MAKING GROWTH INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE IN SOUTH ASIA

Proceedings From 5th South Asia Economic Summit

Summit Recommendations
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A Background to South Asia Economic Summit

While there have been instances in South Asian history when the governments of SAARC member countries found themselves in a political deadlock, however a significant development in the region has been the rise of civil society organizations working towards regional integration, many of whom have culminated into think tanks of global repute.

These organizations help to keep the national governments on track as regards the multifarious nature of issues involving regional cooperation. Many of such issues go well beyond politics and economics and include concerns like food security and livelihoods, climate change induced natural disasters, migration, connectivity of people and places, energy and water cooperation etc.

In the same spirit South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) was launched in 2008 with the objective of bringing together leading academics, practitioners of public policy, members of business community and related stakeholders to discuss regional approach to issues of mutual concern and also to learn from home grown solutions to common predicaments that can be replicated elsewhere in South Asia. Over the past few years it will not be an exaggeration to say that this event has become the ‘South Asian Davos’ following the example of World Economic Forum at Davos. A brief summary of these summits is given below.

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The SAES is organized in a manner that its observations and recommendations can be framed for the SAARC Summit led by Heads of member countries. Many of the participants of SAES are actively involved (through the auspices of national governments) in the negotiation process that takes the SAARC agenda forward.

The civil society think tanks from South Asia who participate every year in organizing the event include Sustainable Development Policy Institute (Pakistan), Institute of Policy Studies (Sri Lanka), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (India), South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (Nepal), South Asia Center for Policy Studies (Nepal), Center for Policy Dialogue (Dhaka).

The rest of this document will provide sector-wise recommendations provided by experts who attended the Summit in Islamabad. Many of these recommendations have been taken up by SAARC or member countries however their complete implementation still requires sustained effort. We hope that this document will provide an impetus to the overall agenda of South Asian integration.
Regional Trade in South Asia

South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), which aims to create a free trade area by 2016, is under threat due to several issues such as Rule of Origin (ROO), dispute settlement, slow integration of services under (SAARC Agreement on Trade In Services-SATIS). SAFTA is being carried forward with an ineffective institutional structure as there are several (overlapping) committees without proper coordination. There is also lack of resources in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat to monitor implementation of SAFTA activities.

There is a need now to consolidate and expand the existing regional trade agreements – less rewarding agreements should be put aside and focus should be on the ones where positive results are already visible and potential gains remain unexploited. Comprehensive economic partnerships between SAARC member countries are now becoming more important. Exploring trade-investment nexus is crucial when complementarities are limited. Examples such as Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Sri Lanka indicate how such agreements can promote intra-industry trade and vertical integration.

Efforts should be stepped up to implement the recommendations made at the 7th meeting of the Sub-group on Customs Cooperation in 2010. These recommendations included:

- Focus on building infrastructure including roads and railways networks near the Land Border Customs Stations (LCSs)
- Customs clearance procedures at LCSs also need to smoothened
- Export documentation of one member state could be considered by the customs administration in the importing country
• Sub-Group on Customs Cooperation to work towards developing an Electronic Data Exchange System within the region
• SAARC Secretariat to develop a regional/sub-regional project to set up automated customs clearing mechanisms at the designated LCSs
• Harmonization of 8-digit tariff lines

All countries in South Asia see India as a large market for their exports if trade barriers go down. However, for this to happen there are some India-specific suggestions:

• The non-tariff measures on the Indian side include: multiplicity of departments involved in regulation of imports; import rules for food and agriculture items are complex and not transparent; shelf life of food items in case of food and agriculture items is a significant barrier; significant port restrictions; requirement of port permits from department of animal husbandry and dairy; labelling requirements for food items and textiles; stringent requirements for registration of drugs with the Central Drug Standard Control Organization; sales tax imposed by different states on imports; stringent conditions for import of second hand vehicles; import licensing requirements for import of marble and travertine; special licence requirement for importing motor cycles; and several anti-dumping cases.

• In the long-term, the state-market relations in India may also need to be reviewed if the region is to move towards deeper integration. India allows subsidies amounting to over 3 per cent of GDP, export credit scheme, domestic facilitation through anti-trade regulation, viability gap funding, and reverse subsidies. Similar state-market relations in Bangladesh and Pakistan are also distorting regional trade and investment prospects. It is proposed that a committee to review such state-market relations should be constituted at the regional level. This committee should study how: sustained move from trade diversion to trade creation can be expedited; state support to local manufacturing should be brought down; neutralizing cost of import should not translate into measures such as export subsidies.

There is a continued need to reduce further the negative lists in the region, include actively traded goods under the preferential trade, work towards removal of NTBs, and safeguarding
trade agreements from being diluted by regional politics (e.g. big power domination, economic colonization, economic nationalism/patriotism).

Trade policy regimes in South Asia are still highly influenced by the notion that “exports are good, imports are bad”. Impact of trade liberalization on producer welfare and revenue generation is given thrust, while positive effects on consumer welfare is ignored. It is important that consumer networks (supported by civil society organizations) should ensure that consumer perspective is reflected in national trade policies.

Going beyond trade and towards deeper integration, the study by UNCTAD and Commonwealth Secretariat titled ‘Potential Supply Chains in Textiles and Clothing Sector in South Asia’ tells us that the region needs to think beyond the current perception that regional supply chains will undermine the efforts of the countries in developing their own domestic backward linkage industries.\(^2\) There is a vast number of niche waiting to be explored within the region. National level comparative advantages allow such niche to be marketed at regional level. However further research work particularly at disaggregated and sector-specific level needs to be completed. Ministries / Departments of industrial promotion in South Asia should take a lead in producing such research.

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Food Security

Several collective regional actions are required for ensuring food security in South Asia. Currently, SAFTA does not mention any collective measure for food security. However, an agreement on establishing SAARC Food Bank was signed in 2007 with the objective of, acting as a regional food security reserve for the SAARC member countries, providing regional support to national food security efforts, fostering inter-country partnerships and regional integration and tackling regional food shortages through collective action. Several proposals (mentioned below) were offered at the 5th South Asia Economic Summit in order to strengthen the above-mentioned intent.

