors of Nepal Arab Bank. He holds a PhD Degree from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Mr. Manish Mohan is the Additional Director and Head of South Asia Division of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI), New Delhi. He is closely associated with the promotion of commercial relations between India and SAARC countries. He is also looking after the bilateral trade relations with SAARC countries namely India-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IPCCI), Bangladesh-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BICCI), India-Sri Lanka Joint Business Council (ISJBC). He has authored many publications on South Asia and is also the member of SAARC Award Committee.





Mr Abdul Wassay Haqiqi is the CEO of Haqiqi Auditing and Consulting Company and Adjunct Professor at American University in Afghanistan. He has worked for American International Group (AIG) as a senior accountant, and in Afghanistan as an advisor employed by the World Bank/Bearingpoint (now called Deloitte), USAID/Bearingpoint and Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund working in the ministries of Finance, Commerce and Industry and Economy. He has presented, written, and published many reports. He has taught accounting and Insurance in Kabul University, being Vice Chancellor of Bakhtar University and has advised the Parliament of Afghanistan during the 2006 and 2007 budget approval process while being hired by USAID/APAP. Mr Haqiqi, has participated in many negotiations, seminars, workshops and international meetings, including those of IMF, UNCTAD, UNESCAP, ECO, SPECA, CAREC, SAARC, WTO, WIPO, World Bank ADB, UNDP, OIC/Commerce and SAARC. His specialties are Trade Facilitation, Regional Cooperation, Macro-economic policies, Insurance, auditing/accounting, tax planning and training/capacity development.

Ms Suwendrani Jayaratne is a Research Assistant at Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) of Sri Lanka, Colombo. Working in the International Trade Policy Unit her work is mainly focused on international trade, trade facilitation and regional integration. Her work on trade facilitation has focused on trade facilitation in Sri Lanka and South Asia, and includes the study of using information technology (IT) in trade facilitation, trade facilitation in the India-Sri Lanka FTA and developing trade processes in Sri Lanka. She holds a BA in Economics with First Class Honors from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.



Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya is a Distinguished Fellow at Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka. In 2004-2005 was associated with the Centre for Global Development (CGD), Washington D.C. as a Senior Fulbright Fellow. He was also a Visiting Fellow at the United Nations University-Institute of New Technology (UNU-INTECH), Maastricht and Department of Economics, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. Also, he has conducted joint research with the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE), Tokyo and Institute of Development Planning and Management (IDPM), Manchester. He also worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Dr Bhattacharya was the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Economic Association for three consecutive terms. He was a member of the Panel of Advisory Board of the International Centre for Trade and Development (ICTSD), Geneva. He is currently the Regional Editor of the Oxford Development Studies, Member of the Editorial Board, South Asian Studies, Colombo and Chairperson of the EU-LDC Network. He was a member of the "Investment" and "WTO" Task Forces set up by the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS). He holds PhD in Economics from the Plekhanov Institute of National Economy, Moscow. He researched as a post-doctoral fellow at the Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford.

Dr Mohammad A. Razzaque is currently an Economic Adviser at the Economic Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, United Kingdom (on leave from the University of Dhaka, where he is an Associate professor in the Department of Economics). His primary research interests lie in the area of applied trade policy analysis and he has written extensively on trade policy issues. He has managed several multi-country research projects to help diagnose the underlying problems, and assess policy options and implications. He is the editor of the *Commonwealth Trade Hot Topics*, a flagship publication of the Commonwealth Secretariat, which aims to communicate technical trade policy issues to the wider audience. Apart from international trade, he has also undertaken empirical research on poverty and labour issues. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Sussex.





