



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOUTH ASIA IN THE WTO

*Ivy Room, Cinnamon Grand, Colombo
May 18-19, 2006*

Organized by

Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

and

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Colombo

Programme

Day I: Thursday 18th May

8:30 – 9:00 **Registration**

9:00 – 10:30 **Inauguration**

9:00 – 9:10 **Welcome Address:** **Astrid Becker, Resident Director,**
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

9:10 – 9:25 **Introduction to the Seminar:** **Saman Kelegama, Executive Director,**
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

9:25 – 9:55 **Address by the Chief Guest:** **Hon. Jeyaraj Fernandopulle**, *Minister of Trade, Commerce, Consumer Affairs, and Marketing*

9:55 – 10:30 **Address by the Guest of Honour:** **Ravi Ratnayake**, *Director, UNESCAP*

10:30 – 11:00 **Tea**

11:00 – 13:00 **SESSION I: PAKISTAN IN THE WTO**

Chairperson: **Veena Jha**, *Programme Coordinator, UNCTAD*

11:00 – 11:45 **Presenter:** **Abid Suleri**, *Research Fellow, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan*

11:45 – 12:00 **Discussant:** **Swarnim Wagle**, *Programme Specialist, UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka*

12:00 – 13:00 **Discussion**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:30 **SESSION II: BANGLADESH IN THE WTO**

Chairperson: **Alamgir Farrouk Chowdhury**, *Former Commerce Secretary, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Bangladesh*

14:00 – 14:45 **Presenter:** **Fahmida Aktar Khatun**, *Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh*

14:45 – 15:00 **Discussant:** **Mohammed Ali Taslim**, *Professor, Dept. of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

15:00 – 15:30 **Discussion**

15:30 – 16:15 SESSION III: MALDIVES IN THE WTO

Chairperson: Ibrahim Zaki, *Former Secretary General SAARC*

15:30 – 16:00 Presenter: Ravindra A. Yatawara, *Research Fellow, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

16:00 – 16:15 Discussant: Janaka Wijayasiri, *Research Economist, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

16:15 – 16:45 Tea

16:45 – 17:30 SESSION IV: BHUTAN AND THE WTO

Chairperson: Ratnakar Adhikari, *Programme Specialist, UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka*

16:45 – 17:15 Presenter: Sonam Tobgay, *Agriculture Marketing Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Thimpu, Bhutan*

17:15 – 17:30 Discussant: Daw Tenzin, *Managing Director, Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan*

17:30 – 18:00 Discussion on Maldives and Bhutan

Day II: Friday 19th May

9:00 – 10:30 SESSION V: SRI LANKA IN THE WTO

Chairperson: Dushni Weerakoon, *Deputy Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

9:00 – 9:45 Presenters: Amrit Rajapakse, *Research Officer, Jayanthi Thennakoon, Research Assistant, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka*

9:45 – 10:00 Discussant: **Upali Wickremasinghe**, *Professor of Economics,
University of Sri Jayawardhanapura, Sri Lanka*

10:00 – 10:30 Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Tea

11:00 – 13:00 SESSION VI: INDIA IN THE WTO

Chairperson: **Muchkund Dubey**, *President,
Council for Social Development, India*

11:00 – 11:45 Presenter: **Veena Jha**, *Programme Coordinator,
UNCTAD*

11:45 – 12:00 Discussant: **Prabhash Ranjan**, *Research Officer,
Centre for Trade & Development (CENTAD), India*

12:00 – 13:00 Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 SESSION VII: NEPAL IN THE WTO

Chairperson: **Sridhar Khatri**, *Executive Director,
South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Nepal*

14:00 – 14:45 Presenter: **Navin Dahal**, *Executive Director,
South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment
(SAWTEE), Nepal*

14:45 – 15:00 Discussant: **Ratnakar Adhikari**, *Programme Specialist,
UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo*

15:00 – 15:30 Discussion

15:30 – 17:00 SESSION VIII: SOUTH ASIA IN THE WTO

Chairperson: **Saman Kelegama**, *Executive Director,*
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

15:30 – 16:15 **Presenter:** **Muchkund Dubey**, *President,*
Council for Social Development, India

16:15 – 16:30 **Discussant:** **Veena Jha**, *Programme Coordinator*
UNCTAD

16:30 – 17:00 **Discussion**

17:00 – 17:30 Tea