- The current practice under SAFTA should factor in food and agriculture products which dominate the sensitive lists of SAARC member countries.
- The operational requirements of the SAARC Food Bank need to be rationalized so that conditions for its use maybe simplified. Its activities need to be broadened so as to take up more active monitoring of climate and crops in order to avoid panic stocking and speculative trading. The ASEAN initiatives in this regard are worth noting.
- The existing stock levels need to be augmented taking account of each countries’ production and export capability.

Efforts also need to be expedited towards formation of SAARC Seed Bank, which could ensure vital seed supplies to the member countries in crisis periods following natural disasters. Ensuring supply of quality seeds should be an agenda of top priority at the SAARC Agriculture Centre. This in turn could help ensure food security as well as increase productivity.
Regional Cooperation for Energy Security

SAARC leaders at the 2004 Islamabad Summit gave the vision of a SAARC Energy Ring. SAARC Energy Centre was formed in 2006 at Islamabad as an inter-governmental body to initiate, promote and facilitate energy cooperation in SAARC countries and to translate the Energy Ring Vision into reality. The ongoing program themes at the SAARC Energy Centre include: i) energy trade, ii) integrated assessment of energy, transport, and environment, iii) energy efficiency and renewable energy, iv) technology transfer and sharing best practices, and v) rural electricity for poverty alleviation. A follow up study on South Asia Regional Power Exchange is currently in progress.

A draft of the “SAARC Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)” has been endorsed by Energy Ministers Meeting in Dhaka during their meeting in September 2011 and is currently under consideration of SAARC member countries. The agreement provides to allow for: unrestricted cross-border trade, commercial negotiation of PPAs, non-discriminatory open access, private sector trading, and participation in power exchanges.

There is an urgent need now for optimal utilization of inequitably distributed energy resources. This may start by harnessing complementarities such as:

- Seasonal complementarities in power production and demand (for instance India, Nepal and Pakistan)
- Variation in demand within a day can be a source of complementarity
- Provision of technical and financial assistance towards projects design engineering services, construction supervision services for hydro projects and transmission lines and easy finance.
Petroleum Products: India has emerged as a refining hub. Pakistan and Bangladesh import from India’s export destinations such as UAE and Singapore. The decisions by India-Pakistan Expert Group on Petroleum and Petrochemical Trade should be expedited. These include: decision to identify possible supply routes, points of supply, definition of standards and regulations, and enhancement of direct banking and postal services.

Trade in Power: Bhutan and Nepal offer substantial surplus electricity generated from hydropower. Provision of timely technical and financial assistance to them can help promote regional cooperation in power trade. India and Pakistan are unlikely to export power on net basis but have potential to engage on exchange basis.

Infrastructure Development: Shared initial capital and reduction in technical and operational costs may be a good starting point for regional cooperation in energy. Pipelines are required for oil and gas trade. These include Iran-Pakistan-India and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipelines. Bangladesh has now also shown intent to be part of TAPI. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan will be important transit countries for such initiatives and India will gain the most in terms of access to oil and gas which in turn will fuel its future growth. The work on power plants and transmission lines now need to augment the current initiatives which include: India’s NTPC building a coal-based plant near Khulna in Bangladesh as a joint venture, discussions regarding another plant in South East Bangladesh, power transmission lines from India to Sri Lanka and from India to Bangladesh, internal transmission lines development, and reduction in T&D losses.

Crisis response coordination and strategic oil reserves: Greater thinking is required on sub-regional arrangement whereby such reserves may offer assistance to other countries in the event of supply crisis. Access could be provided in lieu of capital investment/rental payments and/or participation in the procurement of oil for building the reserves. Lessons can be drawn from other country experiences of sharing strategic reserves as agreed between Japan and New Zealand, Japan and South Korea etc.

Energy access: More than half of South Asia has no access to modern forms of energy. Decentralized power may provide a solution towards addressing energy access problems. The decentralized electricity solutions may include: small hydro, solar, wind and biomass-based systems; R&D on establishment of smart mini grids; Adoption of best practices on deployment of biomass gasifiers for power, and use of solar lanterns for un-electrified and semi-structured households; making available information on rural power programs, business models, technological advances, manufacturing capacities and investment opportunities.

Efficient energy markets: Further prospects need to be explored in line with the recent initiative such as feasibility study of a Trans-BIMSTEC Gas Pipeline Project. Similarly, exploration of further gas reserves in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are a key to regional gas grid. A SAARC Task Force has finalised a common template on technical and commercial aspects of power grid interconnection among states. However, on-ground efforts are now required in order to move towards SAARC Market for Electricity, SAARC Intergovernmental Framework Agreement for Regional Energy Cooperation. The SAARC Regional Energy Trade Study has already recommended
action on a sub-regional power grid in addition to building of power plants, LNG terminals and refining capacity.

Collaborative clean technology development: For the economic growth process to remain environment-friendly, clean fossil fuels and renewable energy fund may be established at the regional level with differential contributions from the SAARC member countries. The findings of SAARC Renewable Energy Task Force should be given due importance.

Some other broad recommendations include:

- Pursing joint techno-economic evaluation of opportunities and determination of pre-requisites; for instance, synchronization of grids and expropriation of land for transmission right-of-way
- Establish financial sustainable energy entities, promote competition and ensure cost-reflective pricing of energy goods and services
- Develop project-specific legal/institutional arrangements that lend credibility to initiatives and provide assurance to all parties
- Trade and investment integration may not be as regarded as a pre-requisite for energy cooperation
- Seek advice and support from multilateral institutions particularly in drawing experiences from Southern Africa Power Pool, Nordel/Nord Pool and electricity trade in Europe
- Promote participation of multiple stakeholders such as local governments, private interests, industry groups and citizens
- Domestic energy policy reform will remain most important in ensuring efficiency
- A regional coordination body will be required for the establishment of regional operations and pricing protocols, transmission policy, and information sharing.

There is also a strong desire to bring energy and energy products within the trade basket. Current trade negotiations in the regions should recognize energy as one of the most desired commodities in the region and come up with a regional a solution for this scarce resource. For instance putting energy at regional trade basket will facilitate South Asian Energy Ring and Power Pool like that of SADC and NORD.
Regional Trade in Agriculture

The SAARC Initiatives for Agriculture Cooperation include establishment of regional food bank and a project on ‘Control of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases’. Currently, SAARC Agriculture Centre is preparing the SAARC Agricultural Vision 2020. Further work needs to be done for ensuring food security in the region and promoting commercial agriculture and building competitiveness.