Mr Ratnakar Adhikari is the General Secretary of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), a Kathmandu-based think tank, which he cofounded in 1994. Previously he served as a senior adviser to the National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, and Trade Programme Specialist for the United Nations Development Programme, Asia Pacific Regional Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He also worked as a Manager of Nepal Indosuez Bank Ltd. (a part of Credit Agricole group) between 1992 and 1999 and a lecturer at the Tribhuvan University between 1990 and 1996. Mr. Adhikari made substantial contribution during the process of Nepal's accession to the WTO, and was also included as a member of the delegation of Government of Nepal to the fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Cancun in September 2003. Mr Adhikari has published extensively on trade, competition policy and intellectual property rights issues. He holds Masters of Commerce degree from Delhi School of Economics, India and Masters of International Law and Economics from World Trade Institute, Switzerland. He is currently pursuing his PhD on International Trade from University of Warwick, UK.

Prof Indra Nath Mukherji is a Senior Consultant at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. Previously, he was Lecturer in Economics in Patna University and a Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) from 1971 to 2008. During this period he has served twice as Chairman, Centre for South, Central, Southeast Asian and Southwest Pacific Studies in the School of International Studies and Dean School of International Studies from 2001-03. He was also a Visiting Fellow at Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. Professor Mukherji's teaching and research interest concerns international trade and development issues, particularly focusing on the South Asian region. He has authored two books and co-authored and edited several others. He has to his credit more than 90 articles published as chapters in books and as research articles in journals in India and abroad. Professor Mukherji is a gold medalist from Patna University, where did his Masters (MA) in Economics in 1964. In 1966 he did Master of Science (Msc.) in Economics and Administration from Loughborough University of Technology (UK) under a scholarship from Burmah Shell. He has served as a consultant/ resource person/peer reviewer for ESCAP, World Bank, Ford Foundation, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, and for a number of other Governmental and Non-governmental Organisations.



Dr Biswambher Pyakuryal is a Professor of Economics at Central Department of Economics, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. Dr. Pyakuryal has been a Scholar-in-Residence of the Rockefeller Foundation in Italy; a visiting scholar at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, D.C. and Senior Fulbright Scholar at the University of Maryland at College Park, where he completed his Post-doctoral Research in Economic Liberalization. Professor Pyakuryal has been the Chairman of High-level Public Expenditure Commission of the government of Nepal. A member of the advisory body of accredited regional and national level private sector institutions, and a freelance UN Consultant, Dr Pyakuryal is the President of Nepal Economic Association and Member of the Board of the Central Bank (Nepal Rastra Bank). A columnist of leading English

daily *Republica*, Professor Pyakuryal has written co-authored and edited eleven books and published research articles.

Dr Muhammad Hussain Malik is Economics Affairs Officer at Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division of UNESCAP. As Economic Affairs Officer in the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, he has to work on various issues of economic and social development. Before joining UNESCAP, he worked for the World Bank in Pakistan for 3 years. Before that he worked for several years in a research institute in Pakistan, namely Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. Dr. Malik completed his Ph.D in Economics in 1983 from McMaster University in Canada.



Hon'ble Mr Choida Jamtsho is a Member of Parliament in the National Assembly of the Government of Bhutan. He has worked as Assistant Auditor General in the Royal Audit Authority, Supreme Institution of Bhutan for 17 years. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Commerce from Delhi University and a Masters degree in Environmental Science from the University of East Anglia, UK.

Amb. Nihal Rodrigo is a former SAARC Secretary General and former Foreign Secretary, Government of Sri Lanka. He has served as Honorary Adviser (Foreign Relations) to Sri Lanka's President; as Ambassador to China, concurrently accredited to DPRK and Mongolia; as Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to UN Offices in Geneva and Vienna; and as Ambassador/Deputy Permanent to the UN in New York. During Sri Lanka's Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement, he was Coordinator seeking consensus with other political groupings. He was elected Chairman/Political Committee of the 11th NAM Summit. His earlier postings were in Germany, India and Australia. He is visiting lecturer, international relations, at Colombo University; the Defense Services Command and Control Centre; Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies; and the International Diplomatic Training Institute.



Hon'ble Anisul Islam Mahmud is a Member of Parliament and former Foreign Minister, Government of Bangladesh and also the Managing Director of Shasha Denims Ltd., Dhaka.



