

Sustainable Development in the Emerging World **Dis**|Order

The vertical bar in the title carries this book's argument. Between 'dis' and 'order' there is only a thin line, and this anthology holds that it is still ours to draw.

Climate shocks now arrive as fiscal shocks. Rivers, polluted air and supply chains cross the borders that politics keeps hardening. The post-war international order, which shaped eight decades of global economic cooperation and development, is increasingly challenged by geopolitical competition and economic fragmentation. This volume comes out of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's 28th Sustainable Development Conference, which brought together more than 300 speakers from 23 countries. It records what a region on the front line of these shocks had to say about them.

26 chapters start with the large forces behind global disorder and then go to the places where it lands. They cover flood-hit communities in Sindh, the food systems of Punjab, Bangladesh's triple burden of malnutrition, plastic waste in Pakistan and Indonesia, and women leading climate action in fragile states. Peer-reviewed, evidence-focused research sits beside thought pieces by senior policymakers from across Asia and Africa. From Pakistan's corridors of power come Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Dr Musadik Masood Malik, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Senator Sherry Rehman, and Dr Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal. From Bangladesh comes Syeda Rizwana Hasan, from Japan Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, from Indonesia Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana and from Mauritius Djaheezah Subratty. The striking thing is how alike their accounts are. For example, Bangladesh's deltas and Sindh's arid regions confront different manifestations of climate vulnerability, yet share challenges of extreme weather, financial constraints and gaps between policy commitments and implementation.

Ironically, countries that disagree at the negotiating table face many of the same development problems. This brings us to perhaps the book's most pragmatic and widely shared idea: functional cooperation – building partnerships around concrete priorities where the benefits to each side are clear. The unfulfilled promise of regional cooperation need not depend entirely on consensus within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Those willing to build shared resilience can start now, with whoever is ready and wherever progress is possible.

The book neither mourns the old order nor promises a finished plan for a new one. It offers a development compact for building order within disorder. Thought leaders, change agents and anyone who believes that the next decade of development will be won by imagination rather than control will find much to reflect upon in these pages.

| Sarah Siddiq Aneel |