Regional trade in agriculture will still require further lowering of tariffs in the region. According to a study by Sapkota (2011) average tariff on agricultural goods was 29 percent in South Asia compared to 9 percent in ASEAN region. A substantial share of the sensitive list items in South Asia are agricultural products. Even the India-Sri Lanka and Pakistan-Sri Lanka FTAs include very few agricultural products.³

The regional trade in agriculture across South Asia can build on country-specific comparative advantages. For example, Afghanistan and Bhutan have export concentration in edible fruits, Maldives exports fish crustaceans, Sri Lanka exports coffee, tea and spices and Pakistan and India have export concentration in cereals.

Trade arrangements for food security: Restrictions over agriculture exports in South Asian countries are unjustified in a time of high inflation and large domestic demand. National policies can still be structured in such a way that restriction/ban would have marginal impact on neighbouring importing countries. Further development towards the food bank in the region will require expanded analysis on various aspects related to national level preparedness. Research on developing new varieties of crops resilient to climate change needs to be expedited. For

³In case of India 23% products in India’s sensitive list for NLDCs are agricultural. For LDCs 25 products are in India’s sensitive list. While all these are agricultural, they are non-merit products such as alcohol and tobacco.
sustained agriculture sector growth, a common strategy for water use at the regional level is required. Regional agricultural projects will also require a South Asian Agriculture Bank to finance future initiatives.

Building Competitiveness: The starting point may be pruning the agricultural products that are in the SAFTA sensitive list (short and medium term approach). This may be supplemented with raising input use efficiency in the region, supplying quality seed (development of competitive and deregulated seed industry), changing and upgrading quality and standard of agricultural products, strengthening research-extension-farmer linkages, better technologies and efficient ways of managing water and modern farm inputs, and exchanging of technology and knowledge between South Asian countries, contract farming, encouraging MNCs to invest in the bio-technology, FDI in fertilizers, agro-chemicals etc., development of regional value chain, identification of products, creation of ‘regional hub’ for using scale of economies to export in the global market (e.g. Bangladesh could be a ‘hub’ for exporting agricultural products produced in the Eastern part of India, Bhutan and Nepal).

SAARC Initiatives: SAARC secretariat has undertaken initiative to prepare ‘SAARC Vision on Agriculture 2020’. Main objective of the vision document as set: joint response to menace, challenges and opportunities and global shocks, based on existing realities of SAARC countries. A number of issues related to challenges of agriculture development in South Asia have been discussed. These include: slow growth rate of agriculture, increasing gap between agriculture and non-agriculture’s growth; scope for bio-tech crops: drought-tolerant varieties, consumption of less inputs and water; rapid development of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) and Telecommunication Network; scope of dissemination of new agricultural technology, products and marketing of products; investment in infrastructure, Research & Development (R&D); and institutional approach to facilitate the process needs to be cleared out. The private sector representatives and bodies such as the SAARC Chamber of Commerce should press national governments for forward looking policies so that agricultural trade can benefit the region and ensure food security.
Regional Cooperation on Water

While water in South Asia provides security for agriculture, environment, health and livelihoods, it is also the cause of various natural disasters such as floods, river bank erosion, salt water intrusion, and tidal surge from cyclonic storms. The region has been striving for sharing of water of the trans-boundary rivers. While India and Pakistan have Indus Water Treaty since 1960s, there are, however, other countries in the region that are awaiting such sharing agreements. For example, Bangladesh shares 54 trans-boundary rivers with India and treaty on only one i.e. the Ganges River has been signed. The treaty on the second river, Trista is expected to be signed very soon. Discussion on signing on other 52 rivers has yet not even been initiated. It is therefore, essential that treaties be negotiated and finalized on all the international rivers on a priority basis.

As water grows scarcer in the region, there is an urgent need for national and regional initiatives on managing water scarcity. Currently, there appears to be no effective program at the regional level. There are also constraints in improving joint management of water. The development of a comprehensive basin wide management approach is possible if there is a strong political will in SAARC member countries. The track-I efforts on water sector have been productive in terms of providing specific and actionable recommendations. However, there has been little implementation of these recommendations to-date.

Beyond the premise of water sharing, South Asia is also well positioned to reap benefits of hydro-power generation. There is a substantial potential of hydro-power in Bhutan, Nepal, India and Pakistan. There are examples in the region, which show that further hydro-power can be developed through joint investment by beneficiary countries. Recently, India has proposed that Bangladesh contribute about three billion US dollars to the Tipaimukh hydropower project to share hydropower.
The region also needs to share its human and physical resources for mitigating the impact of natural disasters. This may take the form of data sharing on flood controls, regulating infrastructure structures in the upper riparian countries, training on prevention of river bank erosion, capital dredging of main rivers, silt management through cooperation among all the riparian countries. It is recommended that proportional joint investment by riparian countries may be explored for joint investment.

The ongoing negotiations on Teesta show that similar efforts across the region are needed and can be split into three phases: i) water resource development (sharing of data related to flood forecasting, warning, rainfall, and water flow data; joint management of river with shared vision – joint study teams, participatory fact finding missions), ii) sharing of benefits (apart from sharing of water, equally important is to share the benefits from sustainable water use e.g. in form of hydropower, agriculture, flood control, navigation, trade, tourism etc.; multilateral dialogues, basin wide approach and development of resilient institutions such as Mekong Committee, Nile basin initiative etc.), and iii) multi-track diplomacy (focus on track-II and track-III diplomacy to create an environment of trust and cooperation).
Transport & Logistics Corridors in South Asia

As the talks regarding trade barriers in South Asia gain momentum, attention is now being given to trade facilitation measures, inadequate national-level infrastructure, absence of regional transit trade, high transport and insurance costs, and inadequate funding of regional connectivity projects. It is important to bear in mind that there currently exist no initiatives on SAARC community building process.

![Image of 5th South Asia Economic Summit]

With SAFTA, South Asia has the opportunity to enter the second era of regional integration. However, the vision is to achieve common (single) market through customs union and then economic union. An economic union will imply harmonized and integrated road and railway network, maritime and waterways network, aviation policy, one customs policy, transit, and competition policy.