Hon'ble Rajendra Kumar Khetan is a Member of Parliament and Constituent Assembly, Nepal and President of Khetan Group. He is the President of Nepal Britain Chamber and Young Entrepreneur's Council. Previously, Mr. Khetan was elected as the Vice President of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry & Management Association of Nepal. Mr. Khetan plays various roles as the Senate Member Kathmandu University & Asia Pacific Leader's Forum on HIV/ AIDS. He is the recipient of Official Da Ordem do Infante d Henrique from the President of Portugal. Extensively involved in CSR, he is guest speaker at different management schools. He is the Chairman of Laxmi Bank, Prime Life Insurance and Everest Insurance Ltd.

Hon'ble Arifa Khalid Pervez is a Member of Punjab Assembly, Pakistan. She obtained her degree of M.Sc. (Child Development) from College of Home Economics, Lahore and completed her Masters in International Policy and Practice in 2005 from Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington DC, USA. She has various publications including "Anthrax-Bio-terrorism Weapon of Mass Destruction", "Potential of Reforming Madrassas and Education System in Pakistan" and "US Policy Towards Combating Terrorism-Creating



Partnerships with International Governments to Eradicate Terrorist Ideology” published in 2004; “Child Labour: Focus on Punjab”, “WTO’s International case for Pakistan’s Yarn Suppliers”, “Disaster Management: Lessons from Tsunami Disasters”, Evaluation of World Banks Brazil-I and II Aids and STD Control Project”, “India National AID Control Project”, published in 2005. She has also done volunteer work in Dubai for Afghan Refugees and is also the Vice President of College of Home Economics Old Students Association where she has done volunteer work in reforming and uplifting of Government schools and women empowerment.



Hon'ble Dr Ram Sharan Mahat is a Member of Parliament and Constituent Assembly, and former Finance Minister, Government of Nepal. A noted politician and economist, Dr Mahat has written several books, published in various journals, and have been regularly commenting on economic and political issues in the media. His latest book is titled “In Defence of Democracy: Dynamic and Fault Lines of Nepal’s Political Economy.”

Mr Ibrahim Hussain Zaki is a Special Envoy to the President of the Maldives and former SAARC Secretary General. Prior to this election on 11 November 2008, he served as the elected Vice President of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), and now serving as Acting President of MDP. Zaki is a former Cabinet Minister of the Maldives government. Retired as Minister of Planning and National Development in 2003, Zaki had previously served as the Minister of Tourism (1993-98), as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1991-1992), and as Foreign Secretary since 1979. He had begun his public service in the Foreign Office, including serving at the Embassy of the Maldives in Colombo. Ever so versatile, Mr. Zaki served between 1975 and 1979 in several key Ministries of the Government, rapidly earning promotions before taking up his assignment as Foreign Secretary in 1979. During his tenure as Deputy Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary, Zaki was very closely involved with the development of regional co-operation in South Asia from the inception of the idea in 1980. He spearheaded the participation of the Maldives at the working level in the emerging process of regional co-operation that led to the formation of SAARC.



Mr Prem Shankar Jha is the Managing Editor of Financial World, Delhi. He has worked for the UNDP; was a special assistant to the managing director of the Special Fund Mr. Paul G. Hoffman who was the first administrator of the UNDP; was assistant editor of the Hindustan Times, deputy editor of The Economic Times, and editor of the Financial Express; and was consultant for the World Bank. He was a columnist for The Hindu, The Hindustan Times, the Business Standard and Tehelka magazine. He has authored more than eight books. He holds a MA from University of Oxford.

Mr Pradeep Kumar Shrestha is Vice President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also the Managing Director of Panchakanya Group and Honorary Consul of the Republic of South Africa. Previously, he was president of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI); Board member of Nepal Rastra Bank; Chairman of Nepal-China Non Government Cooperation Forum, FNCCI-CII Joint Economic Council (Nepal-India), Industrial Relations Forum (IRF), and Small & Medium Enterprise Development Project (SMEDP); and the President of Nepal Rolling Mills Association.