Lack of connectivity between places and people may pose a serious threat to deeper integration in South Asia. There remains a long-standing need for regional corridor and modern corridor management techniques. A regional corridor is basically defined as a transition from transport corridor to logistics corridor and ultimately economic corridor. In an economic corridor, the synchronization of manpower mobility, communications infrastructure and greater people to people interaction is evident.

At the SAARC level, the progress on this subject remains mixed. Negotiations are already under way on Regional Transport and Transit Agreement, and a Regional Motor Vehicle’s Agreement. The SAARC Expert Group finalized the text of the Regional Agreement on Railways in August 2011. There has also been launch of feasibility studies of pilot projects such as: Birganj and Kathmandu (160 km) completed in October 2008, Birgunj-Kathihar-Singhabad-Rohanpur-Chittagong with links to Jogbani, Biratnagar and Agartala – railcorridor, Agartala-Akhaura-
Chittagong – rail corridor, Phuntsholing and Hashimara – road corridor, ferry link - between Colombo and Tuticorin (started already) and Colombo and Cochin – Karachi – Mumbai ferry link, Air link - Malé-New Delhi and Islamabad-New Delhi, establishment of modern border crossing facility at Phuntsholing, and Indian ocean cargo cooperation.

The ongoing projects include: feasibility study for India-Bhutan rail link, construction of railway line from Jiribam-Tupui (near to Imphal, India), construction of Kaladan Multimodal Transport project, railway infrastructure improvement projects in Sri Lanka, and intermodal connectivity – Air Services Agreement (single ticket to fly between South Asian nations). A demonstration run of container train involving Bangladesh, India and Nepal is being planned.

There is now a need to build upon the in-principle agreement by all SAARC countries to allow regional transit. The Motor Vehicle Agreement is being negotiated and SAARC Expert Group has finalized the text of the Regional Agreement on Railways in August 2011. Sub-regional transit has been agreed between India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Bilateral document between India and Bangladesh signed during the state visit of Indian Prime Minister to Bangladesh in September 2011 to facilitate overland transit traffic between Bangladesh and India, and huge trade opportunities can be identified if Afghanistan – Pakistan Transit Agreement covers Western South Asia and Central Asia.

Equally important now for South Asia is to develop physical linkages with other blocks and countries. Some potential initiatives include Uzbekistan–Afghanistan railway line Highway in Afghanistan (aided by India), TAPI gas pipeline, China–Nepal highway and railway, India–Nepal railway project, India–Bhutan railway project, etc., India–Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway, India–ASEAN ocean shipping network, and India–ASEAN open sky.

At present, with limited transit there are no express delivery chains in South Asia. There still exists manual handling of trade documentation and an absence of international conventions on

There is also the issue of financing SAARC connectivity for which it is recommended that SAARC Infrastructure Fund should be established. Multilateral organizations have already shown interest in financing such a fund, however, SAARC national governments will have to take ownership and lead. Domestic resources will be required to augment this fund for which political commitment at country level is essential. A special project development facility (SPDF) for feasibility studies will also be required.

Going forward specific recommendations on this subject include: strengthening cross-border infrastructure (move from road corridors to economic corridors), accepting sub-regional and subsequently regional transit, fast track lane and priority of goods in transit to cross the border, setting-up SAARC Single Window (Customs) (pilot run of authorized economic operator, AEO; and mutual recognition agreement), simplification and harmonization of trade procedures, more particularly at border, introducing modern corridor management techniques in selected corridors, promoting multimodal transportation (with rail transit, regular container train in the region), improving the efficiency of border corridors (both side of border improvement in ICP project in parallel), liberalizing visa regime, open sky in South Asia, effective project coordination among government stakeholders, stronger institution (public-private interface) for trade facilitation is urgently needed, regional study for SAARC Master Plan of Connectivity should be done, and setting-up SAARC connectivity coordination committee to coordinate the Master Plan and its feasibility. We understand that multilateral organizations are also devising methods in order to promote Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and inter-governmental agreement on Dry Ports. It is important that South Asian governments collectively own such measures and pursue these reforms at the national and regional levels.
Liberalization of Services Trade in South Asia

The liberalization of trade in services is generally carried out through four supply modes namely cross-border trade, consumption abroad, commercial presence, and movement of natural persons. Though there has been certain degree of liberalization in respect of mode 1 and mode 2, relatively high level of barriers are prevalent in respect of mode 3 and particularly on mode 4. The lack of data in respect of services trade in South Asia is a major difficulty in evaluating the impact of the trade. The very nature of the trade is that not like trade in goods, the trade in services is not visible and also not tangible. Similarly, the informal trade is also difficult to account for.

Despite of the above-mentioned limitations, several service sub-sectors have been identified which offer high prospects for services trade in South Asia. These include educational services, tourism and travel-related services, recreational, cultural and sporting services, financial services, transport services, health-related and social services, environmental services, telecom and IT services, and security services.

In April 2010, SAARC member countries signed the SAARC Framework Agreement in Services (SATIS). At present, governments are engaged in consolations process in the preparation of request and offer list for further negotiations. We have observed some stiff resistance from various countries in the region and this is partly due to lack of comprehensive information on some services sectors.

South Asia is greatly endowed with low and semi-skilled labour and reliant on manpower exports so a greater cooperation within the region is required on Mode 4. Services trade in regional trade agreements may provide welfare gains as almost all South Asian countries are net importers of services. Services continue to play a key role in the eradication of poverty because of their social, cultural and welfare-enhancing functions so further studies on these issues need to be assessed. Negotiations among nations should focus on important services sub-sectors identified above. South Asian countries will require harmonization of those regulatory measures that are currently hurting services trade. A positive list approach and commitments for progressive liberalization should be based on request and offer approach. Lack of data, regulatory capacity and maturity of the services sector are some key issues that need to be addressed at the national levels in SAARC member countries. Finally the agreement made for regional cooperation should provide special treatment and technical assistance for LDCs.
Competition Law & Policy in South Asia

A crucial element of competitiveness is competition. Competition is at the core of the market system: without contestability and rivalry among economic agents on a level playing field, productivity is bound to suffer --- and so is the consumer. The competition regimes in South Asia are neither homogenous nor at a similar stage of development. India was the first to introduce modern competition legislation in 2002. However, this got bogged down by legal challenges and wrangles, but after necessary amendments --- required by the Indian Supreme Court and eventually legislated by parliament -- the Indian Competition Commission and the Indian Competition Appellate Tribunal were duly constituted and are now in full swing.

Pakistan’s new competition law was initially promulgated as a Presidential Ordinance in 2007, and later, after being re-promulgated twice, it was, as directed by the Supreme Court, duly enacted by parliament in October, 2010. During its first five years, Pakistan’s Competition Commission has been able to vigorously enforce and implement all aspects of the law and is widely acknowledged to have operated at close to globally accepted standards of agency effectiveness. Also, a Competition Appellate Tribunal has been constituted as stipulated in the law.

Bangladesh has only this year enacted a modern competition law. Sri Lanka’s previous, long-standing and fair trade legislation was replaced in 2003 by a new law with a strong consumer orientation but without significant elements like, for instance, merger control. And Nepal has had a law to promote and enforce competition since 2007 and the Nepalese Competition Board has engaged in efforts to implement this law.

The South Asian governments find it hard to truly and genuinely accept a competition agency’s independence and the agency is constantly fighting a rearguard battle to remain independent.
Secondly, the political will to support a competition agency discharge its responsibilities is weak and indeterminate, and is often undermined by other, perhaps, conflicting priorities, cronyism etc. Thirdly, competition agencies are without access to tied and secure sources of funding and are thus unable to implement credible enforcement and advocacy programs. Fourthly, the judicial system just does not work thereby hampering the competition agency’s ability to enforce. Unpredictability, inordinate delays, over emphasis on procedure over substance, total apathy, and rank ineptitude are the hallmarks of the judiciary in many South Asian countries adversely affecting the work of competition agencies; Fifthly, sector-specific regulators and other Government agencies often violate the competition law in letter or in spirit posing an enormous hurdle for the competition agency; and Sixthly, building and sustaining an agency with credible capacity to deliver is largely constrained by the scarcity of much-needed skilled and competent professionals such as micro-economists, forensic accountants, lawyers, financial analysts, IT experts, and PR people.

Now, when concerted efforts are being made to increase the volume of trade and investments and other forms of economic interaction within the SAARC region, it would not only make sense for competition authorities to co-operate with each other in their efforts to enforce competition norms at the operational level but also SAARC governments must develop viable mechanisms to calibrate their policy actions in particular with regard to State aid or support provided to national enterprises, so as to achieve the goal of a level playing field for all economic agents across the region. There is now a great need to synchronize efforts across the region and dovetail them into a single SAARC Competition Network, which should be a network of SAARC competition agencies at the government level. This network should ensure capacity building of national and sub-national agencies across the region, bring about soft convergence of laws and detect trans-regional anticompetitive activities.

At the national level, it is equally important that coordination should be ensured among the ministries and organization concerned to make competition laws effective. The business community also needs to be taken on-board so that an element of trust can be built, which ultimately makes this community a partner in ensuring a level playing field for businesses.
Climate Change Challenges for Sustainable Development in South Asia

The SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change (2009–11) has articulated specific aims which include: regional cooperation and South–South support in terms of technology and knowledge transfer, impetus for a regional level action plan on climate change through national-level activities, and support to global negotiation processes of the UNFCCC. The Thimphu Statement agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Expert Group on Climate Change to develop clear policy direction and guidance for regional cooperation as envisaged in the SAARC Plan of Action on Climate Change. The commitment to ensure timely implementation of the Thimphu Statement on Climate Change was re-emphasised in the Addu Declaration, 17th SAARC Summit in 2011. National and international policies and adequate and predictable financial mechanisms are crucial to accelerate progress.

It is time now to set up South Asian Commission on Environment primarily to examine impact of global warming on South Asia. It would be a good follow-up to environmental studies carried out by SAARC and our collective position in 17th conference of UNFCC at Durban. It also fits in Colombo Declaration for a Common Environment Programme adopted in 1998. 6th SAARC conference on climate change also recommended establishing institutional linkages. South Asian universities must come together to develop core competence of studying cross border implication of climate change and water crisis. No country can work alone to mitigate climate change and there have to be efforts from region as a whole.

It is important to understand that going forward South Asian populations and particularly children need to be taught respect for environment and natural resources. This calls for investing in ‘Sustainability Knowledge’. Such a knowledge field needs to be: multi-disciplinary, reflecting local conditions, cost effective, and locally delivered. Long term investments in research and development (at university level) should be dedicated so that stock of knowledge in this area is accumulated. This should be supplemented by medium term investments in think-tanks and knowledge networks. Equally important is the trade in knowledge which can overtime: fill the gap in skill availability, improve understanding of regional trans-boundary issues and exploit economies of scale. It is recommended that SAARC Metrological Research Centre and SAARC Energy Centre should take a lead in sensitizing the region with sustainability knowledge.
Migration across South Asia

South Asian countries must come up with SAARC Convention on Migration. A large number of South Asian Diaspora reside abroad as a matter of fact SAARC members depend heavily on remittances sent from this Diaspora. Hence it is in the interest of SAARC members to work collectively and bring substantive gains to the region. The objective of the convention should be to: protect each other’s migrant community, coordinate a collective position on immigration policies of destination countries and make collective action, collective bargaining with developed market economies and other labor importing countries to make labor market more liberal through mechanism like movement of natural persons under mode IV WTO negotiations, check human smuggling and irregular migrants, and facilitate fight against increasing scrutinizing of migrant population among countries in North.

Movement of people within South Asia will require us to reinforce our efforts towards on-going connectivity negotiations. These include: transit corridor to Afghanistan and other central Asian countries through Pakistan. Also Corridor through India to Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan; access to South East Asian countries through Myanmar; linking more effectively the Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet autonomous regions and other parts of china; Access to North Eastern region of India through Bangladesh; Bangladesh’s physical access to Nepal and Bhutan through Phulbari corridor; Building of major highway from North Eastern Region to Myanmar; Drastic improvement in infrastructure at Nathu La, Bomdila, and Ladakh, and India-Pakistan borders; railway access to Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan; Overhauling of waterways between North Eastern regions of India and Bangladesh; enhanced trade access (goods and services) through sea; and land bridge between India and Sri Lanka (studies already carried out).
As currently no consensus exists in South Asian on the intra-regional migration-development nexus therefore there exists a need for national governments to look closely into the ASEAN’s pro-development migration policy. It is recommended that SAARC Human Resource Development Centre should take a lead in exploring South Asia wide linkages in migration-development nexus. Such linkages may take the form of: skilling of migrant workers, effective utilization of remittances, use of skills of return migrants, and social security of migrant workers. SAARC Human Resource Development Centre may also form a regional working group in order to look into the prevalent barriers to mobility of workers (by skill-type), unregulated employment agencies (including middlemen and brokers), costs of migration, labour rights, mutual recognition of professional and technical credentials, and bilateral agreements that may promote accountability of labour sending and receiving countries. Several SAARC level agreements such as SAARC Social Charter (2004) need to be revisited in this regard and their spirit needs to be encouraged. Finally SAARC Secretariat should work actively towards South Asia Migration Commission. This can be facilitated and technically supported through a MoU between SAARC and IOM.
Development Agenda for a New South Asia

New cooperation initiatives in South Asia and economic agreements must be anchored in inclusive growth and sustainable development that benefits all citizens and addresses economic disparity within and between countries. At the national level it is believed that some recently established patterns will continue to dictate economy growth in South Asian countries. These include: involvement of South Asian Diaspora in investment activities, rise of services sectors, falling barriers in intra-regional trade and foreign direct investment, and drive to secure essential productive inputs such as energy and water. Today for optimal absorption of resources in the social sectors we understand that social capital (trust between various stakeholders) is far more important than human or physical capital. The access to basic human needs is being better addressed in urban spaces and cities are becoming engines of economic growth.

This growth process is however not necessarily accompanied with equity and therefore initiatives such as social accountability and right to information prove to be instrumental in providing people with access to food, education, health etc. It is equally important to note the balanced growth strategies are required so that rural regions are also provided same level of social service delivery which is available in urban spaces.

The private sector can play a very instrumental role in promoting inclusive growth. While formal innovation systems in South Asian countries remain clogged by barriers to entry in market, it is the informal innovations that are pro-poor and have growth potential. The examples of honey bee network, garbage banks and renewable energy experiments in rural setting have given rise to low cost consumer durables, shelter at affordable prices, and infrastructure at lower unit costs. Hence the reason for private sector to engage in innovations that respond to needs of the poor. Experience from China and India shows that social innovations also provide margins that are profitable in the medium and longer run.
Human Resource Development: Exchange of quality education and establishment of institutions can be core theme of regional cooperation for next decade. Education and knowledge sharing has now become core link of inclusiveness and sustainability and is an important factor for development at both national and global level. Initiatives such as South Asia University and SAARC Human Resource Development Centre need to be strengthened. Health also carries substantial importance in any human resource development strategy. It is for this matter that we recommend liberalization of trade in health services on expedient basis.

Capacity Building of Civil Service: For the success of South Asia wide agreements, it is important that officers in civil services across South Asia who will be first-stage implementers of reforms should have a shared vision, common understanding and well established capabilities to sequence and implement such reforms. For example, capacity of various institutions of regional trade must be drastically improved to effectively operationalize SAFTA. A SAFTA Facilitation Fund may be created to train and build capacities among stakeholders in South Asian trade practices.

South Asian Community: The dream of “South Asian community” could only be realized if they can transform their perception about borders from threats to opportunities. Borders are most critical channel of social, economic, environmental and cultural exchange in the region and hence should be transformed into hub of socio-economic opportunities. India and Pakistan can tap these opportunity by launching a Smart Border Plan. It must comprise a seamless border for cross border low risk exchange, secure natural resource area to be covered by regional conventions and mutual harmonization of each other’s regulatory regimes, and common economic space. The talk of South Asian community remains incomplete unless youth are given a broad constituency, which has no boundaries. There are several South Asian youth forums that now require consolidation—an effort that should be led by SAARC organization and national departments of youth. The role of ICT cannot be ignored in this respect. SAARC countries must work together on SAARC Information Highway and come up with a collective plan to narrow down digital divide and address issues of internet governance, cyber security and online freedom.
Agenda of 5th South Asia Economic Summit

5th SOUTH ASIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT
MAKING GROWTH INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE IN SOUTH ASIA
11-13th September 2012, Marriott Hotel, Islamabad

Day 1
11th September 2012

Registration of Participants (8.00am – 8.30am)
Inaugural Session 9:00am – 10:30am

Chair: Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Defense, Pakistan

Welcome Address: Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan

Inaugural Remarks:
- Sham L. Bathija, Minister Senior Adviser for Economic Affairs to the President of Afghanistan
- Rajiva Wijesinha, Member of Parliament, Sri Lanka
- Madhu Raman Acharya, Former Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal
- Suhrab Hossain, High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Pakistan
- Mahendra P. Lama, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Sikkim, India
- Statement by the Chair

Report / Book Launch Event

- Launch of MHHDC 2012 South Asia Human Development Report on Governance for People's Empowerment – Mahbubul Haq Human Development Centre, Pakistan
- Book Launch: Economic Crisis, Pakistan and Sustainable Development – Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
- Book Launch: Global Recovery, New Risks and Sustainable Growth: Repositioning South Asia – Center for Policy Dialogue Bangladesh
- Book Launch: Regional economic integration: Challenges for South Asia during turbulent times - South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Nepal
- Book Launch: Foreign Aid in South Asia: Emerging Scenario – Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka
- Book Launch: The Poor Half Billion in South Asia
- Report Launch: Pakistan Power Sector Outlook: Appraisal of the Karachi Electricity Supply Company (KESC) in Post Privatization Period – Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
Report Launch: Situation Report on International Migration in South and South-West Asia – UN ESCAP

Refreshments 10:30am – 11:00am

11:00am – 12:45pm

Plenary-I: Beyond MDGs and Post Rio Outlook: South Asian Goals towards Sustainable Development

Chair: Nagesh Kumar, Director, UN-ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, and ESCAP Chief Economist

Invited Speakers:
- Khalid Malik, Director, Human Development Report, United Nations Development Program, New York
- Tariq Banuri, Former Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs
- Priya Shyamsundar, Director, South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE)

Special Comments:
- Debapriya Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh
- Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
- Yeshey Selden, Head, Corporate Performance Monitoring, Druk Holding Investments, Bhutan

Lunch (12:45pm – 2:00pm)

Concurrent Sessions 2:00pm – 3:45pm

A1: Regional Trade Agreements in South Asia: Current Outlook and Way Forward

Chair: Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), India

Invited Speakers:
- Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka
- Safdar Sohail, Director General (Trade Policy), Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan

Special Comments:
- Sonam Tashi, Head of Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan
- Ismail Nashid, Maldives Customs Service, Maldives
A2: Food Security: Challenges and Way Forward in South Asia

Chair: Syeduzzaman, Former Finance Minister, Bangladesh

Invited Speaker:
- David Orden, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC
- I. N. Mukherji, Professor and Senior Advisor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India

Special Comments:
- Sumith Nakandala, DG, Economic Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Sri Lanka
- Mirwais Rahimzai, Executive Director, Civil Society Coordination Center (CSCC), Afghanistan
- Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
- Kamalesh Adhikari, Ph.D Scholar, The Australian National University, Canberra

A3: Regional Cooperation for Energy Security

Chair: Kalpana Kochhar, Chief Economist, World Bank (South Asia)

Invited Speakers:
- Dipak Gyawali, Chairman, Interdisciplinary Analysts, Nepal
- Deepti Mahajan, The Energy Research Institute (TERI), India

Special Comments:
- Singye Dorji, Managing Director, Quod Erat Demonstrandum (QED), Bhutan
- Hilal A. Raza, Director, SAARC Energy Center, Pakistan
- Faisal Jameel, Energy Specialist, Planning Commission, Pakistan

Working Hi-Tea in All Halls
Concurrent Sessions 4:00pm – 5:45pm

A4: Regional Trade in Agriculture: Prospects for South Asia

Chair: Mr. Anisul Huq, Chairman & CEO Mohammadi Group, Bangladesh

Invited Speakers:
- Rashmi Banga, Unit of Economic Cooperation & Integration Among Developing Countries, UNCTAD, Geneva
- Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh
Special Comments:
- Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Managing Director, Panchakanya Group, Nepal
- Cherian Mathews, Deputy Regional Director, Oxfam GB Asia, Bangkok, Thailand
- Bhim Raj Gurung, Agriculture Marketing Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan

A5: Climate Change and South Asia – Examining Empirical Evidence

Chair: Priya Shyamsundar, Director, South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE)

Invited Speakers:
- Heman Lohano, Institute of Business Administration, Pakistan
- Muhammad Iftikharul Husnain, Federal Urdu University, Pakistan
- Prakash Karn, Heifer International, Nepal
- Joyashree Roy, Economics Department, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India
- Saudamini Das, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, India

A6: Regional Cooperation on Water: Opportunities for South Asia

Chair: Saeed Shafqat, Chairperson, Board of Governors, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

Invited Speakers:
- Divas Basnyat, Executive Director, Nepal Development Research Institute, Nepal
- Anjal Prakash, Executive Director, SaciWaters, India
- Shakeel A. Ramay, Senior Research Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

Special Comments:
- Gem Tshering, Director, Transmission Wing, Bhutan Power Corporation, Bhutan
- Khondaker Azharul Haq, Executive Member, Global Water Partnership, Bangladesh

Dinner 8:00pm

Hosted by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

Special Remarks:
Saeed Shafqat, Chairperson, Board of Governors, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan
Iftikhar Malik, Vice President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pakistan
Remarks by Chief Guest: Qamar Zaman Kaira. Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Pakistan
Day 2  
12th September 2012  
9:00am – 10:40am

Plenary-II  Post Economic Crisis Outlook of South Asia: Moving towards Inclusive Growth & Sustainable Development

Chair: Nadeem ul Haque, Minister and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Pakistan

Invited Speakers:
- Nagesh Kumar, Director, UN-ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office, and ESCAP Chief Economist
- Kalpana Kochhar, Chief Economist, World Bank (South Asia)

Special comments:
- Posh Raj Panday, Executive Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal
- Fareeha Shareef, Chief Executive Officer, FJS Consulting, Maldives
- Vaqar Ahmed, Head (Economic Growth Unit), Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

Refreshments 10:40am – 11:00am
Concurrent Sessions 11:00am - 12:45pm

B1: Transport & Logistics Corridors: South Asian Outlook
Chair: Sham L. Bathija, Minister Senior Adviser for Economic Affairs to the President of Afghanistan

Invited Speakers:
- Prabir De, Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India
- R.B. Rauniyar, Managing Director, Interstate Multi-Modal Transport, Nepal

Special Comments:
- Anushka Wijesinha, Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka
- Ghulam Samad, Research Economist, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Pakistan
- Thinley Palden Dorji, Vice President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Bhutan

B2: Economic Growth without Welfare and Sustainable Development: The Case of South Asia
Chair: Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Bangladesh
Invited Speaker:
- Akmal Hussain, Distinguished Professor (Economics), Beaconhouse National University, Pakistan
- Aynul Hasan, Chief, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok

Special Comments:
- Haroon Sharif, Head (Economic Growth Group), Department for International Development, UK
- Anuradha Rajivan, Team Leader, Inclusive Growth & Poverty Reduction Unit, UNDP Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
- Arif Naveed, Senior Research Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

B3: Liberalization of Services Trade in South Asia
Chair: Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, Center for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh

Invited Speakers:
- Dilli Raj Khanal, Founder Chairman, Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRD), Nepal
- Zafar Mehmood, H.E.C Professor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

Special Comments:
- Chhime Tshering, Chief Trade Negotiator, Department of Trade, Bhutan
- Haji Raheemudin, Deputy Director of Afghanistan Advisory Board of National Entrepreneurs, Afghanistan
- Kosala Wickramanayaka, Vice President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sri Lanka
- Mir Tanzim Nur Angkur, Research Associate, South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Bangladesh

Lunch 12:45pm – 2:00pm
Concurrent Sessions 2:00pm - 3:45pm

B4: Competition Law & Policy in the South Asia
Chair: Khalid Aziz Mirza, Former Chairperson, Competition Commission of Pakistan

Invited Speakers:
- Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), India
- Joseph Wilson, Member, Competition Commission of Pakistan
- Iqbal Tabish, General Secretary, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pakistan
**Special Comments:**  
- Mohammed Abdullah Raihan, Chairman, Redwan International Limited, Bangladesh  
- Paras Kharel, Research Coordinator, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal

**B5: Migration across South Asia: Emerging Trends & Opportunities**

Chair: Ashfaque Hasan Khan, Dean, NUST Business School, Pakistan

**Invited Speakers:**  
- Madhu Raman Acharya, Executive Director, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Nepal  
- S. Irudaya Rajan, Professor (International Migration), Centre for Development Studies, India

**Special Comments:**  
- Dushni Weerakoon, Deputy Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka  
- Mome Saleem, Senior Researcher, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan  
- Tridivesh Singh Maini, Independent Foreign Policy Analyst, India

**B6: Social Accountability as catalyst for Inclusive development in South Asia**

Chair: Naimur Rehman, Chief Operating Officer, Affiliated Network for Social Accountability, India

**Invited Speakers:**  
- R. Suresh, Director, Public Affairs Centre, India  
- Rizwan Khair, Head, Institute of Governance, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Bangladesh  
- Fayyaz Yaseen, Economist and Senior Researcher at Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

**Special Comments:**  
- Arifa Khalid, Member of Provincial Assembly, Punjab Province, Pakistan  
- Shafqat Munir, Regional Asia Rights Coordinator, Oxfam GB, Pakistan  
- Sriyanie Wijesundara, Coordinator, Governance & Anti-Corruption Program Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sri Lanka  
- Nuzat Jabeen, Manager Operations, Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA), Bangladesh
### Working Hi-Tea in All Halls

**Concurrent Sessions 4:00pm – 5:45pm**

#### B7: Costs of Economic non-cooperation to Consumers in South Asia

Chair: Senator Haji Adeel, Senior Vice President, Awami National Party, Pakistan  
Moderator: Gareth Aicken, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation, Pakistan  
Presentation: Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), India

**Special Comments:**  
- Syed Munir Khasru, Chairman, Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance, Bangladesh  
- Qasim Shah, Director Programs, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan  
- Paras Kharel, Research Coordinator, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal  
- Roubina Athar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan

#### B8: Potential Supply Chains in South Asia: Identification & Prospects

Chair: Tariq Saeed, Former President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce, Pakistan

**Invited Speakers:**  
- Mohammad A. Razzaque, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK  
- Khalid Mahmood, Executive Director, Centre for Enterprise, Trade and Development (CEETAD), Pakistan  
- Ali Khizar, Head of Research, Business Recorder, Pakistan

**Special Comments:**  
- Sujeiva Samaraweera, Secretary, National Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka  
- Raniya Sobir, Vice President, Total Synergy Consulting, Maldives  
- Amir Mustafa, SAARC Human Resource Development Centre

#### B9: Regional Tourism Potential in South Asia

Chair: Amin Hashwani, Co-Chairman, India-Pakistan CEO’s Business Forum, Pakistan

**Invited Speakers:**  
- Ahmed Naseer, Former Minister for Finance, Maldives  
- Mahendra P. Lama, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Sikkim, India  
- Mir Shahjahan Khetran, Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, Pakistan

**Special Comments:**  
- Kinley Wangdi, Corporate Performance Division, Tourism Council of Bhutan  
- Prachanda Man Shrestha, Former CEO, Nepal Tourism Board, Nepal
Day 3  
13th September 2012  
(9:00am – 10:40am)

Plenary-III Development Agenda for a New South Asia

Chair: Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh

Invited Speakers:
- Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka
- Malalai Shinwari, Former Member of Parliament, Afghanistan
- Khadija Haq, President, Mahbubul Haq Human Development Center, Pakistan
- Jagadish C Pokharel, Former Vice Chairman, National Planning Commission, Nepal
- Ratin Roy, Director, Asia-Pacific Regional Manager, United Nations Development Program

Refreshments 10:40am – 11:00am  
Concurrent Sessions 11:00am – 12:45pm

C1: Trade Normalization between India & Pakistan: Prospects for South Asia

Chair: Khurram Dastgir Khan, Member of National Assembly and Chairman, National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce, Pakistan

Invited Speakers:
- Vikramjit Singh Sahney, President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India
- Huma Fakhir, Managing Director, MAP Services Group, Pakistan

Special Comments:
- Shahid Ahmed, Professor (Economics), Jamia Millia University, New Delhi, India
- Amin Hashwani, Co-Chairman, India-Pakistan CEO’s Business Forum, Pakistan
- Mian Waqas Masud, Director Fazal Industries, Pakistan

C2: Development Agenda for a New South Asia: Perspectives from Development Partners

Chair: Ahsan Iqbal, Member of National Assembly, PML (N), Pakistan

Invited Speakers:
- Nicolas Fornage, Country Director for Pakistan, French Development Agency
- Stephen Commins, UCLA School of Public Affairs, USA
- Jean-luc Stalon, Deputy Country Director, UNDP Pakistan
Special Comments:
- Chris Garroway, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), South and South-West Asia Office
- Sumeet Saksena, Fellow, The East-West Center

C3: Climate Change Challenges for Sustainable Development

Chair: Ishfaq Ahmad, Chairman, Board of Governors, National Centre for Physics and Senior Advisor (Climate Change), Planning Commission of Pakistan
Moderator: David Orden, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC

Invited Speakers:
- Antoine Bouet, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC
- Munawar Saeed Bhatti, Additional Secretary, United Nations & Economic Coordination, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan
- Biplove Choudhary, Program Specialist, UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Special Comments:
- Fahmida Khatun, Head of Research, Center for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh
- Puspa Sharma, Research Director, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal

Lunch 12:45pm – 2:00pm

2:00pm – 3:45pm

Plenary-IV: Inclusive & Sustainable South Asia: Options for a Collective Response

Chief Guest: Hina Rabbani Khar, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pakistan
Summary of Recommendations: Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

Special Remarks:
- Sham L. Bathija, Minister Senior Adviser for Economic Affairs to the President of Afghanistan
- Nihal Rodrigo, Former Secretary General, SAARC, Sri Lanka
- Ahmed Naseer, Former Minister of State for Finance, Maldives
- Vikramjit Singh Sahney, President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India
- Muchkund Dubey, Co-Chairman, SACEPS & President, Council for Social Development, India
- Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh
- Remarks by Chief Guest

Summit Announcements & Vote of Thanks: Vaqar Ahmed, Head (Economic Growth Unit), Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan

Refreshments 4:30pm